

Saturday, December 5, 2009

8:00–9:00am
MORNING OBSERVANCES**Taking ‘just-a-minute’:
Meditation on the Move****Christine Westbury
Kalvinder Shields**

Room 101

Religious or Spiritual Observance

This session will present a creative and practical journey into the art of bringing meditation into the many activities of our daily lives. A great deal of our day is taken up with prosaic activities, and finding the time to maintain our spiritual observances while doing our routine tasks can be quite challenging. If we can maintain an elevated consciousness while we are at work, at home, or while doing mundane things, then we will be better able to achieve peace and happiness in all aspects of our life. The program will be interactive and fully participatory with movement and one-on-one interaction as well as group participation. There will be creative visualisation and guided meditations to take the participant into inner stillness. The session is part of ‘just-a-minute’—a global initiative that encourages people to experience the power of a peaceful and calm mind starting with just one minute at a time. The initiative is aimed at people from all faiths and backgrounds and for those who feel the need to quieten and re-energise their mind wherever they are, regardless of what they do or how busy their life is.

Christine Westbury has been studying and teaching B K Raja Yoga meditation for the past 12 years. She currently coordinates their Fitzroy branch and oversees many of their Melbourne activities. She is on the advisory board for a Parliament of the World’s Religions and has worked closely with interfaith groups, hosting numerous events. She works as a medical research nurse at Royal Children’s hospital. Christine coordinated ‘just-a-minute’ in Melbourne.

Dr Kalvinder Shields currently holds the position of Associate Professor at the University of Melbourne. She has been a practitioner of Raja Yoga meditation, as taught by the Brahma Kumaris, for over 10 years. Integrating her professional responsibilities and a spiritual lifestyle, she is a facilitator of meditation retreats and has been conducting meditation sessions in the workplace for many years.

Preksha Meditation**Vinay Pragya
Samani Akshay Prajna**

Room 102

Training Session

Based on ancient texts, modern science and practical experience, Preksha meditation is a technique that changes attitudes, modifies behaviour and integrates the personality. It uses exercises such as relaxation, long breathing, alternate breathing and colour meditation to purify the emotions and consciousness. Preksha meditation enhances mental abilities and creativity, while strengthening willpower and the ability to achieve goals. During this training session, two Jain nuns will teach participants from all faith traditions how Preksha meditation can help them bring about positive change in their personalities and their habits.

Vinay Pragya is a Jain nun and disciple of H.H. Acharya Mahapragya. She holds a BSc and MA in Jainology, as well as an MPhil and NET. Her initiation was in 2002. She speaks several languages including Prakrit, Sanskrit, Hindi and English, and has conducted numerous international workshops and seminars. She has travelled throughout the United States, United Kingdom, and India.

Samani Akshay Prajna is a Jain Nun and disciple of H.H. Acharya Mahapragya. She holds an MA in Jainology and was initiated in 1983. She has travelled to over thirty countries and speaks several languages including Prakrit, Sanskrit, Hindi and English. She has conducted numerous international workshops and seminars.

Jewish Morning Observance – Saturday**Jewish Participants**

Room 103

Religious or Spiritual Observance

This morning prayer will be conducted by those who gather on this Shabbat at the designated place for prayer.

**Celtic Mysticism: An Introduction
to its Arts and Traditions****Michelle MacEwan
Cath Connelly**

Room 104

Presentation, Observance, and Discussion

This inspirational presentation features storytelling, healing, meditation and discussion based on the path of Celtic mysticism. It will explore family traditions in healing and spiritual work through sharing personal stories, healing journeys and initiations into the mystical pathway. It will also explore the relevance of the Celtic mystical path in the 21st century. The presentation highlights the importance of listening, sharing, and learning to hear and to trust the voice of the heart. It will present the concept of harmonising heart and soul, and how this awakens our instinct and power of sovereignty, enabling us to be co-creators of a sustainable, diverse and harmonious world. To achieve these goals, we must first experience and value our personal genius or creative spark. Our inner transformation occurs as we embrace our wisdom and find the courage to follow our own inner lights. By harmonising heart and soul, compassion for self, for others, and for the planet emerges naturally.

Michelle MacEwan is a Celtic mystic and spiritual activist who continues a line of mysticism in the Scottish and Irish traditions. Descended from an ancient matriarchal lineage, over time Michelle has developed her own unique style of practising these arts. She has found a balance between the old and the new that complements life in the 21st century.

Cath Connelly is an experienced workshop facilitator with a background in counselling, pastoral care and spiritual direction. Her current project involves exploring the Celtic figure of Brigid and her representations as Celtic Saint and as Goddess. Cath is a professional Celtic harpist who performs, records, teaches and facilitates harp and spirituality workshops throughout Australia.

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Given Life by Heaven and Earth: A Shinto Observance

Rt Rev Yoshinobu Miyake

Room 108

Religious or Spiritual Observance

This program is a performance in the tradition of Konko-kyo, a sect that has played a prominent role in the history of Shinto tradition. In the traditional Shinto worldview, 'Nature' stands as a higher concept than 'Kami' (divine being). Kami as well as humans (and all sentient beings) are fully capable of bringing their primary powers into full play under the field of Nature (which could be restated as 'Heaven and Earth'). After an explanation of this worldview, Rt Rev Yoshinobu Miyake will outline and perform the traditional Konko-kyo ritual together with traditionally attired, ceremonial assistants and musicians using instruments dating back a millennium and a half. Those assembled will pray in Japanese, the Shinto language, with a brief explanation to follow in English. At the end of the performance, in the resonant aftermath of the observance, Rev Miyake will explain in English both the Konko-kyo theology of salvation, and how the relationship it implies is collaborative in the work between Kami and human beings.

Rt Rev Yoshinobu Miyake, Superior General of the Konko Church of Izu in Osaka, Japan, was born in 1958 in a well-known Miyake family of Shinto priests. He studied at Doshisha University in Kyoto and Harvard University. Having been active worldwide in the field of interfaith dialogue for the past thirty years, he established Relnet Corporation in 1997 and served as General Secretary of the recent G8 Religious Leaders Summit.

Sri Sri Yoga: A Celebration of the Diversity in Yoga

Bernice Bailey

Room 110

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Yoga transcends religion and culture. Its application is universal. Sri Sri Yoga, which was designed by His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, is a simple and joyful celebration of the diversity in yoga. It combines the essentials of yoga: breathing techniques, stretching and postures, meditation, relaxation and yogic knowledge. By incorporating all of these beautiful facets of yoga we are able to look beyond the level of the physical body and sharpen our sensitivity and awareness of subtler levels of existence. Sri Sri Yoga gives us a holistic approach to attend to the body, the mind and the spirit.

Yoga transcends religion and culture—its application is universal. **Bernice Bailey** has 10 years experience as a yoga teacher and is as enthusiastic today as the day she started! With The Art of Living, Bernice has gained experience in the subtle aspects of yoga practices. Her yoga teaching style is energetic and light hearted with an emphasis on strengthening the body and mind. Bernice teaches Sri Sri Yoga at the Art of Living Centre at Abbotsford Convent.

Gathering of the Spirit of Peace in All

John Morton

Leigh Taylor-Young

Room 111

Interactive Workshop

This workshop will present a series of meditations aimed at cultivating peace in the world, in our hearts, and in all of our activities. The meditation 'Gathering of Peacemakers' is designed to evoke the spirit of peace, leading to a beautiful visualisation where love is the catalyst for creating a healthy, balanced and peaceful planet. This meditation creates an opportunity to let go of the restrictions of the past and move to a nurturing and healing environment that cleanses, purifies, and promotes peace. In the meditation entitled 'Forgiveness: The Key to the Kingdom', participants experience the value of forgiveness as a daily practice which creates both love and peace in their lives. In the final meditation, 'The Spiritual Principles of Abundance and Prosperity', participants learn the deeper spiritual meaning of wealth, abundance, prosperity, and riches. The spiritual principles of seeding and tithing are presented as ways to bring a greater awareness of how God can be our 'partner' in life. As they explore their own perceptions of all of these concepts, participants are given the opportunity to bring Spirit into these areas of their lives.

John Morton, Doctor of Spiritual Science (DSS), is the current Spiritual Director of the non-denominational Church of the Movement of Spiritual Inner Awareness. As part of his ministry he has travelled extensively around the world facilitating programs in support of spiritual awareness, peace, and charitable causes. He regularly travels throughout the United States and the world to promote peace and to support people in finding the good in everything.

Leigh Taylor-Young is an award-winning actress and an international personality. With fifteen feature films and numerous television series to her credit, Leigh has also become a major spokesperson for many distinguished organisations. She has represented the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) as the keynote speaker in Nairobi, Kenya for the 20th Anniversary ceremonies of the Better World Society and the Institute for Individual and World Peace.

Mother of Compassion: Ancient Secrets to Inner Peace: Healing Our Earth, Our Faith, and Ourselves

Sri Karunamayi Vijayeswari Devi

Room 203

Religious or Spiritual Observance

In this inspiring lecture, Sri Karunamayi will share the secrets of India's ancient philosophy of Vasudeva Kutumbam, which from time immemorial has emphasised universal togetherness: the oneness of all that ever is, all that ever was, and all that ever will be. Brief periods of meditation will provide tools through which participants of all faiths may realise such truths deeply within and unlock knowledge that can lead to increased compassion, understanding, and tolerance. Through the cultivation of such inner knowledge, our world can be transformed into the peaceful home for which we all yearn.

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Revered worldwide as an embodiment of unconditional motherly love, **Sri Karunamayi** has dedicated her life to the causes of world peace and universal welfare. She often says that her only work in this world is to remove the suffering from the hearts of all people. She does this through her kind, loving words of spiritual guidance and encouragement, her healing touch, her divine insight and her charitable work on behalf of India's poor.

Respect for the Earth: A Morning Observance

Marcus Braybrooke

Sr Maureen Goodman

Rev Johanna (Jopie) Boeke

Rev Dr Richard Boeke

Mary Braybrooke

Room 204

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Nothing less than a spiritual revolution is needed to do justice to our responsibilities for the environment. Respect for the earth is essential for social justice. Reducing our carbon footprint is not enough. We need a truly spiritual relationship to Nature, recognising our interdependence with all life. As Fr Thomas Berry said, 'we are earthlings. The Earth is our origin, our nourishment, our support, our guide. Our spirituality itself is Earth-derived.' Astronauts tell us of the magical beauty of Earth as seen from space. Sacrifice, which in Nature is involuntary, is for humans a matter of choice. During this session, readings from different traditions will deepen awareness of Oneness with all life and the Source of Being, inspiring us to seek peace, to alleviate poverty and to protect the Natural world. To share in this spiritual revolution is today's exciting challenge to all people of faith. As Jane Goodall said, 'we are moving toward the ultimate destiny of our species—a state of compassion and love'. The observance is arranged by members of the World Congress of Faiths, which has been a pioneer of interfaith celebration and prayer.

Rev Dr Marcus Braybrooke, President of the World Congress of Faiths and Patron of the international Interfaith Centre, Oxford, is an Anglican priest who has been active in interfaith work for over forty years. He is author of many books, including 'A Heart for the World'.

Maureen Goodman has worked in interreligious dialogue for over 30 years. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the World Congress of Faiths and was an advisory committee member of 'Respect—It's About Time', an initiative launched by HRH the Prince of Wales to bring together young people in Britain's faith communities.

