

February General meeting at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton



Be sure to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday February 3 at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton, 10804-119 street, at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Brian Kiely, president of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, will present a talk on the work of that organization.

Refreshments will be served.

Annual Dinner: March 7 at 6:30 PM

Our Annual Interfaith Dinner will be on Sunday, March 7 this year, at the Delta Inn South, 4404 Gateway Blvd. Our guest speaker will be Bettina Gray, President of NAIN (North American Interfaith Network). We will also be giving out our annual award to members of the Edmonton community who have shown leadership in building and improving interfaith relationships.

Bettina Gray is a co-founder and current Chair of the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) and has been active in interfaith relations at the local, national and international level for over 30 years. As recent visiting scholar at the Women's Leadership Institute at Mills College her area of focus was "Religions and Global Security." She is also an Emmy nominated television host and producer. Her media work includes the 27-part

public television series "A Parliament of Souls" which aired in 140 countries and was filmed at the 1993 Parliament of Religions and the new web-cast series "Spiritual Resources."

The ticket cost is \$60.00, for which a \$30.00 tax-receipt will be issued. Please call the office to reserve yours, 780-413-6159.



Bettina Grey and the Dalai Lama

Australia Night, Unitarian Church

On Saturday January 16th we held a party/dance/celebration honouring members of our community who attended the Parliament of World Religions (PWR) in Australia last month. Five of the delegates (Lewis Cardinal, Rev. Rick Chapman, Rev. Travis Enright, Rev. Lynda Gow and Rev. Rob Hankinson) gave a shortened version of the workshop they had presented, "Kanata: Canada, Return to Right Relations." The program was the culmination of several years of meetings held in Edmonton.



Lewis Cardinal, Australia Night Program

They shared their own experiences of healing and reconciliation as a grass roots movement. Rev. Kathryn Cardinal also attended the PWR and was present on January 16th. It is the world's largest interreligious gathering; the 2009 one was one week long and had over 5000 delegates. This was the third workshop sponsored or presented by the Edmonton Interfaith Centre at the PWR.

Wonderful pot-luck food was provided by the attendees at our Australia Night and we were entertained by Aroot's Bazaar, a Romanian /Gypsy band with Latin/reggae influence.

City Hall Program

The Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education & Action and the Phoenix Multifaith Society for Harmony held a joint celebration on December 20 in City Hall. Both organizations have been working to promote harmony, understanding and friendship between all people. Since 1996 our Centre has worked with 14 different faith traditions, while since 2006 the Phoenix Society, works with Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and is connected with the Edmonton Police Service Hate and Bias Crimes Division.

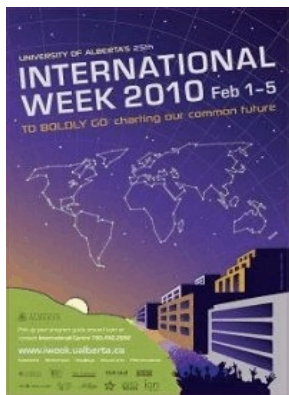


After Mayor Mandel brought greetings from the city, Rabbi David Kunin spoke about Hanukkah, Larry Wright, Major, Brigade Chaplain about Christmas, and Shaykh Zak Sheikh about Hijira and Eid.

Music was provided for the rest of the afternoon by the U of A Middle Eastern & North African Music Ensemble under Dr. Michael Frishkopf. This wonderful group plays Arabic, African and Jewish music. The audience of 100 then enjoyed traditional refreshments and displays featuring the early pioneers of these three faiths in Edmonton.

In December 2009, as happens once every 30 years, the commemoration of important events in their history coincided in one month. It was, therefore, a fitting time to come together. City Hall was an appropriate setting, the City has always been very supportive of all such initiatives. For years the Interfaith Centre has marked the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in the City Room; we also have our ongoing program with the City called Celebrating Our Faiths The Phoenix Society held their official launch there in 2006.

International Week at the U of A Feb 1-5, 2010



International Week 2010's theme is To Boldly Go: Charting Our Common Future. Decades after the World Commission on Environment and Development called for a development path that "sustained human progress not just in a few pieces for a few years, but for the entire planet into the distant future", the global community struggles to envision and protect a shared future. This year's theme conveys the need for brave and collaborative solutions in the face of global challenges, inviting discussion on innovation as well as on the reflection necessary to "boldly go" responsibly forward.

Some of the intersecting subthemes include:

- 1) Charting our Common Future: Ethics and Innovation (developments in science/technology that will change the world or impact global challenges, ethics in science, etc.)
- 2) The Future of Global Governance (including grassroots and new social movements, developments in international law and global institutions)
- 3) The Future of the Global Economy (global economic trends, economic alternatives, impacts of global capitalism on human security)
- 4) The Future of Canada (Arctic security and sovereignty, Canada's role in the world, social justice issues in Canada etc.)
- 5) The Future of the Global Commons (global environmental issues and trends, solutions, predictions)

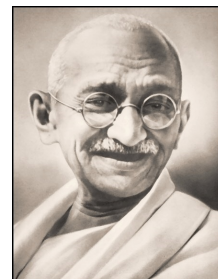
Our Centre and the University Chaplaincy are cosponsoring a program on Tuesday February 2 at 3:30 PM in the International Centre Lobby, entitled, "Walking Together to Create a World of Peace." The program features centre board members Rabbi David Kunin, Zack Sheikh, Teja Singh, and Audrey Brooks. It also includes Rick Van Manen, Christian Reformed Chaplain of the U of A, and Simon Lasair, of our peace committee

While most, if not all, world traditions have a concept of "peace" as a religious value, it is nearly impossible to try to come up with a simple yet comprehensive definition of the word. During this session representatives of many traditions from across the globe will help us to build a nuanced understanding of how religion can help to create a world of peace. Join us for free fair trade coffee and traditional Ashura.

Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Day

Join the Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace on Saturday, January 30th from 2-4 PM to honour and remember Gandhi's life and teaching. The guest speaker is Satya Das, distinguished government policy advisor, author and award winning journalist.

The program will be held at the Alberta Hindi Parishad Hall, #104, 3907 98th Street. For more information call Prem Kalia 780 988-9676.





This Year at Centre

Tuesday, February 2nd @ 3:30 PM

**Walking Together for Peace,
International Centre, University of Alberta**

Wednesday, February 3rd @ 7:30 PM

General Meeting at the Unitarian Church

Monday, February 8th @ 12 Noon

**Lunch and Learn (Speaker TBA)
Ashbourne/Garneau United Church**

Sunday, March 7th @ 6:30 PM

Annual Interfaith Dinner, Delta South

Monday, March 8th @ 12 Noon

**Lunch & Learn (Speaker TBA)
Ashbourne/Garneau United Church**

Friday, March 19th @ Noon

**International Day for the Elimination of
Racial Discrimination (City Hall)**

Wednesday, April 7th @ 7:30 PM

General Meeting at St Joseph's Basilica

Wednesday, June 2nd @ 7:30 PM

Annual General Meeting (Details TBA)

Edmonton
Interfaith Centre
for Education & Action

News from the Centre is the newsletter of the
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#113, 11148 84th Ave, Edmonton Alberta T6G 0V8
780-413-6159 (phone), 780-413-6143 (fax)
intfaith@shaw.ca
www.edminterfaithcentre.ca

Len Gierach, President
Netta Phillet, Coordinator and Editor
Rabbi David A. Kunin, Co-Editor

