

Abrahamic House Report

2021-2022



Written by

Abrahamic House Evaluation Team

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About Abrahamic House

About Us

Abrahamic House is a multi-faith co-living and co-creating space to learn, share, pray, celebrate, connect, and serve. Our Abrahamic Houses serve as incubators for emerging interfaith leaders, each from a different faith background, for a 1-2-year fellowship program in cities across the United States. The fellowship year typically falls in line with the academic year. Through our fellowship program, we challenge assumptions, prejudices, and inequities, then we inspire and mobilize others to do the same.

Abrahamic House serves the community by holding a variety of events and programming designed to bring people from different faith backgrounds together in both educational and secular contexts. We host safe spaces for guests from diverse backgrounds to not only speak about salient issues but also to



simply understand each other better through basic exposure. The role of Abrahamic

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House is to create and foster a vibrant community of interfaith and intercultural leaders to challenge the divisiveness of current mainstream discourse.

Our Mission

The foundation of all Abrahamic faith traditions rests on the values of peace, justice, and compassion. Our vision is to create a community where people have the opportunity to challenge each other to break ingrained stereotypes, to learn from one another, and to make an impact together.

We believe that action based on our shared values and ethics can build the world we dream of. Our mission is to build sustainable interfaith learning and action across Muslim, Jewish, Baha'i and Christian communities to foster an environment of respect, justice, and social change to prevent and rectify hate and injustice. Through our programming, we aim to break down the walls of fundamentalism to achieve interfaith solidarity both actively and passively through embodying our motto of "Gathering not Othering."

Our Work—Twofold

The Fellows

Fellows 2021-2022:

 <p>Haima (Fellow 2021-2022)</p>	 <p>Abby (Fellow 2021-2022)</p>	 <p>Kelly (Fellow 2021-2022)</p>
<p>Haima Askari is from the diverse town of Harrisonburg, VA where he grew up working alongside other cultures and faiths to improve the community. Haima graduated from The University of Virginia with a Master’s Degree in Public Policy. He has worked and studied in five different countries and has experience with policy and data analysis. He has worked with the Virginia state government’s Europe office conducting business outreach to firms based in Europe.</p>	<p>Abigail Shulman grew up in South Pasadena, California, a city with a hometown feel only minutes away from Los Angeles. She then attended Rice University in Houston, Texas, and majored in Cognitive Sciences and Religion. Besides cramming for exams, Abigail worked in a microbiology lab, did some freelance writing, and hosted many Shabbat dinners for friends. Abigail now works for Cityblock Health, a healthcare start-up that aims to provide primary care services for Medicaid enrollees.</p>	<p>Kelly Moltzen is a secular Franciscan, Registered Dietician/Nutritionist working in public health, and tireless advocate of making connections between food, faith, and social justice. In addition to being a program manager for the Institute For Family Health’s Bronx Health REACH initiative, she is a co-convener of the Interfaith Public Health Network. She received her Master’s of Public Health Degree from New York University and undergraduate degree in Nutritional Sciences & Dietetics from the University of Delaware.</p>

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One of the two ways Abrahamic House works towards its goal of fostering interfaith growth and cohesion is to subsidize the living costs of selected fellows from each Abrahamic faith background. The fellows go through a rigorous application process and are selected based on their leadership and experience in interfaith and intercultural events. The fellows then live together for one year, with the possibility to apply for a second year. They meet regularly amongst themselves to learn about the other's faith traditions and how they can support each other towards their goals.

This unique living arrangement is mediated and facilitated by Abrahamic House staff to ensure smooth coexistence and mutual learning and development for all the fellows. This mediation takes the form of bi-weekly meetings between the fellows and the staff and a variety of intercultural and interfaith trainings provided to the fellows over the course of the year. For the 2021-2022 year Abrahamic House was situated in the DuPont Circle neighborhood of Washington, D.C. and had three fellows representing Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Through their discussions, the fellows then planned and hosted at least three events a month.

The Events

Abrahamic House Fellows plan and host three to four public facing events a month. These events were usually held in person at the house targeting the local community but virtual events with global attendance were also held. The fellows meet amongst themselves and with the staff to brainstorm and think through events to host.

Events fall under four categories:

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- *Justice and Service*: An event that raises awareness around a social issue as an interfaith issue, or a program that enables acts of service to address a societal problem. Examples include a session to discuss strategies for organizing an intervention against anti-Semitism and Islamophobia or service activities that meet the needs of the community.
- *Holidays and Rituals*: Ritual experiences where either one faith or multiple faith traditions are represented. For example, hosting an Iftar, Shabbat, or Easter meal.
- *Social Nights*: Social events that provide community-building and fun opportunities for fellows and their communities. This can take the form of dance nights, film screenings or musical performances.
- *Out of the Box* (discussions of various topics): A discussion, film, or some other form of presentation that engages in the complexities in our communities and how different groups navigate and negotiate these complexities. For example, a panel discussion in a safe, structured, mediated space to discuss challenging topics with respect and empathy.