Rev Johanna Boeke is a native of the Netherlands and a Unitarian Universalist Minister. She is a past President of the International Association of Liberal Religious Women.

The Rev Dr Richard Boeke was founding President of the US Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom and is a Vice President of the World Congress of Faiths. He is the author of 'God is No-Thing.' His latest essay is 'Evolve or Explode? A Lesson From Darwin For Our Time.'

Mary Braybrooke is a Vice-President of the World Congress of Faiths and has worked for fifty years as a social worker in child care, in the community, and in hospitals. She has also published a research paper on the attitude of members of different faiths to organ transplants and presented a program on this subject at the Cape Town Parliament. At present she is working with people suffering from renal failure.

Global Meditation: Experiencing a Powerful Key To Healing, Transformation, and Empowerment

Audrey Kitagawa

James J Hurtak, PhD

Ashok Gangadean

Room 207

Religious or Spiritual Observance

When we meditate, we connect to our spiritual nature. We become aware of that quality in ourselves that transcends the mind and when we become aware of it we can harness its constructive, creative power. Now is the time to meditate and pray for healing, transformation, and empowerment on a global basis. Regardless of individual belief, we each have a responsibility to the collective to make positive changes in ourselves and our world. During this meditation session, we will broadcast our collective energies to those parts of the planet that are most in need of healing. We will explore our planet as a multifaceted jewel. We will experience our connection to Mother Earth, who embraces all of us within her cosmic womb. We will acknowledge the human spirit as the one force that can travel around the earth and bring the light of love and the presence of peace to those who dwell in darkness and fear. Together, we can continue to inform and transform our world and our place within it as instruments of Divine expression. The meditation will use visualisations, sacred expressions and prayers from East and West. Participants from all faith traditions are welcome.

Audrey Kitagawa is Co-Vice Chair of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, president of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family, adviser to the World Federation of United Nations Association and chair of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, New York. A member of the advisory council for the Toda Institute for Peace and Global Policy Research, she also co-facilitates the United Religions Initiative United Nations Cooperation Circle.

James J Hurtak, PhD, is the founder and president of the Academy for Future Science. He has worked in the fields of education, science and spiritual philosophy, applying each to the task of cross-cultural understanding. He is the author of more than 12 books in 15 languages, including his most recent work, *End of Suffering*, and his films include 'The Voice of Africa: A Study of a Zulu Shaman' and 'The Light Body'.

Ashok Gangadean is Chair of the Department of Philosophy at Haverford College, Pennsylvania. He is Founder and Director of the Global Dialogue Institute, Co-Convener of the World Commission on Global Consciousness and Spirituality, and a member of the World Wisdom Council. He coordinates the Annual Global Philosophy Forum, which brings together visionary and cutting edge thinkers from around the world. His latest book, *Awakening the Global Mind*, has been recorded for CD by Sounds True.

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Invoking Inner Tranquility: Buddhist Chanting and Meditation

Venerable Jian Hu
Venerable Jian Tan
Venerable Jian Zong
Room 209

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The graceful and subtle melody in Buddhist chanting resonates with our pure mind and permeates space with harmony and compassion. Using hand-bell, gong, and the wooden instrument *muyu*, Dharma Masters from Chung Tai Chan Monastery of Taiwan will offer a Chan (Chinese Zen) style Buddhist morning service. It will begin with chanting, followed by guided Chan meditation, and conclude with a dedication and blessing: May all sentient beings attain wisdom and be liberated from suffering.

Venerable Jian Hu is a senior monk from the Chung Tai Chan Monastery in Taiwan. He is now the Abbot of the Chung Tai Zen Center in Sunnyvale as well as Buddha Jewel Monastery in Seattle. Chung Tai's mission is to teach the truths of Buddhism and promote the practice of Chan (Chinese Zen) meditation. Venerable Jian Hu has conducted Zen meditation retreats and given lectures at meditation centres and universities throughout Taiwan and the US.

Venerable Jian Tan is the Vice Abbot of Chung Tai Chan Monastery (founded by the Grand Master Wei Chueh, a Zen Buddhist spiritual leader in Taiwan). He earned a PhD in Electrical Engineering from National Taiwan University and a Master's degree in English Education in the US in 2009. He has served as the Vice Abbot of Chung Tai Zen Center of Sunnyvale and has given teachings in San Francisco and Las Vegas.

Ven Jian Zong is the Abbot of the Houston branch of Chung Tai Chan Monastery, founded by the Grand Master Wei Chueh, a spiritual leader instrumental in revitalising Chan (Zen) Buddhism in Taiwan. Since joining monastic orders in 1998 and prior to his current position, Master Jian Zong served as Vice Abbot of Chung Tai Chan Monastery; Abbot of Great Enlightened Monastery in Keelung, Taiwan; and administrator and instructor at the Chung Tai Buddhist Institute.

Observance Session with Father Freeman

Laurence Freeman
Room 210

Religious or Spiritual Observance

In this session, Fr Laurence Freeman, OSB, Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation, will speak about the essential Christian meaning of meditation as well as its potential for spiritualising a new global consciousness. He will describe the methodology of this ancient practice and participants will then enjoy a period of meditation. The session will conclude with questions and discussion.

Laurence Freeman is a Benedictine monk of the Congregation of Monte Oliveto and Director of The World Community for Christian Meditation. Born in England, he was educated by the Benedictines and studied English Literature at Oxford University. Before entering monastic life he had experience with the United Nations, banking and journalism. In the monastery he studied with his spiritual teacher John Main, who he helped to establish the first Christian Meditation Centre in London.

The Art of Qur'an Recitation: Sharing Wisdom in the Search for Inner Peace

Hajjah Maria Ulfah
Room 212

Religious or Spiritual Observance

In this session, world-renowned Qur'an reciter Hajjah Maria Ulfah will offer the art of Qur'an recitation as a medium through which wisdom can be shared in the search for inner peace. This session is one of six in a series of Muslim observances on the Qur'an scheduled across the six days of the Parliament. Each session will include beautiful Qur'anic recitations, clear translation, and illuminating exegesis around a different Parliament sub-theme each day. This series will show how the subthemes of the Melbourne Parliament are all issues of shared concern to Muslims, as they are at the heart of Islam's social conscience.

Hajjah Maria Ulfah is a lecturer and Vice Rector of the Institute for Qur'anic Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia. In 1980, she won both the national Qur'an recitation competition in Jakarta and the international Qur'an recitation competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As a professional Qur'an reciter, she has appeared all over Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe, North America, Australia and Japan.

Solstice Sites and Celebrations

Patrick McCollum
Room 214

Religious or Spiritual Observance

A variety of ancient and contemporary sacred sites with Solstice alignments are in use today for celebrations that help humans deepen their connections with each other, the Earth, and the greater Circle of Nature of which we are all a part. This presentation begins with an international look at sacred sites used for celebrating the Summer and Winter Solstices and some examples of the ways the Solstices are celebrated today by practitioners of a variety of Nature religion traditions. This program will include discussion and some ritual, including a Solstice meditation and chant for world peace.

Patrick McCollum is the Director and Chair of the National Correctional Chaplaincy Directors Association, and statewide Wiccan chaplain for the California Department of Corrections. McCollum has taught Pagan Chaplaincy Training at the Leadership Institute, part of Circle Sanctuary's annual Pagan Spirit Gathering. He is the National Coordinator of the Lady Liberty League Prison Ministries Program and a member of the National Advisory Council of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

Awakening Meditation

Ken Mellor
Room 215

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The aim of this observance is to integrate seven simple steps that promote awakening. The first step is Noticing: cultivating awareness of the inside and the outside. The next step is Accepting: accepting the presence of what we

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are aware of. The following step is Experiencing: opening to the impact of awareness, so we live our responses fully. Next follows Grounding: acknowledging and sensing the physical with every experience, giving our primary attention to physical sensations inside and physical things and events outside. The next step is Centring: aligning with the observer/witness in our systems. Combined with grounding, we are in the I-Am-here-and-now. Then comes Cherishing: responding with tenderness, love, caring and gratitude to all experiences. The final step is Divining: repeating a mantra or sacred word of our own choice, for example, Om, Love, God, Freedom, Life or Liberation. The observance will involve a brief presentation, followed by a guided meditation. At the end of the meditation there will be ample opportunity for questions, clarification and discussion. Written material on this practice will be handed out at the end of the session.

Ken Mellor is a spiritual mentor and master and a trained psychotherapist. With his wife Elizabeth, he trained for 27 years with three Indian Masters. In 1984, he co-founded Biame Network, a spiritually oriented, non-profit, educational organisation with members and associates in more than 30 countries. He has introduced thousands of people to meditation and bases what he teaches on what he has learned from his own practice. He lives with his wife in Australia.

Meditation as a Therapy: How Traditional Techniques Translate into Modern Healing

Ian Gawler

Room 216

Interactive Workshop

Traditionally, meditation has been focused primarily on spiritual realisation. Only in the last few decades have great pioneers like Dr Ainslie Meares, Dr Herbert Benson and Jon Kabat-Zinn given new emphasis to meditation as a therapy. In recent years, strong, research-based evidence has emerged demonstrating the value of meditation for both physical and psychological healing. Meditation is widely accepted by Australian GPs as a complementary therapy; it has been taught to medical students at Monash Medical School in Melbourne for nearly ten years. While in Western culture meditation is often presented in a secular context, the great spiritual traditions offer the benefit of vast experience and extraordinary lineages in this field. It is on their shoulders that a whole new sphere of healing has opened up in the West. This workshop will present the latest research findings as well as instruction based upon years of experience with teaching meditation. Questions and discussion are encouraged. The session will also include the practice of group meditation.

Dr Ian Gawler, OAM, Founder of The Gawler Foundation, is a pioneer in the therapeutic application of mind/body medicine and meditation. A long-term cancer survivor, Ian established Australia's first lifestyle-based cancer self-help group over 25 years ago. He works intensively with cancer and MS patients and conducts meditation retreats and wellness programs. He is an author and a student of Sogyal Rinpoche. Initially trained in Veterinary Science, Dr Gawler holds a Master's in Counselling.

I Kuan Tao – Melbourne

Room 217

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Zoroastrian Daily Morning Prayers and Worship: Day 1

Ervad Kaivan Antia

Ervad Armin Dumasia

Room 218

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Following a brief introductory narrative on Zoroastrianism, the Zarathushtis will perform the daily morning 'Kusti Padyab' ritual. First, they will tie and untie the Kusti (hollow woollen cord) worn around their waists, while reciting the farajayat (requisite) prayers. Then they will recite Atash Nyaish (Hymn to the Light Divine) and demonstrate the Jashan ceremony (a commemoration for the Parliament). The worship will end with the group singing a Monajat (devotional song) and offering a short explanation of the worship service. Chasni (fruits and malido, a sweet dish made with flour, sugar and butter displayed during the Jashan to symbolise Ahura Mazda's creation) will be served to all participants, subject to receiving permission from the authorities.

Ervad Kaivan Antia is a Zoroastrian priest. He completed his studies and rituals at Athorvan Madressa in Mumbai.

Ervad Armin Dumasia is a Zoroastrian priest. He completed his studies and rituals at Vatcha Gandhi Fire Temple In Mumbai.

