

INTRODUCTION

ROB ASGHAR

At this time, will you please take a moment to turn your cell phones to “silent” or “off” and refrain from text messaging during the program in consideration of our speaker and our audience. Thank you.

My name is _____. I am (leadership position or organization), and it’s my pleasure to welcome you.

This program is sponsored by (list organizations).

Rob Asghar is a Pakistani American writer and political commentator serving as a fellow at the Center on Public Diplomacy at the University of Southern California. His essays have appeared in more than 30 newspapers worldwide, including The Wall Street Journal, Denver Post, Chicago Tribune and Japan Times.

As a young man with both Pakistani background and American roots, Rob knows well the colliding tensions of East and West. Since September 11, 2001, a war of civilizations has arisen, but there is debate as to whether it’s a war between democracy and despotism, between religions or between political parties. Rob addresses the tough questions surrounding the root causes of Mideast conflict, whether multiple faiths can live together in a democratic society, and whether Islam and democracy can co-exist.

Here to talk to us tonight about assumptions and misunderstandings, religion and democracy and willingness to change and embrace change, please join me in giving a big (school or organization name) welcome to Rob Asghar!