These events serve the public and are open to anyone interested in attending or learning more about us, the fellows, or our programming. Our goal through the events is to create a robust community of active individuals in interfaith and intercultural spaces to facilitate enhanced understanding among otherwise disparate and siloed groups. The advertising for the events takes the form of a monthly newsletter, social media posts, and word of mouth.

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This report will focus on the results and outcomes of these events specifically, as the fellows recorded their own experience in the house through their exit interviews as part of their Capstone Impact Project (link to video included later in the report). This report outlines the demographics of the guests and the perceptions of our programming and events. Additionally, it will include a path forward for improving the quality and reach of our events in the upcoming 2022-2023 Abrahamic House year.

Overview of 2021-2022 Events

Month	Event
<p data-bbox="370 436 526 470">November</p> 	<ul data-bbox="776 552 1393 716" style="list-style-type: none">● Shabbat Dinner● Veterans/Remembrance Day● Thanksgiving Dinner
<p data-bbox="370 890 526 924">December</p> 	<ul data-bbox="776 1050 1344 1213" style="list-style-type: none">● Chanukah Celebration● Kurdish Day● Muslim-Christian Dialogue
<p data-bbox="386 1354 509 1388">January</p> 	<ul data-bbox="776 1430 1409 1652" style="list-style-type: none">● Holocaust Remembrance Day● Interfaith Perspectives on Ecology● Tu B'Shvat Cleanup

February



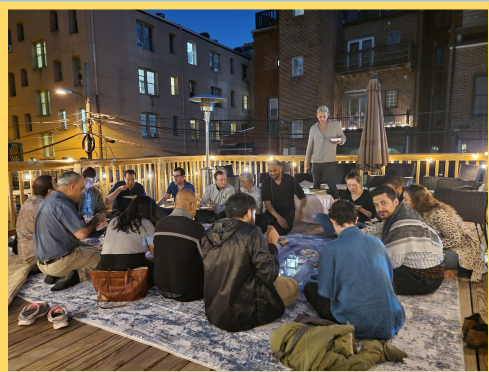
- World Interfaith Harmony Week Talk
- Board/Card Game Night
- Faith in Modern Media

March



- Purim Celebration
- Newroz Celebration
- Healing & Wholeness Talk

April



- Dinner Church Meal
- Passover Seder
- Iftar Dinner

May



- Eid Celebration
- Interfaith Voices for Peace in Ukraine
- Movie Night

June



- Shavuot Celebration
- Documentary Screening—Africa's Great Green Wall
- World Refugee Day Talk

July



- Mysticism in Abrahamic Traditions Discussion
- Havdalah
- Eid al-Adha Celebration

August/September



- Roses in Sand Dance Performance
- Closing Reception

Methodology

Readily Available Data

For each event, the Abrahamic House team created a registration form through the Google platform for in person events and Zoom for virtual events. The team limited its demographic data collection through this method and only asked if the registrant had previously been to an Abrahamic House event before—to provide adequate introduction to newcomers. Nevertheless, the registration data provides valuable information regarding the raw number of participants/guests we have hosted over the past year. According to this information, we estimate that over 220 individuals have attended our events in the 2021-2022 Abrahamic House year, many of whom were repeat attendees.

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There are caveats to this information as well. Namely, although registration forms were provided in the newsletter, email chains, and social media, there were registrants that then did not show up to the events. Moreover, there were guests who did not register via the forms but nonetheless attended the events. Additionally, there were guests who brought along friends and family but did not include this information in their registration. The 220-figure reported above was estimated using the registration forms along with actual counts at the events. Latecomers and attendees to events that were held outside of the house were also not accounted for. Taking all this information into consideration, the team came up with the value of 220 as our population estimate.

Survey

In late August 2022, the Abrahamic House team decided to form a standing evaluation team to pave a way forward to better assess the quality of our programming and ensure continuous improvement for the fellows and their guests. The evaluation team decided to create an anonymous survey to gather more in-depth demographic and perception data from our guests. The Abrahamic House staff met regularly in the weeks preceding the release of our questionnaire to generate key performance indicators upon which to base our questions. Key performance indicators (KPIs) are outcomes or quantifiable measurements that are used to determine how well an organization meets its operational and strategic goals. The team came up with following outcomes indicators:

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- Gender representation
- Age group representation
- Religious/faith background representation
- Amount of repeat attendees
- Integration with the larger Abrahamic House community
- First time exposure to new faith traditions
- Guest perception of the quality of our programming

Aside from gathering demographic data and asking survey respondents to rate their experiences at our events, the team also included questions to gather information to improve the quality of our programming in the future. For example, the questionnaire had questions to gauge the location of the house and desire for in-person or virtual events. The form also asked respondents to include a comment of aspects the house did exceptionally well in and areas for improvements. These will be discussed later in this report.