Observance in the Haudenosaunee Prophecy and Spirituality

Jake Swamp, USA: Mohawk

Room 219

Lecture

The Haudenosaunee are also known as the 'People of the Longhouse'. Six nations make up this confederacy: the Mohawk, Oneida, Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga and Tuscarora. They are the oldest living participatory democracy on earth. The Prophecy speaks of a peacemaker who will come and will help to bring the People to a time of peace and sustainability. This is following the wretched times of war, hatred, rape of the environment and attempts to destroy the People. Planting trees of Peace has been a part of rituals to work on returning the earth to a state of living sustainability. There is much to learn from the People who helped to form the laws of a young United States.

Jake Swamp is employed with the Men for Change Program, part of the Iethini'sten:ha Family Violence Shelter. He is a former leader of the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation and was directly involved in the creation of the Akwesasne Freedom School, an acclaimed Mohawk language immersion school that has been an inspiration to many First Nation peoples in the United States and Canada.

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INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION**INTRARELIGIOUS 9:30–11:00am****Climate Change as a Concern for Justice****Moderator**

Plenary Hall

Panel Discussion

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Hindu Meditations for the Earth**Swarnalata Rangarajan****Neeti Aryal Khanal****Pandit Gowrishankar Subramanian****Dadhiram Khanal**

Room 101

Panel Discussion

Hindu traditions contain powerful methods of meditation that can help us acquire a deeper and wider vision of our place in the cosmos and membership in the community of life. In this program, expert presenters will deal in detail with three different contemplative and ritual approaches that aim to heal our relationship with nature. These are: (1) Use of the Shri Chakra Yantra and other mandalas (diagrams which symbolise both the wholeness of the cosmos and of the human psyche); a 'mandalic consciousness' overcomes the illusion of ego-separateness and leads towards reintegration. (2) Receptivity to Cosmic Energy, which, as described in the Vedas and Shastras, is the force of the universe and of our lives; this force grows in us through self-control and right action. (3) Chanting and 'biocentric' ritual practices of multireligious Nepal, which carry a message of the sacramental value of nature and through worship of plants and animals demonstrate that humans are not superior to nature but a part of it.

Swarnalatha Rangarajan is Assistant Professor at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, India. She is deeply interested in Ecosophy, Buddhism and Hinduism. She is editor of the Indian Journal of Ecocriticism and is currently working towards a novel with an ecotheistic focus.

Neeti Aryal Khanal is a Lecturer of Sociology at Tribhuvan University in Nepal. The Australian Leadership Awards Scholarship 2008 enabled her to study at Monash University. Her Master's thesis explores the motherhood experiences of women involved in armed conflict in Nepal. Apart from her research, Neeti is also passionate about issues of sustainability and religion, women and spirituality, women's development, and youth leadership.

Pandit Gowrishankar Subramanian is a Vedic scholar with Master's degrees in Sanskrit, astrology, and Bharata Shastra with special research focus in the area of akasha tarka shastra (sound vibration energy). Pandit is the author of many research works relating to Vedas and Shastras. He has participated in many international conferences including the World Religious Congress for World Peace at Kazakhstan. He has addressed many international academic institutions including Oxford University and Cambridge University.

Dadhiram Khanal is principal of Hindu Vidyapeeth Nepal-Thali, a charity-based school in Nepal, which is working to promote values-based education. He is a yoga teacher and practitioner who has shared yoga teaching with people of different nationalities and age groups. He is interested in issues of spiritual education for children, and in working for sustainable religious and cultural practices for the benefit of future generations.

Challenge of Shinto: An Approach to Living Together in Diversity**Very Rev Munemichi Kurozumi**

Room 104

Shinto is the indigenous religious tradition of Japan, and thus the original form has no founder, no doctrine, and no sacred scripture, yet its tradition remains deeply rooted in Japanese society today. Rituals and ceremonies are regarded as important, centering around a deep sense of gratitude towards all kinds of blessings from the nature that sustains our existence. This lecture explains one of the main and essential aspects of Shinto and interprets the universality and openness of Shinto, which may possibly contribute to peace in the world. In the latter part of the lecture Rev Kurozumi introduces his concrete efforts of interreligious dialogue and cooperation for world peace that reflect Shinto's openness and broad-mindedness.

Very Rev Munemichi Kurozumi was born as the first son of the present 6th Chief Patriarch of Kurozumikyo Shinto in 1962. In his capacity as the Vice Chief Patriarch, he has devoted himself to providing spiritual guidance to people within and outside his group, and has been energetically involved with various local, national and international initiatives. He has taken part in many interreligious gatherings and interfaith dialogues.

The Divine Feminine**Mary-Faeth Chenery, Moderator****Sr Joan Chittister****Mother Maya****Ven Karma Lekshe Tsomo****Phyllis Currott**

Room 105

Panel Discussion

Female divinity, or feminine aspects to the divine, can be found in many religious traditions. This interfaith panel, with speakers from the Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Pagan religious traditions, will offer thoughts and experiences from these traditions, as well as consider theological and social issues of gendering the divine. For some women and men, the Divine Feminine is a source of strength and balance. For some, the feminine aspects of the divine are foundational to their religious practice. For some, redressing the current imbalances of the world—of excessive greed, polarisation, isolation and environmental destruction—requires a new or renewed connection to the

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feminine energies of the divine. Divinity may be seen as essentially transcending gender, but is often interpreted through gendered social constructions. What reflections and resources does the Divine Feminine offer those who seek relationship with divinity envisioned as female?

Mary-Faeth Cheney holds a Master's degree in Management and a PhD in Psychology. Following a university teaching career of around three decades, where she taught in the fields of outdoor education and qualitative research methods, she moved to the area of spiritual education, where she now does editing, teaching and community development for the cause of global peace. She is the Australian coordinator for the work of the Global Peace Initiative of Women.

Joan Chittister, OSB, is a noted national and international lecturer who focuses on women in church and society, human rights, peace and justice, and contemporary religious life and spirituality. In addition to being the executive director of Benetvision, a centre for contemporary spirituality located in Erie, Pennsylvania, she is author of 22 books, including 'Illuminated Life: Monastic Wisdom for Seekers of Light' and 'The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life'.

Mother Maya is the spiritual head of the Wise Earth School of Ayurveda. As one of only a small circle of women to become Vedic monks (Swami) she brings her healing and wisdom to such projects as the Mother Om Mission (MOM), a charitable organisation in Guyana that teaches Wise Earth's unique 'inner-medicine healing' to at-risk communities. Under the name Maya Tiwari she has written several books, including her latest, 'Women's Power to Heal through Inner Medicine'.

Karma Lekshe Tsomo is Associate Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Diego, where she teaches Buddhism, World Religions, and Comparative Religious Ethics. She studied Buddhism in Dharamsala, India for fifteen years and received a doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is president of Sakyadhita: The International Association of Buddhist Women and director of Jamyang Foundation, an initiative providing educational opportunities for women in developing countries.

Phyllis Currott is a Wiccan Priestess and pioneering spiritual teacher of Women's Mysteries and the Divine Feminine. An attorney and author, New York Magazine described Currott as among the culture's most intellectual, cutting-edge thinkers, and Jane Magazine honored her as 'One of the Ten Gutsiest Women of the Year'. Currott is the founder of the Temple of Ara, president emerita of the Covenant of the Goddess, and a Trustee of the Council for the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Religious Unity and Nonviolence

H H Amrender Muniji

Room 106

Forum

This lecture will offer strategies for the adoption of non-violence in daily living. The speaker, a Jain monk with extensive study in Hatha Yoga and Kundalini Yoga, will highlight practices that foster the nonviolent way of life. Topics will include: mantra recitation for the purification of daily conduct and spiritual elevation; the importance of yoga for healthy mind and body, the application of Lord Mahavir's teachings for enlightenment, and the need for awareness of our daily acts of karma. The concepts of Apararigraha (non-possessiveness) and Anekaantvaad (multiple reality of truth) will receive attention, as will the idea of living in harmony with the environment and respecting nature.

His Holiness Amrender Muniji is one of the few Jain monks who travel outside of India to preach nonviolence. He was initiated at the age of fourteen. He holds a Master's degree in Philosophy and Sanskrit, and is a scholar of Hindu, Jain and Buddhist Scriptures. He has undertaken intensive study, practice and teaching of Hatha Yoga and Kundalini Yoga. His dedicated service to mankind has been recognised by several organisations.

History of the Inupiat: Nipaa Ilitqusipta/ The Voice of Our Spirit (Premier Film Series Selection)

Room 107

Film

The Voice of Our Spirit follows individuals, young and old, who struggle with the loss of language in their own personal way. 'For a long time now I have been wondering why I don't speak my language', says Dora 'Aluniq' Brower of Barrow, Alaska, in the film's opening minutes. 'I would always hear it around me because my parents and my grandparents were speaking, but when it came to us children they would speak to us in English. It wasn't expected of me to speak back in Inupiaq'. The film chronicles Inupiat history that spans 150 years, starting with the epidemics, followed by the missionaries and what happened to the Inupiat children with the establishment of a boarding school. The film was directed by Rachel Naninaaq Edwardson. Q & A to follow.

Reviving Indigenous Spirituality: Reclaiming Strength and Identity (Session 2)

Francois Paulette, Canada: Dene, Moderator
Tsugio Kuzuno, Japan: Ainu elder

Nana Osei Boakyewa Yiadom II, Ghana: Akuapem
Room 108

Panel Discussion

For most Indigenous communities, spirituality cannot be separated from culture. However, Indigenous spiritual beliefs and practices have been a special subject of persecution over the centuries. These pressures have caused some sacred rites and ceremonial activities to move from the public into the private sphere. Policies of assimilation and cultural pressures have separated Indigenous peoples from their spiritual practices. In this session, panel members will explore the ways in which their respective Indigenous communities are maintaining or reviving their unique spiritual beliefs and practices.

Francois Paulette is a Dene Suline and member of the Smith's Landing Treaty 8 First Nation. He became the youngest chief in the Northwest Territories Indian Brotherhood. In 1972, along with other chiefs, he challenged the crown to recognise treaty and Aboriginal rights. He served on the National Indian Brotherhood Treaty Implementation Committee, the Assembly of First Nations Renewal Commission, and the Parks Canada Aboriginal Consultative Committee and has spoken internationally on Dene history and Aboriginal rights.

Tsugio Kuzuno is an Ainu elder and spiritual speaker from Shizunai, Hokkaido, Japan. Mr Kuzuno is noted for winning first prize in the 2nd Ainu Oratorical Contest in November of 1998. This is an event that brings participants, students, elders and the community together to get in touch with the Ainu language and culture.

Nana Osei Boakyewa Yiadom II, a noted African leader, is one of Ghana's queen mothers. Among the first African women to be elected village chief, she is a fellow with the UN Institute for Training and Research, working on a project on refugee women. Since 1986, she has served as a consultant on the UN Decade for Women, an advisor to the Committee on African Women's Affairs, and president of the Pan African Human Rights Association.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION**Poverty in Wealthy Countries:
Challenges Ahead**

Jim Wallis
Tim Costello
Katherine Marshall
Setri Nyomi
 Room 109
 Panel Discussion

The economic crisis and catastrophes such as Hurricane Katrina, unrest in suburban Paris, and Australia's fires highlight that poverty is alive and real in the world's wealthiest societies. For millions of people in societies of great wealth, hunger is a daily reality, and hope is in short supply. This session will focus on why inequality endures and increases and will take stock of where and how religious leaders and institutions can best serve as advocates and leaders of social change. Additionally, it will consider the request of the Uppsalla Interfaith Climate Manifesto 2008 for 'binding cuts for the rich world on top of their domestic obligations; according to the principles of responsibility and capability countries should pay for international cuts in addition to their own domestic initiatives'. How can climate change be addressed without further impacting the poor?

