

Jonah VanHouten
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Religion

Site Visit Two: Faith Meets Faith

This evening at 7:00PM I attended the event Faith Meets Faith at the LCCC campus, in the Spitzer center. In this gathering we were introduced to women from each of the three Abrahamic faiths: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Many students from my class were present and nearly 200 people showed up for this event. Each of these women talked about how women's rights and involvement has evolved over the course of their respective faith. The history of each religion is long, and detailed, but this report will provide a small snapshot into the changes and opportunities women have gone through in these religions.

The first presenter was Rabbi Lauren Werber, of the Jewish faith. The Rabbi was dressed in relatively normal clothes: dress pants a modest dress shirt, and the Jewish Yamika. Throughout the Jewish faith women have been known more for their absence, rather than their outspoken involvement. Women like Sarah were not "loud" in the Jewish community, but showed that it took a strong woman behind the brave and powerful man in Abraham. Sarah trusted Abraham and left everything she had to follow what God had spoken to Abraham. Another example was Zelophehad's daughters. He did not produce any sons, so his daughters fought so that they would receive his inheritance and carry on the family name. These are two examples of how Jewish women began to become involved and search for equality.

The second speaker we had was Reverend Mary C. Carson. She was wearing a suit, and was also dressed modestly and is the Reverend of an Episcopal church. The

story that she spoke of that stood out to me is how when Jesus resurrection occurred, Mary Magdelene was the first person to discover he had rise. But when Paul wrote the scripture he did not include her findings, and this was a huge point of oppression for women in Christianity. In my thoughts, Mary can be seen as almost the thirteenth disciple, and she was just as involved throughout the life of Jesus as the other disciples. Another example of women in Christianity is how women like Harriet Tubman, stuck to their faith to help others on the Underground Railroad.

Our final speaker was Julia Shearson, who spoke of Islam, and wore the common Muslin scarf on her head. The thing that stuck out to me is how Muslim women wear modest clothes to worship. Not only do women need to be modest, but so do men in their thoughts and actions. One of the goals I learned about in Islam was that both parties need to modest, and through this we look at our souls, and who we really are, and not our physical attributes. One other point that stuck out to me is that Muslim's believe Adam and Eve are both at fault for their sin, and that it was not just pegged on eve in the Garden of Eden. In my words it takes two to tango, and I think that this is a step towards equality in the mindset of Muslims.

Overall I really enjoyed this experience. I wasn't sure if it would be dry, or drawn out, but it had me on the edge of my seat wondering what else I could learn from others beliefs. This helped me to respect others religion's, although I may not agree, I can at least respect where their ideals come from, and see the logic in why they do what they do. It all boils back down to Abraham as well, so it is neat to see some continuity as well. I really enjoyed this event.