Response Rate

The evaluation team's assessment of the number of guests hosted at the house was 220. To ensure that our data was adequately representative of the larger guest population, the team sought to maximize response rates to our survey. As an incentive, all respondents were included in a random drawing for a chance to win a virtual \$75 gift card, redeemable almost everywhere. The survey was then published and advertised for a little over a week via our monthly newsletter, social media, email

chains, and sent to all registrants of events over the previous year. The team only sent emails to those registrants who marked “yes” when asked if they wished to receive future Abrahamic House related emails.

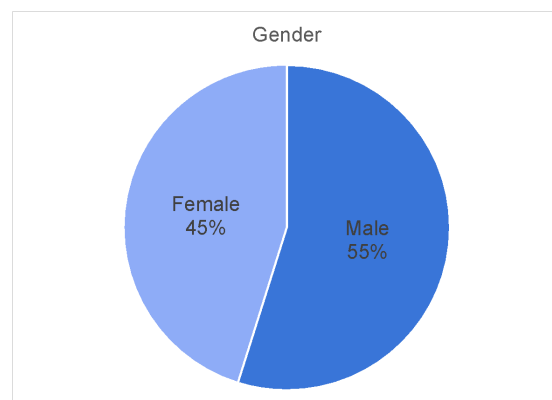
Over the course of the live survey, one reminder email was sent alongside three reminders on our social media platforms. At the end of the survey period, the team gathered 62 responses from the surveys. With an estimated population of 220, this means that the survey figures fall within a 90% confidence interval. The team decided that this was sufficient for the purposes of this report.

Survey Results

Demographics

Abrahamic House attempts to reach a broad demography of guests to ensure that we serve a diverse and representative group of people in the community. The survey questions regarding these were clear and included a range of response options including the ability to specify their response further.

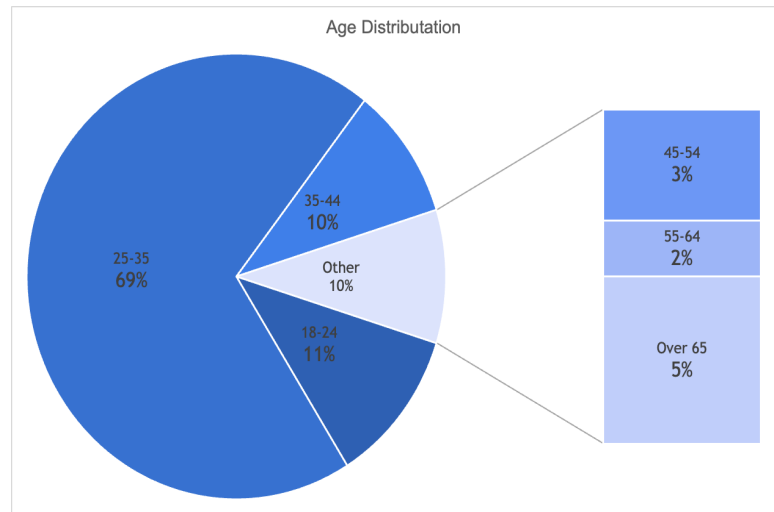
The form asked respondents to report their gender, allowing for the opportunity to specify non-binary, or other expressions.



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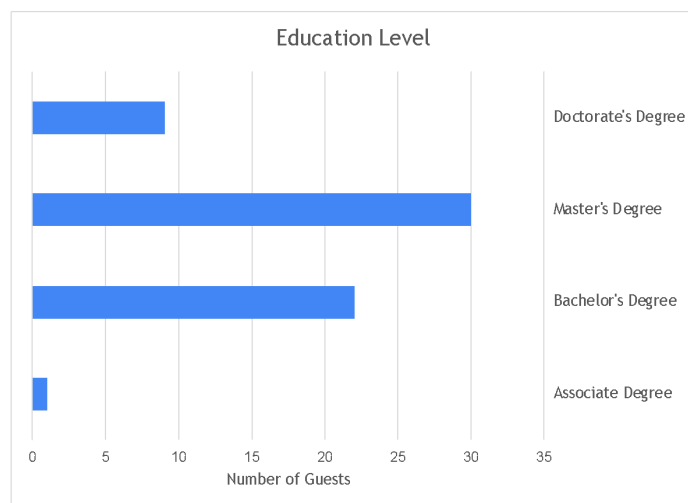
The results fall in line with the team's expectations that the events were fairly balanced in terms of gender.

The team expected age distribution to be representative of the fellows' ages. In other words, the fellows were young professionals and utilized their network of friends and



colleagues. This resulted in the majority of guests being of similar age to the fellows. The team expects future iterations of Abrahamic House to follow similar patterns.

Although not a demographic performance indicator, the team still decided to include a question regarding the educational background of guests. This was included in an effort to cater



future events to ensure that people from all backgrounds are included and that the content of future events do not become overly or completely academic. The results of the survey again indicate that

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the educational backgrounds of the guests align with those of the fellows given that all three held a master's degree.

