

2016 AEP Forum

A Beacon of Hope: Emir Abdelkader - Yesterday's Muslim Hero Matters Today

TRACK #1 – GLOBAL EDUCATION: TEACHING TOLERANCE, CIVILITY, UNDERSTANDING

***Ann Schodde** is founder and President Emeritus of Center for Citizen Diplomacy, an initiative of PYXERA Global in D.C. Her consulting firm, AOS International, serves U.S. based non-profit organizations. Prior positions: senior management at Drake University, V.P. of Des Moines Area Community College, and Executive Director of Iowa International Center. Ann has managed programs with and for private foundations, professional associations, and government agencies including Stanley Foundation, World Food Prize Foundation, Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, World Affairs Councils, Sister Cities International, USAID, and U.S. Departments of State and Education. She holds a BA degree from the University of Wisconsin and M.Ed. from Cornell University. Ann joined the AEP Board in 2014.

Marcia Powell is an instructional coach and curriculum consultant at Iowa Learning Online who has taught science and computer integration since 1988. She is an Iowa finalist for Excellence in Science Teaching and serves on the NE Regional STEM hub and the Thought Leader's Circle for the Center for Teaching Quality. Her MA is from the University of Northern Iowa in education. She works with middle school and high school students, as well as adults, in building virtual communities and developing curriculum. Her hobbies include working with kids on STEM projects, walking dogs, and drinking coffee. She likes connecting with others via the **CTQ Collaboratory** and **@marciarpowell** on Twitter.

Karla Duff (@teacher6th) is a middle school teacher in Oelwein, Iowa. She currently teaches social studies and reading to 6th graders. Her active classroom includes PBL units, technology exploration, student-directed learning, and a coffee mug. She teaches with an amazing interdisciplinary team that makes learning happen.

Tamar Miller works with social benefit organizations and is interested in strategies, like citizen diplomacy, that build justice and peace. Past consulting: *Center for Contemplative Mind in Society* introducing Harvard and MIT faculty to meditation as a pedagogic practice; crafting parliamentary campaign in Kuwait; and strategic evaluations for *Fetzer Institute's* science and spirituality unit. Tamar was VP Education and a founder of *American Higher Education, Inc.* in Cambridge, MA, and was Partner in *Middle East Holdings*, business development firm in Boston and Dubai. She was Director of Leadership Development at *Harvard's Kennedy School*, then Executive Director of *Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East*. Tamar is on board of directors of *Parents' Circle* and *Israel Palestine Center for Creative Regional Initiatives*, and was on founding board of *Alliance for Middle East Peace*. Tamar holds BA in Philosophy and Judaic Studies, MSW from *Yeshiva University*, and Master of Public Administration from *Harvard University*. She has three grown daughters and lives in Cambridge, MA.

Ameena Jandali is a founding member and Content Director for Islamic Networks Group (ING) in San Jose, CA. She co-designs and develops ING's educational presentations and cultural competency seminars. Ameena has delivered hundreds of presentations in schools, colleges, universities, churches, and other venues on Islam and related subjects. She's also appeared on many news outlets speaking on issues relating to American Muslims. She currently team teaches a class on Islam at San Francisco City College. Ameena received her M.A. in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley, and B.A. in History from the University of Illinois.

***Kathy Garms**, AEP co-founder and Executive Director, is proud of her hometown...Elkader, Iowa. In 2007, she revived the Elkader sister city program with Mascara, Algeria, and undertook reorganizing the program, strengthening cultural understanding and renewing friendships between the U.S. and Algeria. Kathy organized the 2008 Elkader launch of John Kiser's biography, *Commander of the Faithful: The Life and Times of Emir Abdelkader* and together they created the Abdelkader Essay Contest that evolved into the Abdelkader Education Project (AEP). Kathy has participated in many international events such as Council of Nations/Emir Abdelkader Foundation "Human Rights Seminar" in Algiers. Her presentations provide insights into the Abdelkader Education Project, Emir Abdelkader, Elkader, Mascara and the sister city relationship. Kathy and her husband live near Elkader where they raised their three sons.

TRACK #2 –OUTREACH: THE HUMAN FACE OF ISLAM – EMIR ABDELKADER

***Chuck Montgomery** is Senior Managing Attorney for MidAmerican Energy Company (Berkshire Hathaway). Chuck serves on board of PYXERA Global, parent organization of Center for Citizen Diplomacy dedicated to advancing people-to-people exchanges around the globe. Chuck has been a leader in the Center's involvement in the Arab Fellowship Program, a partnership with Young Arab Leaders, Business for Diplomatic Action, and others. In 2009, he served on a World Affairs Council fact-finding mission in Iraq. In February 2011 he participated in leadership meetings for the U.S.-Pakistan Leadership Forum. Chuck also serves on the board of CultureALL, a Des Moines based non-profit providing lowans, especially students, discovery-filled experiences that teach about other cultures. Chuck received his law degree from University of Iowa.

