



March 4, 2016

Dear esteemed judges,

First, let me applaud your work with World Interfaith Harmony Week, and in supporting the growth of understanding and cooperation across peoples and communities. Second, I write to endorse and commend Dr. Mary Kantor and her team of interfaith students in their first all-school marking of World Interfaith Harmony Week at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. I was pleased to have been invited to participate in this interfaith initiative as a guest lecturer and artist. In my days there, I was impressed with the caliber of student discussion. From what students mentioned to me, they were hungry for this kind of dialogue, one that allowed them to hear and share different points of view and religious experiences, all with the goal of fostering greater understanding and tolerance.

I was particularly impressed with the overall breadth of the initiative organized by Dr. Kantor. She brings a wealth of ministry experience, academic knowledge, enthusiasm, and deep commitment to her interfaith work and mentoring of the emerging leaders in the student community. The interfaith student leaders were energized, thoughtful, and clearly invested in the many pieces that were unfolding over the interfaith days.

It was such an honor and pleasure to have the opportunity to speak at Phillips Academy and engage with its wonderful students. I hope the school will continue to foster this kind of interfaith dialogue going forward – a dialogue that will serve students to become better informed individuals and global citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katarina Wong".

Katarina Wong
Founder and curator, MADE