The Abrahamic House Fellows are to represent each of the Abrahamic faith traditions

(Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Baha'ism). Therefore, the

faith backgrounds of our

guests are expected to mirror

that. The survey question was

stated in broad terms

regarding religious

backgrounds while providing

the opportunity for guests to specify other faith backgrounds or denominations. For

the 2021-2022 Abrahamic House year, there was no Baha'i fellow. Thus, the evaluation

team expected the number of Baha'i guests to be lower, however, the results showed

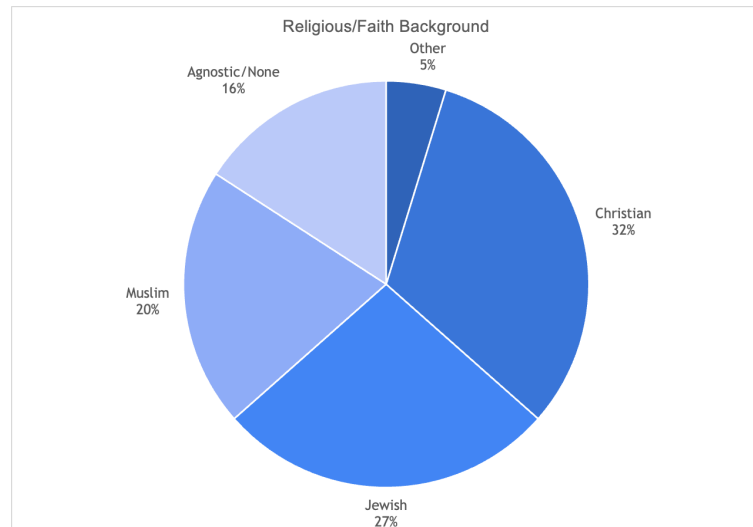
no guests who claimed to be a part of the Baha'i faith. During the exit interviews, the

fellows confirmed the attendance of some Baha'i guests. Nevertheless, the team

hopes that these numbers can improve in the future so that the demographics of the

guests can be representative of those of the fellows, our mission, as well as the

community we serve.

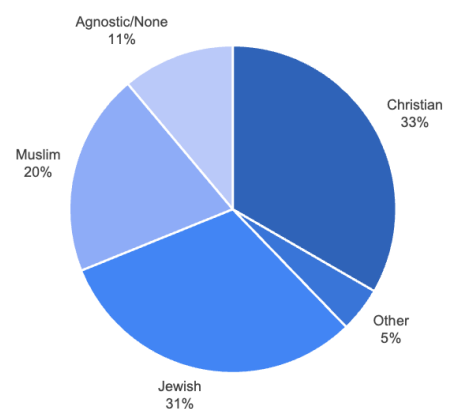


Guest Opinions and Perceptions

A core component of the survey was to better understand how guests felt about our events. Aside from fields where respondents could enter their comments, the evaluation team created several questions to assess the quality of our programming and the experience the guests had at the events. Over 40% of respondents stated that they've been to over four events in the last year. Abrahamic House wishes to foster an integrated community of guests who come regularly and interact and befriend other guests. Almost 40% of guests stated that they felt very highly integrated with our community as indicated on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest perceived level of integration. Those that came to more events felt that they were more integrated in the guest community. Integration rating also fell in line with the general trends of religious affiliation, education, and gender. However, for age distribution, those that felt more integrated (rated more than 4) were largely from the 25-35 age group. Abrahamic House should intend to focus more on making those in the younger and older age groups feel more included in the events and interactions with other guests.

Abrahamic House seeks to expose members of the community to faith traditions other than their own. We encourage frequent guests to bring along friends, family, and colleagues that otherwise would not have the opportunity to interact with new faith traditions to challenge the

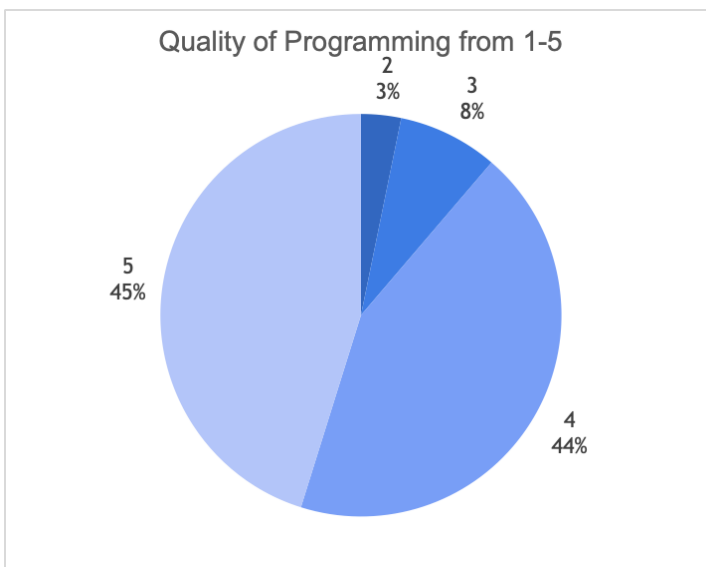
First in-depth Exposure to New Faith Tradition



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effects of being in insulated bubbles. Over 27% of our guests stated that our event was the first time they experienced a faith tradition other than their own. The religious backgrounds of those guests reflected the broader makeup of our guests. The same extends to other demographic factors such as education, gender, and age.

