



Commons Hour at VST

Wednesday, February 23, 2011: 12 Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Epiphany, Vancouver School of Theology:
6030 Chancellor Boulevard

SPONSORED BY IONA PACIFIC INTER-RELIGIOUS CENTRE

Personalizing teachings of Islam: Collaborating with marginalized communities in Afghanistan

A Conversation with Roshan Thomas

Roshan was trained as an optometrist in England and has volunteered in a number of developing countries setting up eye care programs with her ophthalmologist husband and three children. While volunteering in the refugee camps in Pakistan, the Thomas family first came in contact with and got to know the Afghan community. In 2002 the Afghan refugees started to return to Afghanistan, and in 2003, the Thomas family established an Early Childhood Development Center in Kabul. Roshan became the founding Director of the Center and has worked with the International Baccalaureate community to develop a culturally appropriate curriculum for the Center. Roshan has a strong commitment to education and has actively promoted the International Baccalaureate through her involvement on various boards in Canada since the early 1990s. Roshan has served on the International Baccalaureate (also known as IB) Board of Governors, on the Board of Directors of Mulgrave Independent School in Vancouver, as president of the Canadian Club of Vancouver (resigned shortly afterwards to go to Afghanistan), as chair of the Aga Khan Education Board for British Columbia and as the founding president of the Khidma Foundation. She was the keynote speaker at the Canadian Federation of University Women at the National conference in 2007. Roshan is a regular guest on CBC radio.