Jim Wallis is a best-selling author, public theologian, speaker and international commentator on faith and public life. He is the author of 'The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith & Politics in a Post-Religious Right America' and 'God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It'. Wallis speaks around the United States, and his columns appear in major newspapers, including The New York Times and Washington Post.

Tim Costello is a leading Australian voice on social justice issues, having spearheaded public debates on gambling, urban poverty, homelessness, reconciliation and substance abuse. As CEO of World Vision Australia, Tim has insisted that the issues surrounding global poverty be on the national agenda. World Vision serves nearly 100 million people worldwide. Tim's awards include Victorian of the Year, Officer of the Order of Australia, Victorian Australian of the Year, and the Australian Peace Prize.

Katherine Marshall is a Senior Fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and Visiting Professor in the Government Department and the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. She leads the Berkley Center's work on faith-inspired institutions working in development, involving a series of regional background papers and consultations with academics and practitioners, and a series of reviews of development topics.

Rev Dr Setri Nyomi is the General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC)—the first non-European to serve in this position. He comes from Ghana, and has studied in the University of Ghana and Trinity Seminary in Ghana as well as Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary in the USA. WARC is the global umbrella body of Presbyterian, Reformed, Congregational, Waldensian and some United and Uniting Churches.

**Asian Conference of Religions for Peace
(Religions for Peace Asia)**

Dr Din Syamsuddin, Moderator
Dr Lilian Sison
Sunggon Kim
Theophilus Bela
Azril Mohd Amin
Des Cahill
 Room 110
 Seminar

The Asian Conference of Religions for Peace, also known as Religions for Peace Asia, is the world's largest regional body of religiously inspired people working for peace, harmony and the well-being of people in their own countries, in the Asian-Pacific region and across the world. The Asian Conference of Religions for Peace, in tandem with its partner and parent, Religions for Peace International, works to coordinate the various Asian religious heritages in pursuing peace and interreligious harmony based on the tenets of truth, justice, compassion and the transcendent dignity of the human person. This seminar will discuss the work of ACRP, building on the statement and recommendations for action from the October 2008 assembly in Manila. It will also focus on selected countries and their interfaith contexts. The session will be led by the ACRP moderator, Prof Din Syamsuddin (Indonesia) and the ACRP deputy moderator, Prof Des Cahill (Australia).

Dr Din Syamsuddin is an author and president of Muhammadiyah, Indonesia's largest modernist Muslim social and educational organisation. He is vice general chair of the Indonesian Ulama Council, professor of Islamic political thought at the National Islamic University in Jakarta, and moderator and a president of the Asian Conference on Religion for Peace, based in Seoul.

Dr Lilian Sison is chair of the Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network, Religions for Peace; a member of the IWCC Global Women of Faith Network; and dean of the Graduate School of the University of San Tomas, Philippines.

Dr Sunggon Kim, a member of the South Korean Parliament, is Secretary General of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace.

Theophilus Bela is secretary general of the Indonesian Committee on Religion and Peace (ICoRP) and founding chairperson of the Jakarta Christian Communication Forum (JCCF). He also cofounded Catholic Solidarity for Democracy in Indonesia, an NGO.

Azril Mohd Amin, a lawyer by profession, is currently the Chairman of Islamic Outreach ABIM, an agency under the patronage of the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia. He has extensive involvement in interfaith-based initiatives, in particular through the World Council of Muslim for Interfaith Relations (WCMIR) and the Muslim Youth Movement of Malaysia - ABIM - where he was vice president for international affairs (2003–2009). He is currently vice moderator of the Asian Coordinating Team, World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP) and has presented views at several of its events, including at the recent International Summit of Religious Youth Leaders on Disarmament for Shared Security held in Kathmandu in July 2009. He lives in Malaysia with his wife and three children.

Desmond Cahill, Professor of Intercultural Studies at RMIT University in Melbourne, is chair of Religions for Peace Australia and deputy moderator of Religions for Peace Asia. He is the Melbourne program director for the current Parliament.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

Krishna Consciousness and the Environment

Dr Yadunandana Swami

Taraka Sticha

Bhakata Dasa

Room 111

Panel Discussion

Since its founding in 1966 by His Divine Grace A C Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), also known as the Hare Krishna movement, has developed both an environmental ethic and effective environmental programs. In this panel, senior international leaders of ISKCON will discuss the principles of sustainability and the ecological worldview of the Hare Krishna movement, based on the Vedas, Bhagavad Gita and Vaishnava tradition. Hungarian ISKCON members will describe the practical application of these principles of sustainability in their sixteen-year-old 'eco-village' where they live as a religious community seeking to establish self-sufficiency. The session will also discuss other rural communities and environmental programs of ISKCON, including those in Krishna's birthplace in India. It will also highlight the importance of vegetarianism and its benefits for the environment.

Dr Yadunandana Swami is a Brahminical Priest and renunciate in the Vaishnava Hindu tradition. He is also a senior leader in ISKCON and a Minister of Educational Development. He is principal of Bhaktivedanta College in Belgium and has dedicated much of his teaching efforts to environmental issues including global warming.

Her Grace Taraka devi dasi has a BA in Education and the Visual Arts and is also a Brahminical Priest within the movement. She is ISKCON Australia's main presenter on environmental issues.

Bhakata Dasa, or Albert Lange, is a meditation teacher and Brahminical Priest within the Hare Krishna Movement with 30 years of experience. He is a director of the Hare Krishna Food for Life program in Australia, which on a weekly basis provides thousands of free or low cost nutritious vegetarian meals to those in need. He also established Gopals Vegetarian restaurant in Melbourne. He is an enthusiastic advocate for vegetarianism and animal rights.

On the Way of Love: Ruby Performs Music Inspired by Rumi

Erika Luckett

Lisa Ferraro

Room 201

Artistic Performance

The qualities that have made Rumi the best-selling poet in the world during recent decades, the earthy intimacy combined with a sublime heart are now finding their consummate musical expression through Ruby, an ensemble comprised of Sheikh Kabir Helminski (author, translator, musician and representative of the Mevlevi order of Sufism), Erika Luckett (vocalist/guitarist) and Lisa Ferraro (vocalist). Perhaps the greatest spiritual poet of all time, a troubadour of universal love, Rumi has been brought as

never before into a contemporary musical style and idiom. Sheikh Kabir was able to draw upon his many years of experience translating and interpreting Rumi, conveying Rumi's voice, images, and metaphors into English lyrics. Erika's virtuoso guitar, and the melodic skills of Lisa and Erika together create a soulful resonance culminating in a sonic experience that stretches across cultures and time, singing to our universal heart.

Erika Luckett is an internationally acclaimed artist who has collaborated with environmental organisations as well as those striving to expand human consciousness and open the heart. From her performance at the 20th Anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, to being honoured as 'One of the 100 Most Outstanding Women of the Year' by both The Jewish Post and Modern Woman Today Magazine, Erika Luckett shows the power of music to transform and unite people across the planet.

Lisa Ferraro's voice has graced diverse venues from jazz concert halls and festivals, to conferences on spirituality and sacred houses of worship. A prolific recording artist and performer, she has released seven albums to date and continues to deepen and expand her artistic expression. Dynamic in her performances and gifted in her ability to touch hearts and move audiences, Lisa Ferraro delivers her music with authenticity, passion and a generosity of spirit.

Om Shanthi Om

Shobha Sekhar

Kalakruthi Senior Students

Room 201

Artistic Performance

This devotional music performance is arranged and presented by Mrs Shobha Sekhar who is an Indian Classical Vocal and Veena artist of international repute. The Veena is one of the world's most ancient stringed instruments and is mentioned in the Vedas. Om Shanthi Om is the musical offering at the Parliament of the World's Religions by Shobha. OM reverberates with the first sound that emanated from the Earth. Shanthi means Peace in Sanskrit. The program content is steeped in Yoga techniques and includes spiritual and meditative elements drawn from Hindu chants and also inspired by other faiths such as Buddhism, Jainism and Zoroastrianism. Shobha will be accompanied by her students, both Vocal and Veena, as well as the Indian Drums that will embellish the soulful music with rhythmic structures. Although Classical Indian Karnatic Music has its roots in Hinduism, it has branched out to neighbouring countries and beyond. Harmony and social cohesiveness through music is this presentation's theme.

Shobha Sekhar is a journalist and the Artistic Director of Kalakruthi School of Music, Melbourne. She is the recipient of the 'Award of Excellence in Multicultural Affairs' from the Victorian Multicultural Commission. She has been honoured with several grants from the Commonwealth Government of Australia and Monash Council for her research into innovative methods of teaching and mentoring young talents in Australia. She is also a session lecturer teaching undergraduate music students at NMIT, Melbourne.

The Kalakruthi students have been mentored by Mrs Shobha Sekhar for several years. Their performances during Kalakruthi Annual Events have received accolades from discerning audiences. They have also won prizes in music competitions held in Australia in almost all categories.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

Islam and Politics: Faith, Governance and Society

Anwar Ibrahim
Dr Tariq Ramadan
Dr Siti Musdah Mulia
Dr Fahad A Alhomoudi
Dr Mahdi Mostafavi
Dr Burhanettin Tatar

Room 202

Panel Discussion

What is the role of faith and governance in majority Muslim societies like Malaysia? How does this affect how politics take shape? What happens if the society is also secular or multi-religious, or if it highly values religion as having a primary role in nation building? In this session, Mr Anwar Ibrahim, an internationally respected Muslim leader and politician, will address these issues. Respondents will include voices from Saudi Arabia (Prof Fahad Alhomoudi), Turkey (Prof Burhanettin Tatar), Indonesia (Dr Siti Musdah Mulia), France (Tariq Ramadan) and Iran (Ambassador Dr Mahdi Mostafavi)—all countries that are challenged with the question of the role of faith and governance in society.

Anwar Ibrahim was Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia from 1993 to 1998. Highly respected for his principled stance against corruption and his skilful management of the Malaysian economy as finance minister during the Asian financial meltdown, Anwar spearheaded the Asian Renaissance movement and remains a leading advocate of civilised dialogue aimed at bridging the gap between East and West. He is currently Leader of the Opposition in the Malaysian Parliament and is a member of the advisory board of the International Crisis Group.

Dr Tariq Ramadan is Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at Oxford University, in the Oriental Institute of St Antony's College. He is also a member of the Oxford Faculty of Theology and a Senior Research Fellow at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. He has contributed substantially to the debate on the issues of Muslims in the West and Islamic revival in the Muslim world. He is currently President of the European think tank, European Muslim Network (EMN), in Brussels. Active at both the academic and grassroots levels, he lectures throughout the world.

Dr Siti Musdah Mulia has been a research professor at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) since 2003. She also lectures at Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta. Since 2007, Dr Mulia has been the chairperson of the Indonesian Conference on Religion for Peace, an NGO actively promoting interfaith dialogues, pluralism and democracy. She is the author of many books and an activist for democracy, human rights and gender issues.

Dr Fahad A Alhomoudi obtained his PhD in Islamic Law from McGill University (2006). He was appointed a Vice-Dean for academic research at Imam University in Saudi Arabia (2007) and was awarded a Fulbright scholar award (2008). In addition to his native Arabic, Alhomoudi speaks English and French and can read Persian. Alhomoudi has published two books and several articles. His research covers Islamic Law, Environmental Law, Prophetic Tradition, and Interfaith Dialogue.

