

Segment 1

WASHINGTON, DC
(Saturday, September 24 – Saturday, October 1)

Themes:

U.S. Federal system of government
Research on religion in the life and politics of U.S. Americans
Diversity training in the U.S.
Muslim communities/mosques in the DC metropolitan area
Identity and Race in the U.S.
Religious groups' input to public policy

Federalism Tour of Washington: Capitol Communications Group will provide a guide for a tour of Washington, D.C. (confirmed, Sunday, September 25, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm). This tour will introduce the group to Washington's history as well as its main tourist attractions and monuments. Visitors will have the remainder of the day to explore museums such as the National Museum American History, the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Gallery of Art, and the Air and Space Museum. Visitors also may be interested in visiting the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to enjoy a free performance at the Millennium Stage. A list with current cultural events will be provided in the visitors' welcome folders.

Program Opening: The program will open officially on Monday with the **U.S. Department of State Official Welcome** and program overview by World Learning staff. After the program overview, the World Learning program team will conduct an **administrative session**. Participants will receive their debit cards and learn about home hospitality and other cultural opportunities that will be available to them during the course of the program. Directly following the opening session, the State Department will sponsor a luncheon at a local restaurant.

Project Luncheon: Lunch will be reserved at Busboys and Poets.

Federalism Briefing: Mr. Ken Insley from Capital Communications Group, Inc. will provide an overview of the structure of the U.S. government, its decentralized nature, the separation of powers, as well as the powers of federal, state, and local governments in the United States. Part of Mr. Insley's presentation will also explain the separation of church and state in this country.

American Civil Liberties Union: Representatives from the American Civil Liberties Union will be invited to explain cases that exemplify how U.S. Americans' rights to religious freedom are protected under the constitution.

The Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life: A meeting with Mr. John Green, a senior research adviser, will be requested. Mr. Green has published many articles, essays and books on the relationship between religion and American politics. During a meeting, he will share with the visitors his current research on the role of religion in American elections.

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National Smithsonian's Natural History Museum: The visitors will have guided tour of the National Smithsonian's Natural History Museum Exhibit: RACE: Are We So Different? to look at history, science and lived experience to understand the differences between people in the United States.

The Congressional Muslim Staff Association (CMSA): Mr. Elmamoun Sulfab, President of the CMSA will be invited to explain how this federal employee association represents Muslim American interests and concerns, particularly within Congress; facilitates dialogue between Federal agencies and American Muslim civic, political, and religious organizations; and promotes Muslim American civic engagement and participation in public affairs and government institutions. If there is time, a visit of the Capitol building will be arranged.

Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church: A meeting will be requested with the Pastor Andrew Walton from Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church. Pastor Walton will provide insights into the church's 150 year old history, its involvement in the local neighborhood, and how its proximity to the Capitol has influenced his work and the members of the congregation.

6th and I Historic Synagogue: The Rabbi Shira Stutman, Director of Community Engagement, has been invited to meet with the group to discuss the Synagogue's history, programs and role in the community. It is a non-denominational, non-membership, non-traditional synagogue that serves as location for arts, entertainment, and discussion, where people are able to explore and create their Jewish identity.

Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC): Mr. Haris Tarin, Director of the Washington D.C. office of Muslim Public Affairs Council, or Mr. Alejandro Beutel, the Muslim Public Affairs Council's Government Liaison, will be asked to meet with the group to explore how a non-profit organization can work to influence policy. For example, Mr. Tarin and Mr. Beutel can discuss MPAC's role in forming the Workplace Religious Freedom Act and the End Racial Profiling Act.

Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding: This center and other centers and programs were established at institutions of higher education around the world, all sharing in the common goals of promoting dialogue, increasing understanding, and fostering mutual respect. A meeting at Georgetown University has been requested for the group to meet with faculty to hear about their workshops and what resources they provide to foster religious and cultural understanding.

The Washington Post: Ms. Michelle Boorstein will be invited to talk with the visitors about her work covering religion for *The Washington Post* since January 2006. Ms. Boorstein can share with the visitors her interest in young Muslim-Americans and her perspective on how the Obama White House manages church-state issues.

Department of Defense: A meeting will be requested for the visitors to learn what training military units have on topics related to other ethnicities, customs, and religious traditions that service members may encounter in their work.

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Walking Tour of Historic Houses of Worship: Arrangements will be made for visitors to go on a walking tour of Philadelphia's historic houses of worship. They will learn how William Penn's "holy experiment" laid the foundations of religious tolerance in the U.S. The tour discusses many of the historical houses of worship in Philadelphia, including Christ Church (1695), Free Quaker Meeting House (1783), Mikveh Israel (1740), Mother Bethel AME (1777), Old Pine Street Presbyterian (1768), St. Peter's Church, (1750), Old St. Mary's (1763), Old St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church (1733).

