

## ***Conversations on Interfaith Marriage***

*All sessions will be held in*

### ***Temple Beth Israel Social Hall***

***3004 Union Avenue, Altoona PA, 16602***

Tues., July 7 -7:00 p.m. **An Evening with Author Naomi Schaefer Riley**

**Ms. Riley** will join us via **Skype** to provide an overview of her extensive research in the areas of interfaith marriage and the changing status of religion in America.

Tues., July 14 -7:00 p.m. **Local Faith Perspectives**

We will hear from a panel of local representatives from the Jewish, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran and Buddhist traditions and their approaches to this important issue.

Tues., July 21 -7:00 p.m. **Local Faith Perspectives**

We will hear from a panel of local representatives from the Muslim, Baha'i, Latter-day Saints and Roman Catholic traditions and their approaches to this important issue.

***Til Faith Do Us Part:  
How Interfaith Marriage is  
Transforming America***  
by Naomi Schaefer Riley

Our discussions this summer will use this fascinating book as a **starting point** to look at an issue that affects everyone - an issue that is not often talked about prior to marriage and yet is a powerful component of marriage.

In the last decade, 45% of all marriages in the U.S. were between people of different faiths. The rapidly growing number of mixed-faith families has become a source of hope, encouraging openness and tolerance among religious communities that historically have been insular and suspicious of other faiths.

Yet, what is good for society as a whole often proves difficult for individual families. Couples tend to marry in their twenties and thirties, a time when religion diminishes in importance, only to return to faith as they grow older and raise children, suffer the loss of a parent, or experience other major life challenges. Even when they recognize deeply held differences, couples believe that love conquers all. As a result, they fail to ask the necessary questions about how they will reconcile their divergent worldviews about raising children, celebrating holidays, interacting with extended families, and more.

#### **The Panelists**

**Facilitator: Bill Wallen**

July 14

*Michael Allison - Buddhist*

*Rabbi Audrey Korotkin - Jewish*

*Fr. Anthony Roeber - Eastern Orthodox*

*Rev. Paula Schmitt - Lutheran*

July 21 -

*Shamsa Anwar - Muslim*

*Msgr. Michael Becker - Roman Catholic*

*James Hite - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

*Dr. April Neal - Bahai*

**Each session  
will include  
Round Table  
Discussion**

***Refreshments  
and  
Fellowship  
following the  
program***

**This is a FREE Program  
However, donations are accepted!  
Please mail your donations to:**

Ecumenical Conference of  
Greater Altoona  
P. O. Box 292,  
Duncansville, PA 16635

More information? Contact Cindy at  
695-6580 or [ecga1967@gmail.com](mailto:ecga1967@gmail.com)

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### ***About our Guest Author***

Naomi Schaefer Riley is an American journalist, syndicated columnist, lecturer, nonfiction writer, editor and blogger for various news outlets including The New York Post, Wall Street Journal, The New York Times, The Boston Globe, The Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post.

Ms. Schaefer-Riley has researched and written extensively about issues of faith in America. In addition to her book about interfaith marriage, she has also authored books concerning religion and youth: ***God on the Quad: How Religious Colleges and the Missionary Generation Are Changing America*** and ***Got Religion: How Churches, Mosques and Synagogues Can Bring Young People Back***.

***This summer series is dedicated to the memory of Eileen Becker***

Eileen started the Ecumenical Conference in 1967. Her life- long dedication to Christian Unity, Social Justice and Interfaith Understanding guided the Conference until her death in 2013.

***The Interfaith Committee encourages open, thoughtful and respectful dialogue.***

Cover design by Michael Allison

# **2015 Matter of Faith Summer Series**



**Conversations on  
Interfaith Marriage**

**Tuesday Evenings  
July 7, 14, and 21, 2015**

*Made possible by grants from  
Clarence Becker and the  
Greater Altoona Jewish Federation*