Dr Mahdi Mostafavi is the advisor to the Iranian President and the President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, the organisation responsible for Iran's cultural relations with the rest of the world. Dr Mostafavi holds a PhD in Strategic Management. He has been the Iranian Ambassador to Austria, Permanent Representative of Iran in the UN Office in Vienna and UNIDO in Germany, Deputy Foreign Minister and the President of the Department of International Affairs of the Office of the Supreme of Iran. He has many books to his credit.

Professor Burhanettin Tatar is the official representative of the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey at the 2009 Parliament. He is a professor at Ondokuz Mayıs University, in the faculty of Theology and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. He is also a member of the Higher Committee of Religious Affairs. Burhanettin Tatar received his PhD degree from the Catholic University of America in 1997.

A Buddhism for Today: Introduction to Risshō Kōsei-kai

Rev Yasutomo Sawahata

Gene Reeves

Room 203

Interactive Workshop

Risshō Kōsei-kai is a Buddhist organisation composed of ordinary men and women who have faith in the Buddha and strive to enrich their spirituality by applying his teachings in their daily lives. At both the local and international levels, they are very active in promoting peace and well-being through altruistic activities and cooperation with other organisations. With its headquarters in Tokyo, Risshō Kōsei-kai now has some 2 million member households in 245 churches throughout Japan and other countries. In this workshop, Dr Gene Reeves and Rev Yasutomo Sawahata will discuss Risshō Kōsei-kai in talks as well as a slide presentation. Discussion is planned and questions will be welcomed.

Rev Yasutomo Sawahata is a third generation member of Risshō Kōsei-kai (RK). He graduated from RK Seminary in 1993 as a Dharma Teacher. Since 1994 he has promoted interreligious dialogue and cooperation through multiple interfaith organisations and events. He served as RK's representative at the Geneva Office from 2004 to 2008. He holds a Master's degree in Peace and Justice in Religion from the Earham School of Religions.

Gene Reeves is a Buddhist scholar, philosopher, teacher and writer living in Tokyo. His most recent book is a translation of the Lotus Sutra. He has taught at universities in China, Japan and the US, and currently serves Risshō Kōsei-kai as international advisor and special minister. He is a founder of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions and has been active in international interfaith organisations.

Ecological Wisdom: Towards a Sustainable and Peaceful Ecology

Speaker to be Announced

Room 204

In the recent concern about the environment and climate change, scientific discourse has dominated the debate. Incontrovertible scientific evidence has demonstrated the devastating effects that have wreaked havoc upon the earth resulting in calamitous natural disasters such as tsunamis, hurricanes and earthquakes. In this session, panellists will discuss why the sacred and the secular have been so starkly separated in this debate. Panellists will explore issues of ecological wisdom that are embedded within diverse faith traditions. A central concern is to explore the ethical responsibilities that imply a duty of care for the earth. The relationship between science and religion will also be explored.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION**Zoroastrianism: Its Stewardship for All Creation, The Animate and Inanimate****Rohinton Rivetna, Moderator****Rashna Ghadialy****Dr Homi Dhalla****Homi Gandhi****Pervin J Mistry****Room 208**

Respect for creation and service is the framework of the Zarathushti faith. The practitioner is enjoined to be a Hamkar (co-worker) of Ahura Mazda to move creation to a blissful stage called Frasho Kereti. This makes Zarathushtis uniquely conscious of the environment. The presentation will explore this aspect of the faith and how this Zarathushti imperative may be utilised to promote stewardship of the environment in other faiths. Every faith has scriptural injunctions that need to be researched and explored. Actual examples will be offered of the types of programs that can be implemented within faith communities to promote respect for the environment.

Rohinton Rivetna is the founding president of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America and a founding trustee of the Council for a Parliament of World's religions. He spearheaded the founding of the Zoroastrian Association of Chicago and also helped establish the World Zarathushti Chamber of Commerce. Professionally, Mr Rivetna retired in 1997 as Director of Environmental Engineering at American National Can Corp, where he established a successful environmental engineering department.

Rashna Ghadialy is an American Zarathushti of Pakistani descent. She is a demographer, environmentalist and Reiki practitioner. Her current environmental focus is in permaculture and community and corporate level sustainability reporting and planning in the United States. Rashna was the chair of the 2002 North American Zoroastrian Congress in Chicago and has served as the Board Member of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago. She is an active member of Faith in Place, an interfaith environmental group that helps religious communities become sustainable.

Homi Dhalla holds an MA from Harvard and a PhD from Mumbai University. He has represented the Parsi community at various international conferences, focusing on issues of peace, ecology, human rights, and interreligious dialogue. He was awarded the Mother Teresa National Award for Interfaith Harmony in 2007. As the Founder-President of the World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation, Homi has initiated various cultural projects for the Parsi community.

Homi D Gandhi is the co-chair of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) Interfaith Activities Committee and is FEZANA's main representative to the United Nations.

Pervin J Mistry graduated from the University of Bombay with honors in philosophy. She participated in the Second Parliament of the World's Religions held in Chicago in 1993. A student of comparative religions, Mistry has written articles for religious magazines and participates in Zoroastrian congresses and interfaith discourses.

Yoruba Worship of the Earth and Veneration of the Environment**Wande Abimbola****Ifaboyede Michelle McElwaine Oguninahun Abimbola****Room 209****Panel Discussion**

Indigenous African religions such as Yoruba, Vodun, and Akan are well known for their abiding interest in the sanctity and preservation of the environment. As far as these religions are concerned, the earth and the forces of nature are greater than humans and therefore it is our sacred obligation to honour them. This is why animals, trees, mountains, earthquakes, and rainbows are the focus of everyday worship and veneration. In the Yoruba religion, the earth, whose name is Ifa, is an important Orisa (divinity). Ifa is a female divinity worshipped by many people. When people swear oaths in Yorubaland, they either swear in the name of Ogun, the divinity of iron and justice, or they swear in the name of Ifa. This panel will discuss various aspects of the environmental consciousness of Yoruba religion, as practiced in West Africa and in the African Diaspora. It will also examine the all-important issue of respect, with particular reference to gender issues. It will demonstrate how living in harmony with nature and our fellow humans, despite differences of race and religion, can lead to sustainable development and peace in the world.

Professor Wande Abimbola is the current Awise Agbaye, or spokesperson of Yoruba Religion in the World. He was formerly Vice-Chancellor of University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), Ile-Ife from 1982–1989, Senate Majority Leader for the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 1992–1993, and Special Adviser to the President of Nigeria from 2003–2005. Professor Abimbola has taught at Harvard University and Boston University. He is currently President of the UNESCO-sponsored Ifa Heritage Institute, Nigeria.

Ifaboyede Michelle McElwaine Oguninahun Abimbola is a Lecturer at the Ifa Heritage Institute in Oyo, Nigeria where she doubles as an assistant to the president. She holds degrees in Religious and Women's Studies and a Master's Degree in Applied Linguistics. In Oyo, Nigeria, Ifaboyede was initiated as an Iyanifa, priestess of Ifa, and she is actively involved in the practice and propagation of Ifa. She also has an extensive background as an anti-racism/cultural competency trainer.

The Warfare is Over: Science and Spirituality as Allies for the Sake of the Planet (Session 1)**Philip Clayton****Peter Doherty****Praveen Chaudhari****F LeRon Shults****Denis Edwards****Pauline Rudd****Room 210****Panel Discussion**

The religious traditions will not be able to heal the earth by themselves. Among the various allies we will need, scientists are perhaps the most important. The knowledge of

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

science, combined with the wisdom and motivating power of religion, form a partnership that alone will enable us to overcome the challenges that our planet faces today. This is the first of three coordinated sessions on the topic of science and spirituality. A grant from the International Society for Science and Religion enables us to bring leading figures in this field to present and to discuss with the audience. These scientists and religious practitioners will describe how science and spirituality are similar, how they are different, and how they can work in harmony. The later two sessions, 'Science, Spirituality, and Overcoming Religious Conflict' and 'Science, Spirituality, and Environmental Activism', will then focus on how the partnership can have a positive effect on concrete issues in the world. After an opening presentation on the global dialogue between science and religion today, Peter Doherty, winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, will present on the global environmental crisis. Following his talk, a panel will engage in a time of open dialogue with the audience.

Philip Clayton is Inghram Professor at Claremont School of Theology and Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Claremont Graduate University. He specialises in conflicts and connections between the sciences and religion, with particular focus on the biological sciences and the environmental crisis. He is the author or editor of seventeen books and over 100 articles, including the recent 'Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science' and 'In Quest of Freedom: The Emergence of Spirit in the Natural World'.

Peter Doherty is one of the world's leading medical researchers. Among many other honours, Doherty received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1996 for his work on the immune system, and he was named Australian of the Year in 1997. In recent years, he has lectured widely on the global environmental crisis.

Dr Chaudhari received his PhD in physical metallurgy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined IBM in 1996. In addition to carrying out his personal research, he has held various management responsibilities in science and technologies. He retired from IBM in 2003 and became the Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory until 2006, when he returned to science. Dr Chaudhari has published over 160 technical papers and holds over three dozen patents.

F LeRon Shults is professor of theology and philosophy at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway. A leading authority on science and theology, he has published some ten books and dozens of articles in the field. Shults is the editor of the Brill book series 'Philosophical Studies in Science and Religion' and scientific director of the Transforming Compassion project at Stiftelsen Arkivet, a peace-building institute in Norway. His other current research interests include ethics, desire, differentiation and religious symbolism.

Denis Edwards is professor of theology at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. An ecological theologian, he has published widely on the interactions among ecology, environmental science and religion. Among his best-known books are 'Breath of Life: A Theology of the Creator Spirit', 'The God of Evolution: A Trinitarian Theology', and 'Jesus and the Cosmos'. He will soon publish 'The Holy Spirit and Ecological Theology'.

Prof Pauline Rudd, BSc, LRIC, MA (Oxon), PhD, one of the world's leading molecular biologists, is head of the Dublin-Oxford Glycobiology Lab in Dublin, Ireland. She is Honorary Professor at St George's Hospital, London; is affiliated with the SAB Rega Institute for Medical Research, University of Leuven; and is Founding Scientist at Wessex Biochemicals (Sigma London). Rudd is a lay member of the Community of St Mary the Virgin in Oxfordshire and an internationally sought-after speaker on the world's mystical traditions.

Working with Self, Benefiting Others

Traleq Kyabgon Rinpoche

Kelvin Koay

Stanley Chun-Wei Lee

Room 211

Panel Discussion

Local religious practitioners will share and discuss how we can balance working with ourselves and benefiting others. Traleg Kyabgon Rinpoche, President and Spiritual Director of Kagyu E-Vam Buddhist Institute in Melbourne and the E-Vam Institute in upstate New York, will discuss the importance and impact of interfaith dialogue and the benefits such dialogue brings to all spiritual practitioners. In the second part of this program the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation will moderate discussion focused on how the Tzu Chi way is to walk into the community to help those in need to make the world a better place to live. The aim is to start influencing people around you and your community into engaging work that can help other people, and the earth, such as environmental protection and charity within the community. Through the act of helping others and the earth, we learn from it, and uplift our spirituality.