St. John's Hospice: This Catholic charity serves a soup kitchen lunch every weekday to homeless men in Philadelphia. There is a 52 bed housing unit that serves as a hospice for medically fragile homeless men and transitional housing for homeless men working towards independence. Visitors will serve lunch to the homeless men and meet with hospice managers to discuss their services and interactions with men of all faiths.

Intercultural Journeys: The visitors will meet with the founders of Intercultural Journeys, an organization that seeks to promote understanding in pursuit of peace among people of diverse faiths and conflicting cultures through dialogue and the presentation of world-class performances in music, dance, the spoken word, and other artforms. It was founded by two musicians from the Philadelphia Orchestra that have used their work to promote dialogue between religious and ethnic groups using the full range of musical styles.

Mennonite Information Center: The visitors will tour Pennsylvania Dutch country, a region of Pennsylvania that is populated by the descendents of Swiss and German Mennonites who fled Europe due to religious persecution. They will learn about these fundamental people, their religion, lifestyles and interactions with the modern world. On the tour the group will have the opportunity to interact with Amish and Mennonite people at their stores and farm stands.

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies: Following the tour of the Amish country, the visitors will meet with Elizabethtown College faculty to discuss the history and contemporary challenges of the Amish and Mennonite communities. They will have the opportunity to tour the center's library and discuss the development of the Bretheren Encyclopedia, a volume developed to document the history and beliefs of one Mennonite community.

Home hospitality will be requested for the group in Philadelphia.

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Segment 3

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH (Thursday, October 6 – Tuesday, October 11)

Public schools and religion
Management and financing religious communities
Preserving minority culture and religion in the United States
State government and religion

The **Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy** will arrange the program in Utah.

The Utah's 3 Rs Project: This project gives teachers and administrators the tools needed to discuss religious differences in the classroom with civility. The meeting will highlight how the program works to maintain students' First Amendment rights with the 3Rs: rights, responsibilities and respect.

Sri Ganesha Hindu Temple: This appointment will focus on the Hindu religion and how the temple works to preserve a minority culture and religion in the U.S.

Latter-day Saint (LDS) Church and Humanitarian Center: Representatives from the LDS Church Hosting Office will be invited to meet with the group and discuss the organization and management of the church and how the members fund the work of international humanitarian efforts.

Khadija Mosque: Visitors will have an opportunity to participant in Friday prayers and meet with the Imam to learn about the organization and management of the Mosque.

Utah Department of Corrections: A meeting will be requested with a representative from the Department of Corrections who will discuss how the department provides inmates with their First Amendment rights to practice religion while housed at the Utah State Prison.

Office of Faith-based and Community Initiatives: A meeting with Ms. Katherine Smith, Director, will be requested for the visitors to examine the state government's partnerships with grassroots organizations to address the needs of the community.

Cultural Activities: Over the weekend, the visitors will have an opportunity to visit Park City, which was once one of the largest silver-mining camps in the country. Now the town is known for being a ski resort and the host of the 2002 Winter Olympic games. The visitors will also be welcome to attend the Mormon Tabernacle Choir Broadcast of "Music and the Spoken Word" on Sunday morning. A tour of Salt Lake City will be arranged for the group to learn about the Mormon pioneer history and the state capitol. Home hospitality will be requested.

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All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS): The visitors will meet with representatives of ADAMS, one of the largest Muslim communities/mosques in the DC Metro Area and in the United States. The meeting will highlight how ADAMS engages in regular interfaith outreach, government relations, social services, and community service. It has one of the largest Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Girl Scout programs in the DC Metro area.

An opportunity to attend Friday prayers will be arranged in Washington.

Segment 2

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA (Saturday, October 1 – Thursday, October 6)

Themes:

Identity formation

Religious education for youth

Religious groups' role in community service

Intercultural dialogue through the arts

History and challenges of closed religious communities in U.S.

The **International Visitors Council of Philadelphia** will arrange the program in Pennsylvania.

Temple University, Department of Comparative Religion: **Dr. Zain Abdullah**, Assistant Professor of Religion, Race, and Ethnicity will be invited to talk about his work on identity formation and how the intersection of religious, racial, and ethnic interactions influences its construction.

Al-Aqsa Islamic Society and Mosque: The group will visit the Aqsa Islamic Society to see the mosque, school, and halal market. Aqsa Islamic Society has been established to maintain the 'Islamic Identity' and to protect Muslim people, children and students from the adversities of the surrounding non-Islamic environments. This effort is fulfilled through many services the Society presents to the Muslim and Arab communities in the Philadelphia area.

