

## **The Author's Platform History**

For forty years, Mary Lahaj has used her leadership platform as a speaker, educator, event producer, and author to build bridges between her two worlds. In the following ways, she has built a connection and acted to make a difference by increasing interfaith understanding. All engagements were by invitation.

### **CULTURAL COMPETENCY PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Cultural Expertise and the Muslim Patient**

- Harvard Medical School
- Boston University Medical School, Mental Health Symposium
- Dana Farber Cancer Institute
- Brigham & Women's Hospital, Grand Rounds (nurses continuing education credits)
- Rhode Island Hospital
- UMASS Medical School
- Worcester Memorial Hospital

#### **Cultural Expertise and the Muslim Client**

- 1) Rhode Island College, School of Social Work, Providence, RI
- 2) Simmons College, Boston, MA:
  - "Needs Assessment Report for Muslim Students" (Dean of Students)
  - Alumni Relations
  - International Education (for the 5 college consortium, Boston)
  - School of Social Work
  - School of Nursing

### **INVITED SPEAKER & PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Samples of Invited Speaking Engagements**

- Harvard Divinity School, panel discussion, "First Muslim Woman Chaplain"
- Harvard University, Comparative Religion, "Islam in America," guest speaker
- Harvard Career Services, panel discussion: "So You Want to be a Chaplain"
- Turkish Culture Center, Boston, "Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) and Pluralism"
- MIT Muslim Student Association, "Building an Islamic Community in America"
- Williams College, Boston Alumni Association, "Islam: Rumor & Reality"
- Brandeis University, *Distinguished Jewish Leaders Institute*, "Islam in America"
- Dartmouth College, "Women in Islam"
- Andover Newton Theological School, "World Religions," guest speaker
- Hebrew College (and High School, Prozdor) "Introduction to Islam"
- Greater Boston Buddhist Center, Cambridge, "Commonalities"
- National Senior Girl Scouts Leadership Conference, Keynote speaker: "Making a Difference"
- Catholic Charities, Boston

## Sample of Publications: magazines, peer-reviewed journals, newspaper articles, Op-Eds, and book chapters

- “Bless Your Own Baby,” *Fountain* magazine, May/June 2015  
<http://www.fountainmagazine.com/Issue/detail/bless-your-own-baby-may-june-2015>
- “End-of-Life Care and the Chaplain’s Role on the Medical Team,” *Journal of the Islamic Medical Association of North America*, (JIMA), Volume 43, Page 173 (2011)  
[http://jima.imana.org/article/view/8392/43-3\\_11](http://jima.imana.org/article/view/8392/43-3_11)
- “Making it up as I go along: The Formation of a Muslim Chaplain,” book chapter, published in *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*, Herbert Anderson, ed. Volume 29. 2009 <http://journals.sfu.ca/rpfs/index.php/rpfs/article/viewFile/231/230>
- “In the Presence of the Sick, the Grieving, the Lonely,” *AZIZAH* magazine: *The Voice for Muslim Women*. Volume 5, Issue 2, 2009
- “On Being a Female Chaplain,” *Islamic Horizons* magazine, July/August 2007
- Affiliate of Harvard University’s Pluralism Project, “The Wedding Planners: An American Muslim Wedding.” ([www.pluralism.org/affiliates/index](http://www.pluralism.org/affiliates/index))
- “Time for American Muslims to take the lead,” or [“American Muslims are Different: Our Country First”] *Quincy Patriot Ledger*, Op-Ed, January 24, 2015
- “Contemplative Practices: A Comparative Perspective on Different Faith Traditions,” *Fountain* magazine, May/June 2013
- “At God’s Door: A New Life,” *Fountain* magazine, July/August 2011
- “Forgiving Dad,” <http://www.fountainmagazine.com/article.php?ARTICLEID=1167> 2010
- Book chapter 13: “The Islamic Center of New England,” published in *Muslim Communities in North America*, Eds. Yvonne Y. Haddad & Jane Smith (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1994) (thesis publication)
- “An American Muslim in Istanbul,” *Fountain* magazine, #63, May 2008
- “My Trip to Turkey,” *Zaman* Newspaper (Turkish online), May 2007
- “Believing in America,” *The Beacon*, December 14, 2006

**Citations:** According to Academia.edu, Mary’s work has been **cited 24 times** (since 9/2022, as of 4/2023)

### **PRODUCER OF EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS & EVENTS**

- Author, producer, presenter, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Islamic Center of New England, Part I & Part II, Quincy Access Cable TV (2014), Quincy, MA (2014, 2015)
- Producer, “Program for Muslim Veterans,” Veterans Day (2013)
- Producer, “Counterterrorism Panel: Elevating the Voice of Muslim Americans,” Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center, Roxbury, MA (2010)
- Researcher and producer, “The Wedding Planners: An American Muslim Wedding.” ([www.pluralism.org/affiliates/index](http://www.pluralism.org/affiliates/index)) (2002) (Harvard’s Pluralism Project research grant)
- Participant, Pluralism Project, CD-ROM, “On Common Ground,” Harvard (1995)
- Participant, BBC Roger Hardy, 8-Part Radio Series, “Islam/Faith & Power” (1993)
- Panel participant, WRKO, Talking Religion, Boston (1995)
- Producer, presenter, Christian Science Monitor Video: “Islam in America” (1991)
- Producer, panel participant, Dimension Cable TV: “Women in Islam,” “Dispelling Myths” (1991)

### **INTERFAITH AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Building Bridges: Jewish/Muslim Relations and scriptural studies
- Center for Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations, Merrimack College, Executive Board Trustee
- Neighbor to Neighbor, Women's Group (Jewish & Muslim)
- National Conference of Christians and Jews
- Association of Muslim Chaplains
- Greater Boston Muslim Health Initiative
- Muslim liaison to the MA Dept. of Correction, Volunteer recruiter
- Islamic Center of New England, Quincy, Lifetime membership

### **FORMER TEACHING AND CHAPLAINCY POSITIONS**

- Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland: Religion teacher, curriculum development (2012-2014) Youth Group Director (1995-2000)
- Groton School: Muslim Chaplain, Groton, MA (2005-2012)
- Simmons College: Muslim Chaplain, Office of Spiritual Life, Boston, MA (2008-2010)
- Brigham & Women's Hospital: Muslim Chaplain Residency Program (2007-2008)
- Tufts University: Muslim Advisor, Medford, MA (1992-1994)
- Wellesley College: Muslim Interim Advisor, Wellesley, MA (1991-1992)
- Middlesex Community College: Adjunct Faculty, Introduction to Philosophy (1998-2004)