Traleq Kyabgon Rinpoche is President and Spiritual Director of Kagyu E-Vam Buddhist Institute in Melbourne and E-Vam Institute in upstate New York. He was recognised as the ninth incarnation of the Traleg line by His Holiness the XVI Gyalwa Karmapa and was accorded the title Kyabgon, a significant distinction retained by only a few lineage holders of the Tibetan tradition. Rinpoche has been a leader in Australia in interfaith and Buddhist intrafaith dialogue for over twenty-five years.

Kelvin Koay is a Medical Science student in Melbourne University. Kelvin, who is Malaysian Chinese, was inspired by the teachings of Master Cheng Yen to come to Melbourne to study medicine in 2006. At the age of 8, he became actively involved in volunteer work of Tzu Chi Foundation in Malaysia. Kelvin is currently the president of Tzu Chi Collegiate Youth Association in Melbourne.

Stanley Chun-Wei Lee comes from a family of Chinese descent. Born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1983, his family migrated to New Zealand in 1995. He has a BS with honours and MS in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Auckland, and is working toward a PhD in Melbourne. Stanley joined Tzu Chi Collegiate Youth Association in 2002, inspired by the wisdom of Master Cheng Yen. He considers being a Tzu Chi volunteer a lifetime mission.

Thomas Berry and the Great Work of Our Time

Mary Evelyn Tucker

John Grim

Christopher Key Chapple

Anne Marie Dalton

Room 212

Panel Discussion

The renowned cultural historian and geologist, Thomas Berry, passed away in June of this year at age 94. For decades, he brought a vision of hope and inspiration to so many around the world through his articulation of a new story for our time. He viewed the evolution of the universe,

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of Earth, and of humans as an immense journey through time. From this unifying journey story he urged us to take up the Great Work of creating a sustaining ecological civilisation for future generations. Each person and each religion can contribute to this great transforming work. The panellists will explore Thomas Berry's legacy and show a brief video of his reflections on our critical moment.

Mary Evelyn Tucker is a Senior Lecturer and Senior Scholar at Yale University, where she has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Divinity School, and the Department of Religious Studies. Specialising in Asian religions and ecology, she has been a committee member of the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment at the United Nations Environment Program since 1986 and is a member of the Earth Charter International Council.

John Grim is currently a Senior Lecturer and Scholar at Yale University. He is Coordinator of the Forum on Religion and Ecology with Mary Evelyn Tucker, and series editor of *World Religions and Ecology*, from Harvard Divinity School's Center for the Study of World Religions. He has taught at Bucknell University and Sarah Lawrence College and is widely published on the subjects of religion and ecology.

Christopher Key Chapple is Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He received his PhD in the History of Religions from Fordham University. A founding member of the Forum on Religion and Ecology (Yale University), Chris has published more than a dozen books on the religions of India, many with a focus on Hinduism and Ecology. He edits the journal *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology* (Britt).

Anne Marie Dalton is a professor of religion and culture at Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Canada. She teaches and researches in the areas of religion and ecology, science and religion, and religion and development. She completed her doctoral thesis on the work of Thomas Berry. Anne Marie has participated in environmental, community-based projects in China, Vietnam and Mongolia. Her latest work deals with ecology and the practice of hope. She is also a member of the Canadian Forum on Religion and Ecology.

Neighbourhoods of Difference: The Uniting Church in Australia and Interfaith Relations

Rev Glenda Blakefield

Rev Seforosa Carroll

Rev Tony Floyd

Rev Elenie Poulos

Rev Kerry Enright

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson

Room 213

Panel Discussion

Migration to Australia has brought together people of different cultures and religions. For the Uniting Church, this has raised new challenges of how to live and express faith in both a multicultural and multireligious context. One challenge comes from the fact that church membership includes a range of people with different life experiences, cultural backgrounds, and perspectives. Our theme, 'neighbourhoods of difference', expresses the simple but integral message that 'loving the neighbour who is different' is part of the Uniting Church's identity and mission. In extending its welcome and hospitality both within and

beyond its church boundaries, the Uniting Church holds together and values 'neighbourhoods of difference' in the Australian context and in our international relationships. A multimedia presentation and a panel of key Uniting Church leaders will explore this theme, demonstrating how the Uniting Church learns, struggles, embraces and lives with diversity and difference.

Reverend Glenda Blakefield is the Associate General Secretary of the Uniting Church Australia's National Assembly. Among her responsibilities, she has oversight of the National Assembly Working Group on Relations with Other Faiths. She has been the Uniting Church representative on the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and has participated in the Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue in Cambodia as well as various other interfaith activities.

Reverend Seforosa Carroll, a Fiji-born Rotuman, is the Convener of the Relations with Other Faiths Working Group. She represents the UCA on the National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews; is part of the Women's Interfaith Network; and has been involved in various interfaith consultations and projects. She has published a number of articles and was formerly a member of the Assembly Working Group on Doctrine. Sef has been a visiting lecturer at the United Theological College since 2000. Reverend Tony Floyd is the National Director of the Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry.

Reverend Tony Floyd is the National Director of the Multicultural and Cross-cultural Ministry.

Reverend Elenie Poulos is the National Director of Uniting Justice.

Reverend Kerry Enright is the National Director of Uniting World. Rev Dr Kerry Enright is National Director of international relationships, including aid and development, for the Uniting Church in Australia. He is from New Zealand and is of Maori and settler descent. He originally trained in law and practised as a barrister and solicitor in Auckland. Kerry then studied theology in New Zealand and USA and became a parish minister in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. Until taking up his present appointment he was for ten years Assembly Executive Secretary (ceo) of that Church. With his family he came to Australia last year to take up his present role.

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson is the Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania of the Uniting Church in Australia, Australia's third largest Christian denomination formed in 1977 when the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches united. Isabel is a lay person with wide experience in the church at local, regional, state and national levels. She has been a teacher, political researcher, religious educator and presbytery minister. She is married with three young adult children.

How a Profound Spiritual Theology Can Overthrow Poverty

Shirley Paulson

Room 214

Lecture

Poverty affects every human being on earth, as well as the health of the earth itself. A spiritual solution to the persistent problem of poverty would lift the burden of insufficient resources that are only available to the privileged. Self-made, material resources are made on the premise of lack or insufficiency of resources, and competition for limited resources is unavoidable. Mary Baker Eddy, the founder of Christian Science, describes how a shift in focus from the human and the self-made to the God-made image and likeness dissolves the psychological necessity to steal from others. The law of pecking orders ('never enough for everyone') makes way for the spiritual law of equality ('abundance for everyone'). This program explores this spiritual reality in order to break through the limitations imposed by patriarchal consciousness. It

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will explore further the spiritual law of equity, and how it provides the means to break down habitual identifications of being either privileged or deprived, either superior or inferior, and either authoritarian or submissive.

Shirley Paulson's religious practice is a healing ministry open to anyone. As a Christian Science practitioner, she relies on the Bible for spiritual guidance. She is a member of the Board of Governors for the Religion Communicators Council (United States) and a classroom speaker for the worldwide Board of Lectureship for the Christian Science Church. She holds an MTS degree.

Mamaa: The Untouchable Ones

Heather Winter
Paddy Neowarra
Pansy Nulgit
Matthew Martin

Room 215

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The spiritual beliefs of the sacred Wanjina are the founding commandments that govern the Ngarinyin Aboriginal Corporation's model of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Together, Ngarinyin custodians, Paddy Neowarra and Pansy Nulgit, with human rights advocate Heather Winter, mentor Ngarinyin youth to preserve the spiritual beliefs of the Wanjina and Gwion through visual expression. The Ngarinyin elders translate their spiritual laws—depicted in painted images in caves—from their memories onto canvas using the earth pigment, ochre. Removed by the government in the 1950s from their traditional country, where the cave paintings are located, it is difficult for the elders to transmit knowledge to their youth today. Painting is a medium in which elders can focus their spiritual teaching, the 'Mamaa' taboo, which guards this sacred imagery from use by 'outsiders'. As a religious initiative, the projects associated with Mamaa enable the community to advocate their human rights outside their remote communities. In 2005, Julian Burnside QC and AO awarded a national Humanitarian Award to the organisation. Traditionally, the Wanjina were not shown to those outside the family. Today we want to share our history and tell that the Wanjina is our God who created the law in Australia.

Heather Winter is a human rights advocate.

Paddy Neowarra is the co-founder of the spiritual Ngarinyin initiative at Bush University and chairman for the Ngarinyin Aboriginal Corporation. He is a performer at Ngarinyin Jumba and Judmee performances. Mr Neowarra has presented his work internationally at the Museum National Histoire Naturelle, Paris. He has been a keynote speaker on Ngarinyin spiritual perspectives at Australian National University, Canberra, from 1995 to 2007.

Pansy Nulgit is senior executive Kimberley Aboriginal Law and Culture, Western Australia and Senior Advisor to the Ngarinyin Aboriginal Corporation on Mamaa. With expertise on women's spiritual law and Jumbaa Ceremonial Dance, she directs as song leader at the Mowanjumb Community Festival. She has presented at the Australische Kunstlerinnen in Engiadina, Switzerland, the Australian Embassy in Paris and the Centre for the Moving Image in Melbourne.

Matthew Martin is a Ngarinyin lawman and singer who assists Ngarinyin elders training to be co-presenters. He presented at BBC London on the spiritual importance of the Wanjina/Gwion, performing the official cultural Bedgagun smoking singer performance. Matthew's second language is English; Heather Winter will co-present and assist with translations.

Interfaith and Multinational Reflections on Aging and the Human Spirit

Ronald Nakasone

Larry M Taylor

Chao-Ti Wu

Heng Sure

Janet Bregar

Pinit Ratanakul

Room 216

Interactive Workshop

This program is an interactive workshop on elderhood and aging. Aging is a common human experience. Increased longevity offers individuals and communities unparalleled opportunities to cultivate and transform the human spirit, expand their collective moral imaginations, and mentor future elders so as to realign our public and religious institutions to their global responsibilities. In addition to sharing their respective reflections on aging, the multinational, interfaith panel will briefly instruct the audience in exercises such as meditation, tai chi, and journaling that promote spiritual cultivation and transformation. The pilgrimage of self-cultivation and self-transformation in becoming an elder mentors future generations of elders. Elders and their experiences embody the collective wisdom of humanity, which can inspire individuals (the young, middle aged, and old) and communities to forge a better world. Strengthening the rhythm of generations and strengthening their mutual responsibilities is the first step in sustaining communities. Healthy communities in turn are the basis for justice, sustainable living and healing the earth. This is a grave responsibility for present day and future elders.

Ronald Nakasone is a Buddhist cleric (Jodo, Shinshu, Pure Land), ethicist, calligrapher, and professor at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Professor Nakasone is also a member of the faculty at the Stanford University Geriatric Education Center. He is an expert in Okinawan Shamanism, his ancestral tradition.

Larry M Taylor is currently a doctoral student of art and religion at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. His areas of specialisation include American art, minimalism, Native North American art and spirituality in modern art. His most recent publication was an interview with Turkish-American artist Fatih Benzer. Mr Taylor has delivered talks on such topics as The Apocalypse through Art and the role of photography in the 1890 Lakota Ghost Dance. He is interested in Native American spirituality.

