

# Muslim-Jewish Halaqa-Seder: A Celebration of the Exodus Story



A project of ING



# MUSLIM-JEWISH HALAQA-SEDER: A CELEBRATION OF THE EXODUS STORY

SUNDAY, APRIL 3 • STORIES • CONVERSATION • DINNER

## Welcome to ING's Muslim-Jewish Halaqa-Seder: A Celebration of the Exodus Story!

*This event is a project of Islamic Networks Group (ING),  
Co-sponsored by The Community Relations Council of the Jewish  
Federation of Silicon Valley, Congregation Shir Hadash, and Pacifica Institute*

### Program

*Rabbi Melanie Aron and Ameena Jandali will open the program.*

Dramatic reenactments of scenes from the Exodus Story in Muslim and Jewish scriptures will be followed by engaging interfaith table conversations and fellowship. A buffet dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. There will be opportunities for prayer for those wishing to do so.

**Scene 1A:** Moses and Pharaoh – Muslim Narrative

**Scene 1B:** Moses and Pharaoh – Jewish Narrative

#### Table Discussion Guiding Questions

- What differences in emphasis did you find between the two narratives?
- How do these differences relate to your understanding of each other's religions?

**Scene 2A:** The Women of Exodus – Jewish Narrative

**Scene 2B:** The Women of Exodus – Muslim Narrative

#### Table Discussion Guiding Questions

- What do the Jewish and the Muslim narratives each say about the role of women in religious life?
- What do you find in each narrative that can support those who want to bring women's voices forward in their communities?

### Thanks and Appreciation

We wish to honor, thank, and appreciate everyone who has contributed their time, resources, and talents to making this event as meaningful as it is.

**Aaron Choy, Seher Siddiquee, Diane Fisher**

For writing the original script with thoughtfulness and wisdom

**Victoria Rue, M.Div., Ph.D.**

For adapting the script, and for directing the scenes with creativity and integrity

**Cast Members** (in order of appearance)

**Marci Gerston** (Narrator)

**Ustadh Ali Ataie** (Narrator)

**Sheldon Gilbert** (Moses)

**Eahab Ibrahim** (Pharaoh)

**Omari Parker** (The Voice of God)

**Shehnaz Khan** (Moses' Mother)

**Dina El-Sayed** (Miriam; Magician)

**Genevieve Platt** (Asiya; Magician)

**Miranda Kibel** (Shifrah; Princess)

**Baldip Hothi** (Magician)

For their generosity of time and spirit in bringing the narratives to life through their creativity

**Dror Sinai and Amir A. Etemadzadeh**

For blessing us with their prodigious musical talents

**Baldip Hothi, Romal Khan, Dung Vu**

For their assistance with the staged readings

**Davi Barker**

For the scriptural image projection during the event

**Joe White**

For his support as Custodian of Congregation Shir Hadash

**Rabbi Melanie Aron**

For generously hosting the event at Congregation Shir Hadash

**Maha Elgenaidi**

For her vision and leadership

**Scene 3:** The Exodus – Muslim and Jewish Narrative

**Table Discussion**

- We invite and encourage you to continue your table dialogue over dinner. What is something that surprised you from the dramatic reenactments of these scenes? What is something that inspired you?

At the close of Scene 3 we warmly invite you to speak aloud this Interfaith Prayer for Peace  
(author: anonymous, and adapted)

*O God, you are the source of life and peace.  
Praised be your name forever.  
We know it is you who turns our minds to thoughts of peace.  
Your power changes hearts.*

*As Muslims, Jews and Christians, we remember, and profoundly affirm,  
that we are followers of the one God,  
Children of Abraham, Sarah and Hajar,  
sisters and brothers joining hands in friendship;  
nations seeking the way of peace together.*

*Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these  
truths by the way we live.*

*Give to us  
Understanding that puts an end to strife;  
Mercy that quenches hatred, and  
Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.  
Empower all people to live in your law of love  
Amen. Ameen. So be it.*

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Please join in singing 'Peace Salaam Shalom'

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## Peace Salaam Shalom

2-part round with obligato parts I & II

Words and Music: Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow

Round

part 1  
Peace sal-aam, shalom, Peace sal-aam, shalom,

part 2  
Peace sal - aam, shalom, Peace sal-aam, sha- lom fine

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Ustadh Ali Ataie and Diane Fisher will offer reflections and blessings to close the formal program