



# **A YEAR IN REVIEW**

## **2020**

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# AN UNEXPECTED YEAR



Dear Abrahamic House Community,

Two years ago I had a vision, born from my own experience of the power of interfaith learning and relationship-building. We would create a space where people from different faith backgrounds could come together to learn from one another, build community together, and promote a more just and loving world.

One year ago, the first four Abrahamic House residents moved into their new home in Los Angeles to create just that. One short week later, the state - and largely, the world - came to a standstill as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. A few short months later, protests against racism broke out across the country, including in LA.



Through this upheaval and uncertainty, Abrahamic House remained stalwart in its commitment to creating spaces for meaningful interfaith relationship-building, learning, and understanding to take place. Despite these difficult circumstances, our four inaugural fellows got to know each other on deep levels. They learned from and challenged each other, they built together, they held programs for a broadened community of participants from all over the country and world. Read on to learn more about just some of the ways they did this.

We are deeply grateful to you, our community, for continuing to support our vision with unfaltering commitment and clarity of purpose. Together we will continue to transform hate and ignorance into love, understanding, and justice.

In partnership,

Mohammed Al-Samawi  
Founder, Executive Director  
Abrahamic House



An important part of the Abrahamic House experience is the chance for residents to bond, share their respective holidays and religious practices, and ultimately become more effective allies for each other.

The fellows held **Religion 101** sessions for each other, sharing the major tenets of their respective religions. They observed each other's major **holidays**, having a chance to experience each other's practices as a group. They shared weekly meals, and had **important conversations** about the struggles each of their communities face. They also underwent **training** in anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Black racism. In December they held an event about what they learned about **allyship** - find it [here](#).





The fellows planned innovative and meaningful monthly **programs** for a broad audience. These included film screenings, a new moon dance party, a symposium on the meaning of fasting for different religions, and more.

They also held “**nontraditional programs**” that took place off of Zoom. For example, they distributed care packages that included information about their religions as well as goodies like protein bars and hand sanitizer, and they blogged and shared videos about their experiences with each other’s holidays.

**24**  
VIRTUAL  
EVENTS

**6**  
NONTRADITIONAL  
PROGRAMS

**900+**  
PARTICIPANTS

**READ  
MORE  
HERE**





Abrahamic House is the first multi-faith incubator for social change of its kind.

Our inaugural year has received recognition in numerous media outlets, and we have received inquiries about launching houses all over the country and world.

Ultimately, we hope to open Abrahamic Houses across the United States and ultimately all over the world, encouraging people to gather, not other, no matter where they live.

## Interfaith Communal Living Project Finds New Ways to Co-Exist Under Quarantine

By Esther D. Kustanowitz May 18, 2020

Print This Article



Esther D. Kustanowitz

Multifaith relationships literally saved Mohammed Al Samawi, helping him escape from Yemen's civil war to safety in the United States in 2015. The interfaith activists he met through internet forums and at conferences became his U.S. family, providing a support structure and an intensive speaking schedule at venues nationwide and internationally. His 2018 memoir, "The Fox Hunt," was slated to become a film.

### NEWS

## What four strangers of different faiths learned while living together during a pandemic

What four strangers of different faiths learned while living together during a pandemic



### Four roommates of different faiths face a pandemic together

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## Four roommates of different faiths face a pandemic together

By ALEJANDRA MOLINA May 20, 2020

# WHAT'S NEXT FOR ABRAHAMIC HOUSE?

Abrahamic House is committed to continuing our mission of building sustainable interfaith learning. Be sure to stay connected with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and to sign up for our [newsletter](#) to be the first to know about our organizational updates!

Did you participate in a program this past year? We want to hear from you! Make sure to fill out [this survey](#) so that we can make sure to adapt the growth of our organizations to your needs.

Applications for the next cohort of Abrahamic House residents will open in the Spring. We will be accepting applications from all over the United States, and we will determine our next location according to our applicant pool. Make sure to stay tuned for more details.

We are currently hiring for a Program Director, who will be responsible for the implementation of this new cohort. We are looking for an energized self-starter who is passionate about interfaith work. Is this you or someone you know? [Apply here](#) by February 15!



Abrahamic House is seeking a

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Visit [www.abrahamichouse.org/join-the-team/program-director](http://www.abrahamichouse.org/join-the-team/program-director) for details!



# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Abrahamic House would not be possible without our dedicated community of supporters. Thank you so much to everyone for making this dream a reality.

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