Interfaith Institute 2025

Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis

July 28—July 31, 2025

Wildacres Retreat

Blue Ridge Parkway, Little Switzerland, North Carolina







Interfaith Retreat 2025 theme:

We All Inhabit the Earth: Creatures of Creation

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We travel up the mountain to escape "the real world," but while there we are also on the earth, in a particular part of creation. What does it mean to inhabit the earth faithfully?



Our retreat brings together people of all religious traditions for three days of discussion relaxation, contemplation, and friendship. The gathering is open to clergy and lay-people of all traditions, as well as those who practice no religious tradition at all. We invite open minds and hearts who are interested in learning, comradery, and sharing on a mountaintop with a magnificent view of the Blue Ridge mountains. (Check out Wildacres website www.wildacres.org)



In our sessions, the leaders will explore the stories, values, and foundational teachings of their respective faith traditions as inspiration for finding our place on this earth.

What does God require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.

Micah 6:8

Our 2025 Interfaith Institute Discussion Leaders

This year's leaders, Rabbi Robert Wolkoff, Reverend Shannon Craigo-Snell, and Kavanah Anderson each bring a unique perspective, not only from their religious traditions, but also through their rich life experiences.



Rabbi Robert L. Wolkoff is a graduate of Wesleyan University and was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary. In Sweden, he served as co-chair of the Council of Christians and Jews and as a member of the Swedish Free Church Trialogue of Muslims, Christians, and Jews. As past president of the Greater Carolinas Association of Rabbis, he fostered cooperation and harmony in one of the largest interdenominational rabbinical organization in America. Rabbi Wolkoff founded and served as director of Blackfire, which raised the Jewish public profile in Scandinavia, defended the Jewish community against governmental, academic, and theological anti-Semitism, and presented a Jewish perspective on social issues and Israel. He is currently the Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Tikvah in North Brunswick, New Jersey.



Reverend Shannon Craigo-Snell is a systematic Christian theologian. Since 2011, she has served as a professor of theology at Louisville Presbyterian theological Seminary, where she teaches Masters and Doctor of Ministry students as they engage in multiple forms of ministry. Before arriving in Louisville, she was associate professor of Religious Studies at Yale University, where she taught all levels of students, and Ph.D. students. In all of her work, Shannon brings the wisdom of theology into conversation with contemporary issues so that each might teach and learn from the other. Embracing collaborative learning she has co-authored one book with a pastor, another with an activist, and co-authored articles with a liturgical theologian. Her interests focus on feminist and Reformed theologies, theology and theater, anti-racism, and ecclesiology. Beneath these subjects is the larger need to rethink what it means to be human together today.



Kavanah Anderson has enjoyed finding ways to connect people and plants at Sarah P. Duke Gardens since she joined the staff in 2011. She works collaboratively to create transformative visitor experiences and learning opportunities, supported by the belief that gardens are a place to be serious, playful, experimental and reverential in the pursuit of recognizing and celebrating the relationships between plants and the community of life they support. Kavanah's program facilitation includes embodied ways to offer our human attention as a way to be in close relationship with the more-than-human world and practice in building comfort with the unknown. Kavanah has a BA in history from Beloit College and a master's degree in liberal arts from Duke University.

This year we again offer a writing workshop led by Tamara Miller who will help our writers share their creations on Wednesday evening.



Rabbi Tamara Miller has been a friend of the Wildacres community for decades. Now a resident of Washington, DC, Tamara and her family had lived in Chapel Hill and Greensboro, NC for over 20 years. She was invited to the summer rabbinic retreat at Wildacres by a rabbinical colleague and it became her summer destination. A second career rabbi, Rabbi Miller found her way to the Academy for Jewish Religion in New York City. She received her rabbinic ordination in 1995. She has worked as a congregational rabbi in North Carolina, Virginia, District of Columbia and Seattle. She has a degree in Clinical Pastoral Education and served as the Director of Spiritual Care at George Washington Hospital for over a decade. Rabbi Miller continues to teach, perform life cycle events, while serving as a hospital chaplain in Bethesda, Maryland. Rabbi Miller's love of language and writing began at a young age and continued through high school and college. She has a bachelor's degree in Journalism from City College and a Master's degree from Syracuse University. In 2017, she published a spiritual memoir, "You are the Book" which offers a contemporary perspective on women rabbis using her own life as an example. The writing workshops at Wildacres have further deepened her love of story writing and storytelling. Rabbi Miller is the proud mother of four and the fortunate grandmother of ten.

The Sassafras Band returns to entertain us on Tuesday night.



We have comfortable accommodations and all meals will be kosher. There will be lots of opportunities to gather informally on the patio and in the canteen, as well as time to explore the hiking paths surrounding Wildacres.

All are welcome! Bring your family and friends. Registration follows. Sign up now to make sure you have a spot. Come experience what others are talking about. If we had a star rating system – 1 through 5 rating –our Interfaith retreat would be a 10!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We are grateful to the Blumenthal Foundation for subsidizing this event. The registration fee includes the program, 3-nights lodging, and 8 kosher meals.

$395 per person double occupancy

$545 per person single occupancy

Children are welcome to attend. We will arrange a special program for 3-12 year olds during our sessions, under the direction of Educator Kitty Wolf. We do not provide childcare for 2 and under.

Ages 6-12 $130

Ages 3-5 $95

2 and under—no charge

We encourage those who may be able, to contribute an additional sum to our scholarship fund to help defray the costs of the program and to provide assistance for those who may not be able to afford the full cost.

To register, click on the link or copy and paste this link into your browser.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFiobL_5cJbkZi8g0PQEV1XlOsyX_lBqU9d21KRhC4b4gMQA/viewform?usp=dialog

Each attendee must fill out a registration form

Registration payment is by check or Zelle - use this number (224-234-4221)

Please make checks payable and send to **Marilyn Katz**

208 S. Western Avenue

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See you on the mountain!

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