

FRANKLIN COLLEGE 2023-24
CONVOCAATION LECTURE SERIES

SPIRIT & PLACE FESTIVAL EVENT

COME TO THE TABLE
Interfaith Understanding
Through the Culinary Arts

Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, 7:30 p.m.
Branigin Room, Napolitan Student Center



COME to the TABLE

Welcoming Remarks Kristin Flora

Proclamation for Community Service Kristin Flora
Carol Phipps

Program Introduction Hannah Adams Ingram

“Come to the Table” Adrian Miller

Faith and Food Reflections Hannah Adams Ingram, Adrian Miller,
Qahar Behzad, Yael Epstein and Tenpa Phuntsok

Book Signing Adrian Miller

Special appreciation to our Interfaith Program Sponsors:



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Parkhurst Dining



BE NOURISHED

In a world that often focuses on differences, there is one characteristic that every living being shares and that is the biological need for food. Our bodies cannot live long without sustenance.

But we as human beings are more than physical bodies. That is why to describe food as simply tasty or nutritious is to miss the true potential of food, which is to nourish our whole beings—mind, soul, and spirit, as well as body.

That is what is so powerful about the word “nourish.” Every food item in a grocery store has a label that informs us about the amounts of proteins, carbohydrates, fats, and sugars in the product. But no label can tell us how nourishing that food item will be. Why? Because what is necessary for us to survive as human beings is not the same as what is necessary for us to thrive.

Human beings seem to have always known that food is more nourishing when eaten with others. We are social beings, and our socialness is expressed through food in two important ways.

Food shared with family members and those of our culture nurtures our sense of identity. At a family reunion, dispersed family members pass dishes from their childhoods that remind them of the heritage and traditions that binds them together. Those living in another country, when feeling homesick, might travel a considerable distance to dine at a restaurant that features food and friends from home.

But food nourishes us in another way. Food has the power to connect us with people of other cultures. When we share food from our culture with others and others share food from their culture with us, both parties are changed. Not just our taste buds, but our brains register that we are experiencing something new, and our lives are enriched.

Enriching life is the hope of our “Interfaith Understanding through the Arts and Humanities” series at Franklin College, this year focusing on the culinary arts. We hope you enjoyed the taste samples from these traditions: Tibetan Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and American Soul Food.

But our goal goes beyond this evening. We hope that the tasting experience and our guest speakers will encourage you to build bridges of understanding by sharing a meal with people from other cultures.

Cultural Diversity + Food = Friendship. That is a powerful and nourishing formula.

- Professor Emeritus David Carlson



The organizers of the Spirit & Place Festival invite your feedback on this special event by completing a short survey or by visiting with the volunteers staffing their information table in the Johnson Atrium.

For more information about Franklin College’s interfaith program series, visit FranklinCollege.edu/interfaitharts.

Thank you for coming to the table this evening!