The quality of Abrahamic House programming is crucial to the continued attendance of our guests and progress towards our goals. On a scale of 1-5, almost 90% of guests



rated the Abrahamic House programming to be a four or higher, with five being excellent planning. These results held when accounting for demographic factors of religious affiliation, education, age, and gender.

In conclusion, Abrahamic House has largely hosted programming that is representative of the demographics of the fellows themselves. In addition, perceived community integration, exposure to new faith traditions, and quality of programming align with the larger demographic makeup of the guests. For example, no single faith group or gender feels that they are disproportionately *less* integrated or served with *worse* programming. Of note is the discrepancy between age groups and their perceived integration with the Abrahamic House community.

Comments from the Community

The 2021-2022 Abrahamic House survey allowed for respondents to comment on areas that they particularly enjoyed and areas they noticed the most opportunity for improvement. This was in the form of a free text box where respondents could freely and anonymously write their thoughts. The evaluation team synthesized some of the responses to assess, on a broad level, what we are doing right and areas for improvement.

The Positive

Many of the respondents commented that the best aspect of the 2021-2022 Abrahamic House events was the opportunity to interact with new and diverse people. Over half of the respondents wrote a comment regarding people, community, or the ability to socialize with others. Although the events were significantly different in terms of scheduling and style, they all usually included a time frame without any programming so that guests could mingle and network amongst themselves. The team concluded that allowing for these interactions, even with the absence of food or snacks, was a major draw to our events. The rest of the comments consisted of a focus on food, music, and the educational topics the fellows provided.

Areas of Improvement

Over 30% of the comments included statements such as “none”, “n/a”, or “more events”. The comments that indicated areas of improvement were less uniform and more diverse—likely due to each individual’s needs/desires being unique to them.

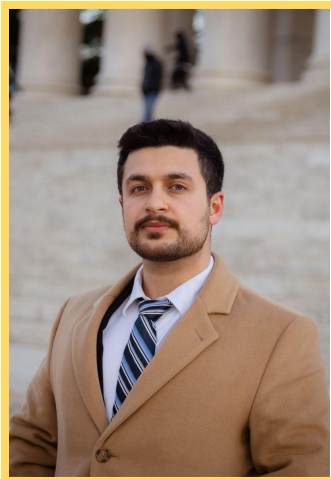
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Nevertheless, there were some elements that Abrahamic House should take into consideration for future events.

A common theme was the lack of adequate time and reminders when it came to invitations to the events. This was related to the few comments stating that they wanted to see more of an introduction to the events in the form of a quick spoken primer or a printed/displayed schedule of events. Moreover, there was a general lack of awareness of an email listserv/newsletter. A small group of comments highlighted the fact that the fellows were too busy managing their events to have significant conversations with the guests, especially the newer ones. The remainder of the comments highlighted a variety of specific topics that that individual wanted to be discussed/presented in future events.

Staffing Updates

Haima Askari - Washington D.C. Manager



Former fellow, Haima Askari, has joined the team as the Abrahamic House Washington D.C. Manager. Haima will be in charge of helping the fellows organize and host events, responding to the fellows' inquiries and requests, helping with event reports/surveys, and facilitating communication between the fellows and their landlord. Haima graduated with a master's degree in Public Policy from the University of

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Virginia and has spent extensive time in Europe and the Middle East where he worked on various projects— from researching transatlantic relations for the German legislature to assisting on literacy development in the Amazigh regions of Morocco. Haima brings with him years of management, project development, and program evaluation skills.

Tommy Fleming - Content Manager



Tommy Fleming joined the Abrahamic House team in July as Content Manager. He oversees social media, website maintenance, newsletters, and all public facing content for Abrahamic House. Tommy is a visual artist and designer living in Los Angeles. He has worked for clients such as Walmart, Wildlife LA, Lindeman and Associates, OFC.TV, and Epitaph Records. He has also worked as a video producer creating music videos, digital series, and both live action and animated short films. Tommy is also a graduate of the University of Southern California.