Chao-Ti Wu (Dharma name: **Hsin Chien**) is the founder of the Enlightenment Institute of Buddhist Studies in Taipei, Taiwan. She taught at Dharma Drum Mountain from 1996 to 2001 and currently teaches Buddhist thought and practice at Shih Hsin University and Chin Min Institute of Technology in Miao-Li in Taipei. She practices Chan (Zen) and Pure Land traditions. A leading student of Nei-Tien, she actively engages in social welfare in her community.

Rev Heng Sure is the Director of the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery and a former Global Councilor of the United Religions Initiative. He has been a Buddhist monk for 33 years, and holds a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley, California (USA) and an MA from the University of California, Berkeley. An author and musician, Rev Sure recently released the CD 'Paramita: American Buddhist Folk Songs'.

Rev Dr Janet Bregar is the Pastor of Village Church in Los Angeles and an instructor in Comparative Religions at California State University Fullerton. Dr Bregar is the past executive director of the Santa Monica Bay Interfaith Council and a current Board Member. She has been active in interfaith work both in the United States and internationally for over

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thirty years and is interested in the practical issues of interfaith marriages and caring for elders in a religiously plural society.

Pinit Ratanakul is the director of the College of Religious Studies at Mahidol University, Thailand. He is a leading voice in Theravada Buddhist ethics and has written extensively on Thai Buddhist approaches to bioethics.

Sri Chinmoy: A Spirituality of Transformation

Kusumita Pedersen, Moderator

Kazem Abhary

Vidagdha Bennett

Utsahi Neree St-Amand

Mrinali Clarke

Room 217

Panel with Audiovisual Segments

This panel will present the life and work of Sri Chinmoy (1931–2007), the world-renowned advocate of a transformative spirituality in which music, poetry, art, athletics, community service, intercultural dialogue and other vocations are spiritual practices. Sri Chinmoy's philosophy is based on love, self-transcendence and dedication to the ultimate goal of world-oneness and universal fulfilment. This session will offer a vivid and inspiring presentation that includes narrative, poetry, music and audiovisuals. We will describe the tireless work for peace and extraordinary creativity of Sri Chinmoy during his life, and also highlight some programs he founded: The World Harmony Run (a torch relay reaching 3.5 million people in over 100 countries), the annual Self-Transcendence 3,100 Mile Race, the Songs of the Soul concerts, Jharna-Kala or Fountain-Art, and the international all-volunteer Oneness-Heart Tears and Smiles humanitarian aid initiative. Throughout our presentation we will seek to show how the inner life of meditation and prayer empowers and guides all these diverse activities of service and manifestation. Our panel will be composed of a group of Sri Chinmoy's long-time students, hailing from the US, Canada, Australia and Iran.

Kusumita P Pedersen is a professor of religious studies at St Francis College, New York, and has been active in the global interfaith movement for twenty-five years. She is a scholar of comparative religious ethics with interests in the environment and human rights. The author of several articles on the philosophy of Sri Chinmoy, she has edited a book of his poetry, 'Here Is the Place'.

Kazem Abhary, originally from Iran, is a professor of engineering at University of South Australia and an authority on mechanical design. In his profession, he is committed to the awareness of the social and environmental impact of engineering and the need for engineers to be exposed to spirituality. Also a speaker and author on social and literary topics, Abhary has translated Sri Chinmoy's poetry into Persian.

Vidagdha Bennett received her PhD from the University of Melbourne. Her dissertation was titled 'Simplicity and Power: The Poetry of Sri Chinmoy'. She is currently working on Sri Chinmoy's literary biography and is also an expert on his painting. She has wide-ranging interests in spiritual writing in English and Indian literature.

Utsahi Neree St-Amand is a professor of social work at the University of Ottawa, Canada. St-Amand is interested in complementary and alternative approaches to social work, including native, ecological and spiritual approaches. He is the owner of The Garden of Light gift shop in Ottawa and is active with the Sri Chinmoy World Harmony Foundation of Canada.

Mrinali Clarke, a student of Sri Chinmoy for 23 years, and teacher of meditation at the Sri Chinmoy Centre, Melbourne, for over 15 years, has also written a minor thesis on the poetry of Sri Chinmoy and published articles in the Asia Pacific Dialogue magazine on the new path of meditation taught by Sri Chinmoy.

Religious Dimensions of the Reconciliation Process in Timor-Leste

Constantino Pinto

Inge Lempp

Patrick Walsh

Room 218

Seminar

After centuries of colonial rule and brutal military occupation, how can an Indigenous people heal from these traumas and wounds? Under years of occupation, East Timor faced the destruction of traditional beliefs and customs. Yet, in their struggle for independence, the Timorese found protection in traditional ways and beliefs. Since the 1999 United Nations referendum on independence, there has been a revival of the traditional beliefs in East Timor. The Uma Lulik, a traditional Timorese sacred house, is the legal seat that regulates the *lia moris* (regulations for the living) and the *lia mate* (regulations for the world of the dead). These two worlds are believed to be intricately connected and they interact with one another. The Uma Lulik regulates law, sacred rituals, and the social and economic activities of a clan. Both the construction and use of the Uma Lulik are a part of communal healing from the violence and trauma of the past. The return and recovery of ancient spiritual roots is a critical part of East Timor's healing process and can serve as a model for other nations.

Constantino Pinto is co-founder and current director of Fundacao Lafaek Diak (FLD - The Good Crocodile Foundation), an Indigenous Timorese nonprofit, non-government community development organisation. He and his family lived through the Indonesian military invasion and occupation of East Timor.

Inge Lempp is the translator for Constantino Pinto's presentation. She has lived in East Timor since 1999 and currently works in the Civil Peace Service at Centro Treino Integral e Desenvolvimento, a holistic skills training centre for rural Timorese women, at the Canossian College, Baucau, East Timor.

Pat Walsh is Senior Adviser to the Post-CAVR Technical Secretariat. CAVR is Timor-Leste Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. It was an independent truth commission established in East Timor in 2001 under the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) and charged to inquire into human rights violations committed on all sides, between April 1974 and October 1999, and facilitate community reconciliation with justice for those who committed less serious offenses. Following the dissolution of CAVR in December 2005, President Xanana Gusmao inaugurated a Post-CAVR Technical Secretariat to complete unfinished CAVR projects.

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Substance and Soul: An Exploration of Drug and Alcohol Abuse in the World's Non-Dual Religious Traditions

Trent Leighton

Room 219

Lecture

Substance abuse affects virtually every culture and community. The addict's drugging and drinking—from the Wall Street stock broker abusing cocaine to manage stress, to the Chinese labourer's dependence on opiates to block pain—is a spiritual problem, a metaphysical cry for help that local mosques, synagogues, churches and temples are uniquely qualified to address. While the proliferation of drug abuse is commonly considered a modern phenomenon, many of the world's religious traditions have been addressing the impulses underlying addiction since time immemorial. This interactive lecture will focus on the relationship between the compulsion to consume mind-altering chemicals and the desire for transcendence and self-awareness found in such non-dual spiritual practices and teachings as Advaita Vedanta, Chan and Zen Buddhism, Christian mysticism and Taoism. Central to this dialogue will be an in-depth exploration of the correlation between duality and suffering (emphasised by many religious lineages) and the mental health of the addict and their drug use.

Trent Leighton holds a Master's degree in Counselling Psychology and a Doctorate in Depth (or Analytical) Psychology. A lifelong student of many of the world's religious and spiritual traditions, Trent's primary focus is to develop a non-dual model of mental health utilising Jungian psychological principles coupled with the realisations of his Buddhist practice. A seasoned clinician specialising in substance abuse and chronic mental illness, Trent has shifted his focus to lecturing and teaching.

Landscape of Faith: Sharing Wisdom for a New Vision of Community – Part I: Living in Community

Janice Marie Johnson

Room 220

Seminar

This one-day, interfaith educational seminar seeks to provide a context for community building by addressing the challenges of prejudice, injustice and alienation from the earth, while weaving the theme of the possibility of transformation through the arts throughout the day. Participants are asked to attend all four sessions. This introduction to the day will give educators an experiential skill building exercise for exploring the core issues of belonging to culture, community and religion. Using this interactive exercise, educators can involve high school to adult age groups in the sometimes challenging process of community building. Participants will discover and consider some of their basic reactions to cross-cultural differences within a safe and neutral space.

Janice Marie Johnson serves as the Director of Lifespan Religious Education at the Community Church of New York. She is also a consultant, working primarily in the areas of interpersonal communication and conflict resolution within an interfaith, anti-racist, cross-cultural, and collaborative context.

INTERRELIGIOUS 11:30am–1:00pm

Halting the Spread of HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria: Challenges for Faith

Gideon Byamugisha

Jean Duff

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick

Thomas Bohnett

Plenary Hall

Panel Discussion

The role of religion in fighting disease has many dimensions, some inspirational and some obstructive. We will explore examples of work on the ground and moral advocacy for HIV/AIDS as examples of both. Canon Gideon Byamugisha points to the complexity of moral challenges around HIV/AIDS but above all to the powerful potential that religion has within this battle. Interfaith initiatives have great potential to make major contributions. Jean Duff, Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty, and Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, long time Board Member of Catholic Relief Services, will describe ongoing efforts, especially in Nigeria, and action steps necessary for forward movement. Thomas Bohnett will describe emerging ideas on engaging faith in relation to the scourge of tuberculosis.

Canon Gideon Byamugisha is an ordained priest in the Church of Uganda. In 1992, he became the first African religious leader to openly declare his HIV-positive status. He has since devoted his life to an AIDS ministry, which has taken him to over forty countries in sub-Saharan Africa and many other parts of the world.

Jean Duff is Executive Director of the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty (CIFA), whose mission is to increase the collective impact of the religious sector on global poverty. From 2005–2008, as Deputy Director of the Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation, she led Washington National Cathedral's global poverty program focusing on Malaria and Gender Justice. She holds graduate degrees in clinical psychology and in epidemiology, as well as certificates of continuing education from Harvard and Wharton Business schools.

Cardinal Theodore E McCarrick, PhD, DD, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, has visited many nations as a human rights advocate and to survey humanitarian needs. He has travelled to areas affected by major natural disasters, such as Central America, Sri Lanka and Louisiana and Mississippi post-Hurricane Katrina, to ensure people in need would receive assistance, and to bring prayer and financial support. He has been a member of the United States Commission for International Religious Freedom.

Thomas Bohnett graduated from Princeton University in 2007, majoring in the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs. He spent 2007–2008 working for the International Rescue Committee in Uganda. He joined WFDD in November 2008 as Program Coordinator.

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INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION**Religion, Spirituality and Wellbeing:
Implications for Living and Learning****Marian de Souza****Dr James O'Higgins-Norman****Dr Jane Bone****Jacqueline Hodder****Philip Hughes****Dr John W. Fisher**

Room 101

Panel Discussion

This program will focus on religion and spirituality as an integral part of human experience. Participants will identify the different elements of religion and spirituality which relate to personal and communal identity; foster resilience, empathy and compassion; and promote meaning-making and connectedness. Ultimately, these are elements that contribute to the well-being of individuals and, therefore, their communities. It is hoped that the ensuing discussions will promote further understanding and appreciation of the dual roles of religion and spirituality in the lives of contemporary multifaith and multicultural societies. By the end of this session, participants will be inspired to seek ways to extend this understanding through various educational and community programs.

Dr Marian de Souza is Senior Lecturer at Australian Catholic University, Editor of the *Journal of Religious Education* and a co-founder of the Spirituality and Wellbeing in Education Research Group. Marian has published extensively on the subject of spirituality as pertaining to the relational dimension of the human person, and the role of non-conscious learning in promoting or impeding connectedness and integration.

