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Seeing Through the Eyes of the Other

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Welcome to this issue of Consensus, written by an unusually diverse gathering of authors and edited by a Muslim-Jewish-Christian editorial team from Interfaith Grand River in Waterloo Region.

Here you have a chance to sample the interfaith experiences and thinking of rabbis, imams, pastors, scholars, and laypeople from many backgrounds including a Secular Humanist, a Jewish-Mennonite couple, a Jewish lay leader who once worked with the Jesuits, and a Lutheran public school vice-principal.

Each meeting of Interfaith Grand River begins with taking a moment to introduce ourselves to one another. In an interfaith setting, this ritual also serves to remind us of our own biases. Brice Balmer, Mennonite, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Bob Chodos, Reform Jewish. Sarah Shafiq, Muslim. Nancy Vernon Kelly, Lutheran Christian. We invite you to get ready to read this issue in a similar way, by taking a minute to acknowledge your own biases before encountering the perspectives of others.

After considerable discussion, we chose “Seeing Through the Eyes of the Other” as the theme of this issue, and we are delighted with the diversity of perspectives in the articles that were submitted. By offering interfaith voices, we hope that readers might catch a glimpse of some hopeful cracks in the wall called fear.