Serena Anis - Director of Operations, Fellowship Mediator



Serena Anis has worked for Abrahamic House's Founder and Director, Mohammed Al Samawi, as his right-hand person since March 2020. That same year she also began working for Abrahamic House and in 2022 was promoted to Director of

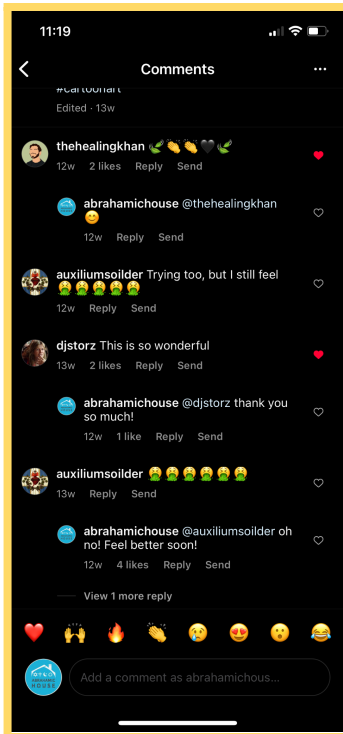
Operations. In this position, she oversees every aspect of Abrahamic House and coordinates accordingly to ensure smooth sailing. Serena is excited to also step into the role of Fellowship Mediator for the 2022-2023 Fellows, conducting monthly one-on-one meetings with them to check in on their fellowship experience and help resolve any related personal issues that may arise. Serena is an actress, writer, and advocate residing in Los Angeles and earned her BFA in Acting from the University of Southern California.

Social Media

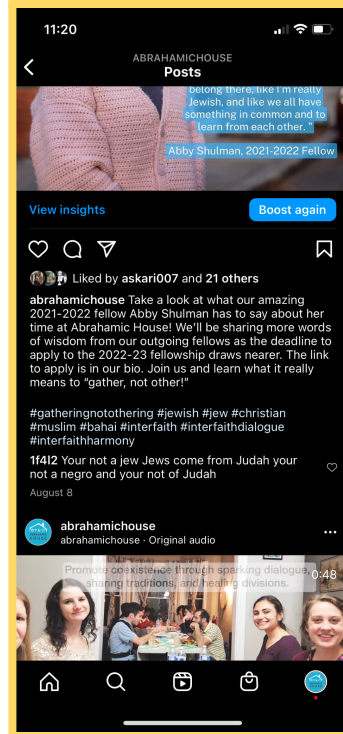
Attacks

Abrahamic House continues to be the target of bigoted attacks online, which the staff and administration believe only further demonstrates the real need for a living example of interfaith collaboration and harmony like Abrahamic House. The following images includes screenshots of messages and comments received on Instagram from those who reject the organization's message of peace and unity across faith traditions:

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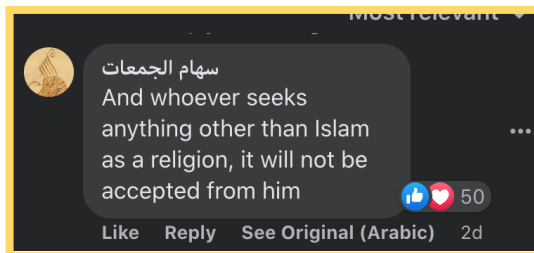
a.



b.



c.



d.



e.

This first screenshot (a) was a response to an illustrated depiction we commissioned of what interfaith harmony looks like at Abrahamic House (the image on page 2 of this report). The user “auxiliumsoilder” was so sickened by this image that he felt the need to share his revulsion through a series of vomiting emojis.

The second screenshot (b) shows a comment on a post highlighting our Jewish fellow from last year, Abby Shulman. The user “1f412” writes, “your not a jew. Jews come from Judah your not a negro and your not of Judah”. Similar direct messages were

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sent from this user as well. This is an attack on Abby's Jewish identity based on an ahistorical idea that Jewish people cannot be white and that the only true Jewish people are black. This idea springs from the mostly peaceful Black Israelite movement but has been co-opted for antisemitic purposes by leaders like Louis Farrakhan and, more recently, the rapper Ye (formerly known as Kanye West). West has a large following and his claims in particular have set off a wave of harmful antisemitism with real-world consequences.

The next screenshot (c) is a direct message we received from a bigoted Christian evangelical. Users like "Showers and Flowers" share an ideology common in the United States. This user's message reads, "Abrahamic House is an antichrist establishment Repent. Jesus Christ is the truth, the way and the life. He is the only way to the father. Choose Jesus. Choose life and stop this nonsense." This example is unfortunately a typical example of the type of attacks we receive. This kind of hateful example of evangelicalism is something Abrahamic House stands in stark contrast to.

The final two screenshots (d) (e) are comments on a video from the Arabic language channel *Alhurra TV's* Facebook page. The video was an interview with the Abrahamic House Fellows discussing the resistance they often meet participating in interfaith work. The comments on the video in Arabic are almost all expressions of distaste for Abrahamic House and the repudiation of Islam they believe Abrahamic House represents. For many, tolerance of any religion other than their own, represents a threat to their own faith. This is an outdated idea Abrahamic House fervently strives

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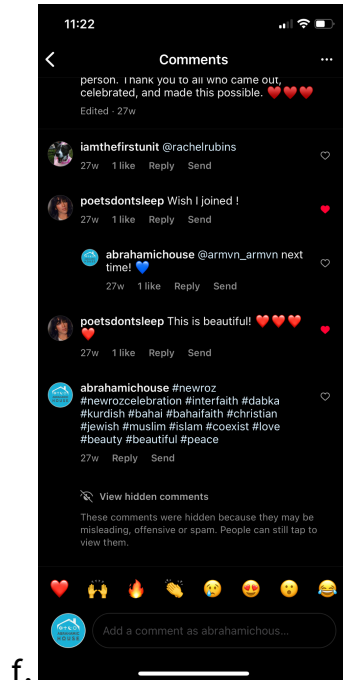
to combat. For one user, the sight of a Muslim and Jewish person cohabitating is angering because he wrongly associates all Jewish people with the murder of Palestinians. This is blatant antisemitism and again points to the importance of normalizing friendly relationships between Muslim and Jewish individuals.