The Foundation for Islamic Education: Representatives from the Foundation for Islamic Education will be invited to meet with the visitors to discuss their Islamic educational institution for students in grades K through 12 and the various after-school and summer programs run by the Foundation.

City of Philadelphia, Mayor's Office of Faith Based Initiatives: Faith leaders and representatives of the Mayor's Office of Faith Based Initiatives will be invited to meet with the visitors. The Mayor's Office serves the community of faith leaders by providing a forum for discussion and dialogue around common interests and concerns. The Office also serves city departments in need of support, advice or guidance from faith leaders. The appointment will provide the visitors with insights into the issues of concern for the leaders in the community and how they are collaborating with the Mayor's Office.

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Segment 4

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS (Tuesday, October 11 – Saturday, October 15)

Themes:

Programs for inter-religious and ethnic understanding
Local and State efforts to engage different ethnic and religious groups
Role of religion in the practice of democracy

World Chicago will arrange the program in Illinois.

Interfaith Youth Core: A meeting will be arranged for the visitors to learn about how the organization's programs encourage youth to strengthen their religious identities, foster inter-religious understanding and cooperate to serve the local and global community.

City of Chicago, Commission on Human Relations (CCHR): It is the responsibility of the CCHR to enforce the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. The Commission investigates complaints to determine whether discrimination may have occurred, and uses its enforcement powers to punish acts of discrimination. Visitors will learn about the CCHR's programs of education and intervention to combat bigotry and bring people from different groups together.

State of Illinois Office of the Governor: Ms. Samreen Khan, Senior Advisor on Outreach to Muslims and Asians, will be invited to discuss her work with minority groups in the State of Illinois on behalf of the governor's office.

The University of Chicago: A meeting with representatives from student groups on campus will be arranged for visitors to explore how students organize and find support on campus. Representatives will be invited from organizations such as the Multicultural Center, Interreligious Center, and the Interfaith Dialogue. The visitors will have an opportunity to attend half of a day at a conference hosted by the Divinity School entitled, "Democracy on Trial: Religion, Civil Society and Democratic Theory" where scholars will consider how religion contributes to a vibrant civil society, and how both affect the practice of democracy.

Sacred Space International (SSI): A meeting with representatives at SSI will help the visitors examine how Chicago's architecture, history and interfaith movement provide the basis for SSI's programs. These programs raise awareness and increase understanding among the public.

Sound Vision: Founded 12 years ago, Sound Vision is the oldest and largest Muslim multimedia company in the United States. A meeting will be requested for the visitors to hear how they are developing products and providing information on Islam. In addition, the visitors will learn about RadioIslam.com, a Sound Vision radio venture on the Internet that provides a daily 20-minute program called "Living Islam." The radio site also features interviews and reports from around the world. Children can listen to stories, and adults can listen to recitations of the Qur'an.

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American Indian Center: Representatives will be invited to meet with the visitors to discuss the mission of the Center which is to promote fellowship among Indian people of all tribes living near Chicago, help develop understanding and communication between Indians and non-Indians in the city, advance the general welfare of American Indians, sustains cultural, artistic and a vocational pursuits, and perpetuate Indian cultural values.

Mosque: On Friday, the visitors will have time to attend prayers at a local Mosque.

International departures will be on Saturday, October 15.

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Program at a Glance

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

11:00 am – 12:00 pm	CAIR - Chicago (312) 212-1520 Appointment with: Mr. Gerald Hankerson, Outreach Coordinator
1:30 – 2:30 pm	American Indian Center (773) 275-5871 Appointment with: Mr. Joseph Podlasek, Executive Director
8:00 pm	Blue Man Group Briar Street Theatre (773) 348-4000

Thursday, October 13, 2011

10:00 – 11:00 am	Chicago Commission on Human Rights (312) 744-4101 Appointment with: Ms. Iris Archilla, Assistant to the Commissioner
1:00 – 5:30pm	"The Engaged Mind" Conference University of Chicago Divinity School (773) 702-8200 Contact: Ms. Debra Erickson, Conference Coordinator

Friday, October 14, 2011

9:30 – 10:30 am	Chicago Bulgarian-American Association (312) 222-9353 Appointment with: Ms. Tsvetelina Boynovska, U.S. Immigration Lawyer and President of the Chicago Bulgarian-American Association
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Universal School (708) 715-5678 Appointment with: Mrs. Hanan Abdallah, Principal and Sh. Kifah Mustapha, Imam and Associate Director, The Mosque Foundation
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Friday Prayer The Mosque Foundation 708-430-5666 Ext: 3

Departure: Saturday, October 15, 2011