***John Kiser** is AEP co-founder, a writer and lecturer with MA in European History from Columbia University and MBA from University of Chicago. In 1977, he founded Kiser Research, Inc., a technology search business that consulted with corporate R&D departments to acquire rights to intellectual property from the Soviet bloc. His first book, *Communist Entrepreneurs, Unknown Innovators in the Communist World*, was groundbreaking in helping change perceptions about soviet ingenuity. After a sabbatical in France (1994-95) where he learned more about the Islamic world through the lens of the French-Algerian love-hate relationship, John sold his business to explore this intriguing relationship through his writing, beginning with *The Monks of Tibhirine: Faith, Love and Terror in Algeria*, and *Commander of the Faithful: The Life and Times of Emir Abd el-Kader*, which ultimately became the intellectual core for the Abdelkader Education Project. He is on the boards of Religions for Peace, International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, and the William & Mary Greve Foundation.

Dr. Raphael Danziger joined AIPAC in 1990 as Director of Research and Information, and in 1992 also became Editor-in-Chief of AIPAC's biweekly newsletter, *Near East Report*. He is now Senior Research Advisor at AIPAC's Policy and Government Affairs department and *Near East Report's* Editor-in-Chief Emeritus. In 1980s, he was a foreign policy analyst at the American Jewish Congress. Previously he taught modern Middle Eastern history at University of Haifa in Israel, and at University of Washington in Seattle. He was a visiting fellow at Princeton University and a consultant on Middle Eastern affairs at the Hudson Institute. Dr. Danziger holds a Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton, MA, from University of Washington, and BA from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published a book and many articles on the Middle East and North Africa; his op-eds have appeared in the *New York Times* and other leading newspapers. He has lectured extensively on the Middle East, and was interviewed on the PBS MacNeil-Lehrer NewsHour and other news programs.

Mark Danner is founder of The Meeting Point Int'l, an initiative to build a culture of encounter with Muslims and Islam based on friendships and cultivation of wonder in life. With his Egyptian business partner, Mark co-founded Locus Strategic Insights, LLC, a Maryland-based business consulting firm bringing foreign business investment to Egypt, with focus on new housing and infrastructure construction. Mark has served as risk management and security expert for Deutsche Bank's Corporate Security and Business Continuity group in New York City, and with US Government Executive Branch, where he specialized in Middle East political affairs, international science and technology programs, and protection of US and allied critical national infrastructures. Mark was born in Morocco and is the third generation to begin his professional career in North Africa. He received his Master's Degree in Arab Studies from Georgetown University, and pursued Arabic language and Islamic studies in Cairo, Egypt. Mark is a leader in the international Catholic lay movement, Communion and Liberation, where he has been active in international interfaith encounters.

Dr. Borislava Manojlovic is an Adjunct Professor and Director of Research Projects at the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Seton Hall University. She is an expert in international relations, conflict analysis and resolution, dealing with the past, education in post-conflict settings and atrocities prevention. She worked on minorities and reconciliation related issues with the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in both Croatia and Kosovo for more than seven years. The experience of wars in the Balkans in the 1990s and her desire to understand the roots of violent conflicts have shaped her life trajectory and dedication to conflict prevention and peacemaking. As the Director of Research, she led and implemented numerous research projects that focus on peace processes, forgiveness and reconciliation. Her book, *Education for Sustainable Peace and Conflict-Resilient Communities*, is to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in early 2017.

AEP PROGRAM AND AWARDS CEREMONY

John Bickel is a recently retired Cedar Rapids (Iowa) attorney where he was senior vice president with Shuttleworth & Ingersoll, P.L.C. John serves on the board of directors for the National Rivers Hall of Fame (President), the Dubuque County Historical Society, The Nature Conservancy (emeritus), and is a Trustee for Junior Achievement of East Central Iowa (Board Chair), Cornell College (emeritus), Horizons and the Cedar Rapids Symphony Foundation. John is also a member and past president of Cedar Rapids Downtown Rotary. He has experience with maritime law and holds a 100-ton Inland Masters License issued by the United States Coast Guard. In his retirement, he is enjoying his new career as a riverboat captain. John has been active with the AEP since its inception.

Chad Simmons is CEO and President for Diversity Focus. Prior to his appointment, he held the position of Interim Executive Director, after stepping down from the Diversity Focus Board of Directors. His 22 year professional experience includes management posts with the Quaker Oats Company in Cedar Rapids, IA; Amoco Corporation in Chicago, IL, and Whiting, IN; Ameritech Corporation in Chicago, IL; Citicorp Diners Club in Chicago, IL, and Denver, CO; Nabisco Brands in East Hanover, NJ; Kraft Foods in Northfield, IL; University of Iowa Health Care in Iowa City; and consulting firm, The PenDennis Group. Chad graduated Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Art degree in Business and holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Iowa. Chad has also received his SPHR and GPHR certifications from the Human Resource Certification Institute.

Mandy Conrad is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Iowa. Conrad has spent extensive time in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including a 10-week Arabic language immersion experience in Morocco sponsored by the U.S. Department of State through the Critical Language Scholarship Program. Conrad is currently on the planning committee for a "Countering Violent Extremism" community engagement program. Her research interests include Islam, ethics in interrogation, and historical trauma.