Comments like those captured in the screenshots are a testament to why the work of Abrahamic House is important. The more resistance in our path, the more conspicuous the need for the education, example, and sanctuary provided by Abrahamic House.

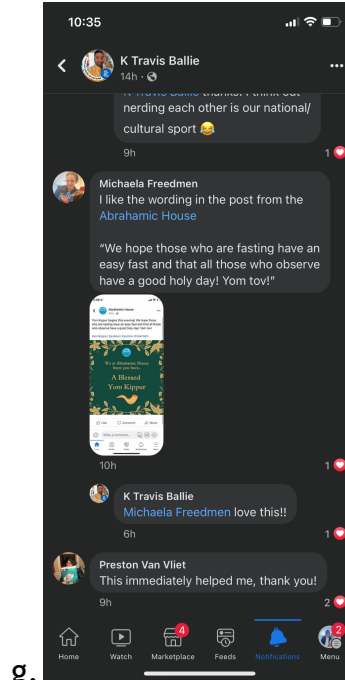
Positive Responses

Although the above examples are real and shared by many opposed to positive interfaith relations, they are also not normal and regular responses from users to our social media presence. For the most part, our engagement is extremely positive. We have included a few screenshots that showcase the loving acknowledgement we receive from people online that our work matters to them:

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f.



g.

The first screenshot (f) is a typical response to one of our posts sharing photos from a Newroz (Kurdish and Persian New Year) event. The user “poetsdontsleep” shares heart emojis and a longing to have been able to attend. Frequent guests that are not able to attend every event appreciate being able to virtually experience our events through social media.

The second screenshot (g) was a comment on a post about how to properly share Yom Kippur salutations to Jewish friends from non-Jewish friends. Abrahamic House was tagged and presented as a good example of how to offer these salutations in a manner befitting the traditions of the day. It is important to note that our social media presence can be an amazing tool for those learning how to respectfully engage with each other across faith traditions.

Press

Jewish Insider



A write up about Abrahamic House from *Jewish Insider*, emphasizing our new Washington D.C. location.

<https://jewishinsider.com/2021/06/mohammed-al-samawi-abrahamic-house>

Washington Jewish Week



A feature from *Washington Jewish Week* highlighting our new location in D.C. and our ties to Moishe House.

<https://www.washingtonjewishweek.com/abrahamic-house-brings-its-brand-of-coexistence-to-dc>

Bahaiteachings.org



A profile on *Bahaiteachings.org* about Mohammed and Abrahamic House for the Baha'i community!

<https://bahaiteachings.org/beyond-interfaith-dialogue-to-interfaith-friendships/>

Interfaith America



A summary for *Interfaith America* of Mohammed’s vision of “Gathering Not Othering” and Abrahamic House’s creation story for the interfaith readership.

<https://www.interfaithamerica.org/gathering-not-othering-under-one-roof/>

Interfaith-ish Podcast



Host Jack Warden at Tacoma Radio traveled to Washington D.C. for his first in person interview in over a year in order to interview Mohammed, Abby, and Kelly about Abrahamic House and how to practice “gathering not othering.”

<https://soundcloud.com/interfaithish/episode93>

ADL Award



A press release to announce that Mohammed was honored at the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Summit on November 9, 2021 with the Daniel Pearl Award for his commitment to fighting antisemitism, building cultural bridges and promoting understanding between faith traditions.

<https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-honors-interfaith-activist-yemeni-refugee-and-author-mohammed-al-samawi>

United States Department of State



A spotlight of Abrahamic House by the U.S. Department of State!

Abrahamic House was selected as an example of how to conduct interfaith relations to the rest of the world. The article was

distributed to American Embassies around the world and was a part of their reports.

American Embassies in Iraq, Yemen, Germany, Lebanon, and others posted the article on their social media pages, praising Abrahamic House. The ShareAmerica article was

also translated into Arabic and posted by Alhurra (more on Alhurra below). This

inspired a smear campaign by extremists in the Arab world claiming Abrahamic House

promotes prostitution, homosexuality, and Zionism and framing our founder,

Mohammed Al Samawi, as Al-Dajjāl (Islam’s Antichrist). These attacks also further

exemplified the need for Abrahamic House’s existence in resistance to such hate and vitriol.

