



Saturday, September 20, 2026

Co-hosted by The Rotary Club of Georgetown, Southwestern University Office of Spiritual Life and the Brightwell Center for Justice and Peace

SCHEDULE

All events held on the campus of Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX
Southwestern University's [campus map](#) has numbers associated with the buildings. Find references to the building numbers in the schedule.

9:00 am

CHECK-IN

Pick up your Summit materials. Coffee and tea will be available.
F.W. Olin Building, First Floor Lobby (#28)

Visit the display area and pick up resources for peacebuilding.
F.W. Olin Building, First Floor Lobby (#28)

- Booksigning with Majorie Wilkov, author of *A Guide for Coming Together, Finding Connection and Seeking Spirituality Through Group Discussions*
- Sign up for Your Weekly Minute of Peace
- GISD Peace Gardens Display
- Rotary Peacebuilder Club Information
- Rotary Peace Fellowships Application Information
- Teaching Peace Awards
- Children and Youth Books about Peace
- Network with Peacebuilders
- Restrooms located on all floors of the Olin Building

9:30 am

OPENING ASSEMBLY

Creating Environments for Peace

The Southwestern University Peace Garden

The Peace Garden is located between the Lois Perkins Chapel (#21) and the McCombs Campus Center (#23).

Peace Poles act as beacons of hope, inspiring people to come together and work towards a more peaceful world. When we gather around this internationally recognized symbol of peace, we actively foster unity and promote a shared spirit of goodwill. Think of peace gardens not as static places, but as places where peace can grow. Join fellow peacebuilders as we speak and sing words of peace and kick on the 2nd Annual Peace Summit.

10:00–10:50 am **BREAK-OUT SESSION I**

F.W. Olin Building (#26), Assigned Classrooms

“What Else Could Be True? Turning Assumptions or Bias into Peaceful Understanding.”

Explore how easily we observe someone’s behavior and then invent an explanation for it—often assuming disrespect, indifference, or hostility when something entirely different may be happening. Using brief, engaging activities, participants will practice separating observations from assumptions, considering other possibilities, and asking questions that invite understanding rather than conflict.

Presented by Dr. Christie Parker – Wheeler, Past President of the Rotary Club of Georgetown

Cultivating Positive Peace to Transform Your Community

Positive Peace is defined as the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies. Positive Peace is a transformational concept because it focuses, not on the absence of peace, but on creating the necessary conditions for peace and society to flourish. Discover ways that you can assess the factors that contribute to Positive Peace and build upon them to cultivate a more peaceful world.

Presented by Georgianne Hewett, Executive Director of the Brightwell Center for Justice and Peace

Practicing Courageous Citizenship - Central Texas Alliance for Braver Angels

Braver Angels is leading the nation's largest cross-partisan, volunteer-led movement to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic. The Central Texas Alliance of Braver Angels formed in 2018. Since then, they have engaged thousands of Texans in skills workshops, common-ground workshops, one-on-one conversations, Alliance meetings and much more. Come learn how they inspire and equip Americans to practice courageous citizenship across political differences through skill-building, convening, and collaborative action.

Presented by Karl Schmalz, Co-Chair of the Central Texas Alliance for Braver Angels, a national organization whose aim is to inspire and equip Americans to practice courageous citizenship across political differences through skill-building, convening, and collaborative action.

Building Peace from the Ground Up - A Youth Perspective

What happens when you stop waiting for permission to lead? From building an Interact club from the ground up to traveling to India to continue sustainability research, this session explores what it means to step outside the role expected—and into leadership on your terms that actually makes an impact. This is a conversation about finding your voice, challenging assumptions, navigating the expectations placed on young leaders, and discovering that peacebuilding doesn't always begin on a global stage—it can begin in your own school, community, and with everyday choices.

Presented by Carter Klingemann, Founder of the Interact Club at Gateway College Preparatory School

Why Peacebuilders Wear Each Other Out: Cultivating Wisdom for Work That Lasts

When peacebuilders clash, it usually looks like a disagreement about values or tactics. More often it's a difference in where the work comes from. Some of us are moved by heat—something is wrong and the body knows it first. Some by ache—the pain of others lands in our hearts and won't leave. Some by doubt—the questions won't settle until we've thought them through. Each of these can harden or open, and knowing which is happening is wisdom work. This session offers a practical map of the three sources, and of the roles in a movement that each one equips us for. Drawing on Deepa Iyer's social change ecosystem and the Enneagram's three centers of intelligence, the session will give you a clearer read on your own center and on colleagues whose approach has never made sense to you. Come ready for self-reflection and with a fellow peacebuilder in mind, one who works very differently from you.

Presented by Eric Hepburn, Minister, San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

11:00 am -
11:50 pm

BREAK-OUT SESSION II

F.W. Olin Building (#28), Assigned Classrooms

Break-out Session I offered again in same classrooms.

12:00 pm

BUFFET LUNCH and DIALOGUE SESSION

Planting Seeds for Peace

Ballroom, Red and Charline McCombs Bishops Lounge (#23)

1:00 – 2:00 pm

CLOSING SESSION

Planters of Peace Panel

F.W. Olin Lecture Hall (#28)

Leave inspired by planters of peace, people who have taken an idea, cultivated it, and grown it into a source of peace in their communities. What seeds of peace might you plant in your community?