

## April General meeting at St. Joseph's Basilica



**Be sure to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 2010  
at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Basilica,  
10044 - 113 Street at 7:30 PM.**

### Sacred Space: What is it? How do we treat it?

Every faith group has a definition of sacred space where people gather and worship. Let us share what this means, what are our own customs and beliefs about worship space? How is this sense of sacredness expressed?

Rudy Arcilla, past-president of the Basilica's pastoral council, will lead a tour of St. Joseph's. Following the tour we will engage in dialogue, sharing the meaning of sacred space in our own traditions. This will provide an opportunity to learn more about each other and to enrich our understanding. Bring a friend.

Free parking is available behind the restaurant. Refreshments will be provided.

## Peace Posters and Book Launched

While most, if not all, world traditions have a concept of “peace” it is nearly impossible to try to come up with a comprehensive definition of the word. This diversity of definitions does not, however, render “peace” as meaningless. Rather, it allows us to build a nuanced understanding of the complexities of world traditions, as each takes a seemingly simple term and understands it in a vast diversity of ways.

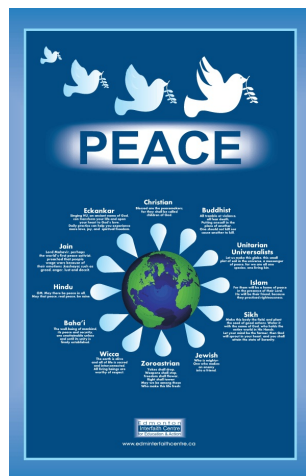


The Centre Peace Initiative Committee has completed two beautiful posters, and a book

examining the meaning of peace in eleven different religious traditions.

The two beautiful color posters were designed by local graphic artists Wei Yew and Ben Shokri. They were presented to the public at our annual dinner. They come in two sizes 11" by 17" (\$10) or 16½" by 25" (\$20).

The book, *Seeking Peace ... Visions of Peace from Eleven Faith Traditions*, will be launched on Friday March 19 at our City Hall program to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The cost will be \$5. The book and posters are available from the Centre office (780 413-6159). Bulk rates are also offered.



## Centre Holds Interfaith Dinner

Our annual Interfaith Dinner on Sunday, March 7 was a lovely evening attended by nearly 100 people. Mayor Mandel brought his usual gracious greetings, and Laurie Blakeman, MLA and Deputy Leader of the Official Alberta Opposition represented the province.

Our guest speaker was Bettina Gray, chair of the North American Interfaith Network, of which we are a charter member. Bettina spoke movingly about her interfaith journey.

We also honoured Anne Bay Paludan and our own Teja Singh with our annual “Iffy” awards.

Ms. Paludan is the Programme Manager for Africa, at the Danish Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture. She has also worked as a teacher and facilitator at university level. Her masters thesis at St Stephen’s College called for the establishment of an Interfaith Centre in Edmonton.



Dr. Teja Singh is a long time member of the board of the Edmonton Interfaith Centre, and also serves on the board of the North American Interfaith Network. He was the founding president of the Guru Nanak Healing

Garden here in Edmonton in the Mazankowski Heart Centre. He also founded the Guru Nanak Shrine Fellowship, an organization supporting a global effort to restore and renovate the very first shrine built ca. 1521 by Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism.



On February 8 we had a taste of Noah's pudding and learned about Turkish customs of Ashura.

Three representatives of the Harmony Dialogue Group

shared the following story involving Muslims, Christians and Jews. Turkish tradition teaches that on the tenth of Muharram Noah's ark grounded on Mt. Ararat, which is in modern day Turkey. Food had become scarce, so Noah gathered everything that was left and combined them into a delicious meal.

Also on that day God accepted the repentance of Adam and Eve, Abraham was saved by Nimrod, and Moses and the Israelites were saved from Pharaoh's army.

On March 8 Hindu priest Pankaj Dixit gave us an overview of his religion, talked about upcoming New Year's Day, and told stories from the epic Ramayana. Later this month they will celebrate the birthday of Rama, the seventh incarnation of the God Vishnu. A lively question and answer session followed.

**Our next Lunch and Learn on April 12<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon will feature Metis leader and educator Wil Campbell.** He helped establish the first video program for Aboriginal people with Alberta Native Communications in 1968 and founded



Dreamspeakers Festival Society and the National Film Board's Native Studio.

Enter through the back door in the alley, drinks provided, donations gratefully accepted.

### International Week Program

Our Centre and the University Chaplaincy cosponsored a well attended program on Tuesday February 2 as part of the University of Alberta's International Week.

The presentation, entitled "Walking Together to Create a World of Peace." featured centre board members David Kunin, Zak Sheikh, Teja Singh, and Audrey Brooks. It also includes Rick Van Manen, Christian Reformed Chaplain of the U of A

Each presenter examined peace from the perspective of his/her religious tradition. They helped attendees to to build a nuanced understanding of how religion can help to create a world of peace. The session ended with questions and answers and Noah's Pudding (see above).



## Meet and Greet the Board of Directors

Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup> from 5- 6:30 pm at  
Edmonton Interfaith Centre, Ashbourne  
(sanctuary) – 11148 84<sup>th</sup> Ave, parking in back.

- \* Meet our board members
- \* Discover available volunteer opportunities.
- \* Ask board members about the newly adopted strategic plan for 2010-2012.

- \* Understand the responsibilities of a board member.
- \* Let your voice, vision and ideas be heard.
- \* Share your suggestions for clarifying our mission and vision statements.

Light Supper Provided

( Car pooling may be available:  
Please contact Netta by May 3 )



## This Year at Centre

**Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 PM**  
**Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup> @ Noon**  
**Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 5 PM**  
**Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> @ Noon**  
**Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30 PM**  
**Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup> @ Noon**

**General Meeting at St Joseph's Basilica**  
**Lunch and Learn with Wil Campbell**  
**Meet and Greet at the Ashbourne**  
**Lunch and Learn, TBA**  
**Annual General Meeting (Details TBA)**  
**Lunch and Learn, TBA**

**Edmonton**  
**Interfaith Centre**  
for Education & Action

*News from the Centre* is the newsletter of the  
Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action

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