<https://share.america.gov/abrahamic-house-hub-interfaith-understanding/?fr=operanews>

Alhurra



A televised interview for the U.S. based Arabic satellite channel

Alhurra with the Abrahamic House Fellows about the

persecution they face as representatives of interfaith

cooperation and why Abrahamic House is important to them.

<https://fb.watch/gKdzClepPh/>

Conclusion

Hosting events was a learning process for the fellows who started programming in November after a set of intercultural and interfaith training sessions. The staff noticed a general trend upwards in the quality, scope, and attendance of events as the year progressed. However, the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in the initial months limited their ability to host expansive in-person events. The team worked around these concerns by hosting smaller events, hosting events outdoors, and hosting on a virtual platform.

This report shed light on clear ways for Abrahamic House to improve its programming. The evaluation team noticed that Abrahamic House could do a better job of helping those outside the fellows' age group feel more integrated within the community. In addition, the team and fellows should intensify outreach efforts to the Baha'i community to ensure that the demographics of our guests align with our goals, vision, and mission statement.

The Abrahamic House team believes that they have succeeded in administering quality events for the public community in a manner that was demographically representative of the fellows' networks. According to the survey results, no single group of people were disproportionately dissatisfied with our programming or disengaged with the community. These are positive signs that our networks and followers are representative of the community and that there is no alarming dissatisfaction from any single demographic. Building upon these successes, while

improving accessibility, visibility, and inclusion within our events, will ensure growth and success towards our goals in future iterations of Abrahamic House.

Special Thanks



Special thanks to Natan Fund. For the past three years, Natan Fund has been one of the main sponsors of Abrahamic House—not only through their grants but by helping Abrahamic House develop as an organization and navigate the best path forward. Thank you also to our generous supporters, partners, and donors for believing in the Abrahamic House mission. Without you, we would not have been able to build the amazing community we have now.

Goals for 2023

For our first year in Washington D.C., our main goal was to create a community. We are very delighted that we now have a wonderful community eager to attend our events, and we are ready to move to the next goal. Those participants who have attended five or more Abrahamic House events will be invited to a series of special

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events where we discuss sensitive and important topics in more depth, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and racism and sexism in religion. The way for Abrahamic House's vision to best come to life is to connect with our community and bring them together by allowing them to be more involved with our organization. Therefore, we will also start opening up our events to volunteers from our community who are interested in deepening their relationship with Abrahamic House by assisting the fellows with planning and hosting their events.

We also intend to continue to open up our organization to other like-minded organizations and individuals in need of a platform. At one of our most recent events, we hosted a dance performance by Hussein Smko through a partnership with One Journey Festival, an organization that celebrates refugees' talents, stories, and voices. Abrahamic House plans to host more partnered events, particularly with civil rights organizations that can help us tackle difficult topics such as the segregation that continues to exist in Washington D.C.

Most of the funds that Abrahamic House received in 2022 came through donations from family foundations and individuals. We are committed to diversifying our funding. Therefore, we will work to receive enough grants next year for them to make up at least 50% of our funding. We hope to receive a total of \$350,000 in funding next year. We are in the process of hiring a Development Manager for 2023 to help us expand by opening more houses throughout the United States.

New Fellows for 2022-2023

 <p>Alex (Fellow 2022-2023)</p>	 <p>Daud (Fellow 2022-2023)</p>	 <p>Austen (Fellow 2022-2023)</p>
<p>Alex Foster was born and raised in the D.C. area and graduated from Cornell University. She works as an architect on everything from high schools in Virginia to multi-family housing in the Himalayas. Her experiences designing for religious congregations have curated a passion for exploring how each faith's unique liturgical and cultural traditions can inform and shape its architectural expression. While at Abrahamic House, Alex is looking forward to creating shared experiences, nurturing new friendships, and showing off her uilleann piping skills at house events.</p>	<p>Daud Jalal is a graduate student at Georgetown University where he is on scholarship to earn his Masters Degree in Public Policy and Foreign Service. His interests include research, program design, social and behavior change (SBC), and foreign policy. Daud came to GU from Afghanistan and has worked in many corners of his home country as a researcher, dialogue moderator, and program manager. Daud is also a camping enthusiast and is really excited to travel all over the United States to explore its history and geography.</p>	<p>Austen Hufford recently moved to D.C. from Chicago where he helped to build young adult Jewish communities through Temple Sholom's Makom. During his time in New York City, he was involved in similar efforts through the JCC there. He graduated from the University of Michigan and works as a business and economics reporter. In his free time, Austen enjoys exploring new places. He's taken a train across the U.S. and walked the length of Manhattan! On many Fridays you'll find him hosting Shabbat dinners complete with his freshly homemade challah.</p>

Capstone Impact Project Video (2021-2022)

If you have not already, please enjoy our 2021-2022 Fellows' year end project in



which they detail their experience living at Abrahamic House for a short documentary.

We are so proud of them and love their profound and articulate insights on their interfaith journeys at Abrahamic House:

<https://youtu.be/09Sc2ZEduVw>



#Gathering not Othering

www.abrahamichouse.org