Dr James O'Higgins-Norman is a lecturer and researcher at the School of Education Studies in Dublin City University where he is also Chair of Graduate Teacher Education. His research has been concerned with aspects of equality and well-being in schools and his work on homophobic bullying is considered to be seminal in the field of Irish education. He is co-founder of the Spirituality and Wellbeing in Education Research Group at Dublin City University.

Dr Jane Bone specialises in spiritual well-being in early childhood from a New Zealand perspective, with reference to Maori culture.

Jacqueline Hodder has been researching the area of contemporary youth spirituality for the past six years. Her PhD examined youth spirituality within the context of post-secularism and with particular emphasis on the role spirituality can play with regard to young people's well-being. Her research has found that for those for whom spirituality plays a significant role in their lives, there are richer resources from which to draw when making important life decisions.

Philip Hughes is the senior research officer of the Christian Research Association, Australia and has spent his life exploring the relationship between religious faith and cultures. The focus of his research has been on youth culture in Australia and Thailand.

Dr John Fisher is a researcher at Ballarat University.

**Violence Finds Refuge in Falsehood:
Religion and the Future of Torture****George Hunsinger**

Room 102

Lecture

This lecture will begin by establishing, through remarks by Solzhenitsyn and Orwell, the theme that violence finds refuge in falsehood. It will then demonstrate that this theme finds broad representation in the Bible, as well. The lecture will argue that the history of US involvement in torture is largely the history of exemptions for the CIA. The program will present an overview of these exemptions from 1975 to the present. In the next portion of the program, the prospects for a Truth Commission in the US will be discussed. It will suggest that, unless the utmost vigilance is exercised, CIA exemptions are likely to continue due to the CIA's power. This lecture, which is addressed primarily to religious communities throughout, will end by addressing the politics of hope and prayer. In conclusion, this program will set forth the examples of Bonhoeffer, as well as Wilberforce who in the 18th century opposed not only slavery but also torture.

George Hunsinger is the Hazel Thompson McCord Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary. In January 2006 he founded the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. Married with two children and two grandchildren, he is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church, USA and president of the Karl Barth Society of North America. Among his recent books is 'Torture Is a Moral Issue: Christians, Jews, Muslims and People of Conscience Speak Out'.

**Interfaith in Australia:
The Co-ordinating Work of
the Australian Partnership of
Religious Organisations****Abd Malak****Josie Lacey OAM****Gary Bouma****Therese Sussmilch****Brian Ashen**

Room 103

Panel Discussion

Interfaith activity has mushroomed in Australia, especially in the aftermath of September 11, 2001 and the 2002 bombings in Bali, where 89 Australians were killed. The Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations (APRO) was established in 2003, partly in response to these tragedies, in order to help build interfaith harmony. In this session, participants will learn about the religious profile in Australia, the history of interfaith activity in Australia, and the work of APRO and other interfaith organisations in Australia, particularly in Tasmania. Participants will hear from representatives of various faith perspectives, including Buddhist and Jewish. The session will end with an interactive discussion on the topic 'What are the chal-

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allenges and the future directions for interfaith activity in Australia?’

Abd Malak, AM, has worked in the fields of health and social welfare for the past thirty years. He is the Director of the Diversity Health Institute, Honorary President of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia, and the Convenor of the Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations. In 2002, he was included in the Australian Honours List as a Member in the Order Of Australia for his service to migrant communities. Malak is the Executive Director of Workforce and Organisational Development for Sydney West Area Health Service and an Associate Professor at the University of Western Sydney School of Medicine.

Josie Lacey was the Foundation Convenor of the Women’s Interfaith Network. She is a lifetime member of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and an executive member of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies. Mrs Lacey is the Interfaith Adviser to the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia and to the Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations. She is also an NSW Executive member of the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

Gary Bouma is the Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Monash University and an Associate Priest at St John’s East Malvern. His research has primarily focused on the interaction between religion and society in Western societies including Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. He has been named the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations. Professor Bouma is one of the leading academic and community leaders of interfaith activity in Australia. He is chair of the Board of Management of the Melbourne Parliament of the World’s Religions.

Therese Sussmilch is a teacher and community worker, living in Hobart, Tasmania. She has been involved in the organisation ‘Religions for Peace’ since 2001 and currently convenes the Tasmanian Group. Ms Sussmilch has learned firsthand the difficulties and discrimination faced by minority groups in our communities. She has been studying Raja Yoga meditation with the Brahma Kumaris for over twenty years and has experienced its power to heal at both an individual and group level.

Brian Ashen was born in Melbourne and became interested in Buddhism at age sixteen. He is the co-convenor of both the Buddhist Council of Victoria and the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils.

Developing an Interreligious Community: How Silicon Valley Used the Partner City Process

Rev Ellen O’Brian
Girish Shah
Joy-ElLEN Lipsky
Rev Andrew Kille
Dave Cortese
Dr Philip Riley
Rev Bruce Bramlett
Room 104
Panel Discussion

The demographics of Silicon Valley, shaped by rapid expansion in the technology industry and exponential growth in cultural and religious diversity, have necessitated greater interreligious understanding and cooperation. The interreligious core team from the Silicon Valley Partner City project will discuss the process they followed to build a community engaged around hope and action. This program will share stories about the history of interreligious

challenges and breakthroughs in Silicon Valley, including the participation of religious and spiritual communities with other guiding institutions (education, government, nonprofits and business) to facilitate social cohesion. Learn about the philosophy, structure and tools used to create and manage the process of becoming a Partner City and how the process itself enhances and strengthens the interreligious community and provides inspiration for engaged action on social, environmental and interfaith issues.

Rev Ellen Grace O’Brian is the Founding Minister and Spiritual Director of the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment, a ministry rooted in the spiritual tradition of Kriya Yoga. She was ordained in 1981 by Roy Eugene Davis, a direct disciple of Paramahansa Yogananda. She serves on the board of trustees of the Parliament and is the President of Meru Seminary as well as leading a thriving congregation and maintaining an international teaching outreach.

Girish Shah is a member of the Silicon Valley Partner City Committee for the Council for a Parliament of the World’s Religions. He is currently on the Board of Directors of the Interfaith Committee of the Jain Center of Northern California and a co-founder of the Federation of Jain Associations In North America (JAINA). He co-chaired the National JAINA convention in 1991 and in 2005.

Joy-ElLEN Lipsky holds a Master of Divinity degree and is a Ministry Intern. She is a member of the First Unitarian Church of San Jose, California, the Silicon Valley Partner City Committee, South Bay Interfaith, the Interfaith Council, and is the Marketing Committee manager for the Pacific Central District of the Unitarian Universalist Association’s Lay Leadership School. She works in the high tech industry and has co-authored books and articles on time and life management.

Rev D Andrew Kille is founder and director of the Interfaith Space in the South San Francisco Bay Area. A participant in interfaith dialogues for over 30 years, he is currently the editor of the Bay Area Interfaith Connect and served as Coordinator of Interfaith Relations for the local National Conference of Christians and Jews. He is ordained in the American Baptist tradition and holds a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union.

Dave Cortese is the Supervisor for Santa Clara County, California, a former San Jose, City Council member and 2008 Vice Mayor of San Jose. He is a leader in promoting interfaith activities. His core values include spirituality, family and individual empowerment. For the past five years his office has been instrumental in offering a community-wide interfaith nonviolence conference that brings all sectors of the community together for a common purpose: to build a culture of peace and nonviolence.

Philip Boo Riley is an Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University, where he has been active since 1978. His teaching and research interests focus on the Silicon Valley faith communities and how such organisations are shaped by regional dynamics. He lives in Santa Clara with his wife Mary Beth.

Rev Bruce Bramlett is Staff Coordinator for Interfaith Relations for Silicon Valley FACES, an agency with a long history of promoting regional interfaith relationships. Fr Bramlett is an ordained Episcopal priest and a scholar in religious studies. He is a facilitator for intergroup relations and facilitates several Silicon Valley dialogue groups, promoting interfaith community cooperation and conversation. He provides workshops, facilitations and classes on issues of diversity and appreciative community building.

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Men Who Love the Goddess

Drake Spaeth
Patrick McCollum
Michael York
River Higginbotham
Don Lewis
 Room 105
 Panel Discussion

Notable among contemporary Pagan traditions is the re-awakening and re-emergence of the Goddess as a feminine manifestation of the divine. While Pagan women have undeniably been instrumental in bringing the Goddess back into common awareness and spiritual practice within contemporary western cultures, Pagan men have a unique perspective on the divine feminine, as well as a variety of ways of connecting with Her as She manifests to them. The panellists, all Pagan men of different traditions, will discuss their experiences, ideas, perspectives, and practices with regard to the Goddess and will respond to questions and facilitate discussion among audience attendees. This panel presentation welcomes audience members of all faith traditions.

Drake Spaeth, PsyD is program faculty in the MA Clinical Psychology Department, Counseling Specialization at The Chicago School of Professional Psychology. He is also an ordained minister of Circle Sanctuary and is affiliated with Gaia's Womb and Earth Traditions. His interests encompass contemporary Paganism, shamanism, mysticism, Western esotericism, Jungian psychology, Humanistic-Existential psychology and Transpersonal psychology. He is intrigued by the places where psychology, religion and spirituality converge.

Patrick McCollum is the Director and Chair of the National Correctional Chaplaincy Directors Association and statewide Wiccan chaplain for the California Department of Corrections. McCollum has taught Pagan Chaplaincy Training at the Leadership Institute, part of Circle Sanctuary's annual Pagan Spirit Gathering. He is the National Coordinator of the Lady Liberty League Prison Ministries Program and a member of the National Advisory Council of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

Michael York is a Professor of Cultural Astronomy and Astrology with the Bath Spa University's Sophia Centre. He directs the New Age and Pagan Studies Programme for the College's Department for the Study of Religions. He co-ordinates the Bath Archive for Contemporary Religious Affairs, directs the Amsterdam Center for Eurindic Studies, and co-directs the London-based Academy for Cultural and Educational Studies. He has authored several books.

River Higginbotham is active in teaching, networking, and promoting Paganism and other earth-centred religions, on a local and national level. He is a founding member of the Council for Alternative Spiritual Traditions. River is an Eclectic Pagan and has been involved in spiritual exploration and earth-centred religions for the past fifteen years. He is a mechanical engineer with a dual degree in solar engineering. His interests include travel, history, aviation and community building.

Rev Donald Lewis-Highcorrell is First Priest and Paramount High Priest of the Correllian Tradition. Don received his training from Rev Krystal High-Correll, Chief Priestess of the Correll Mother Temple. Don also received training from the blv Lady LaVeda, the blv Lady Gloria, and Lady Bitterwind, Elders of the Correllian Tradition. In addition Don has studied both formally and informally with a variety of teachers from many Traditions.

Islamic Education: Vehicle for Social Cohesion

Dr Siti Musdah Mulia
Imam Afroz Ali
Ikebal Patel
Dr Tariq Ramadan
Fuad Effendi
Dr Ali Reza Araf
 Room 106
 Panel Discussion

This panel will explore the ways in which Islamic education has historically been a vehicle for both enlightenment and social cohesion while addressing the contemporary challenges Muslims face when the Islamic educational process is used as a tool for extremism, violence and gender-based oppression. This illustrious group from France, Australia, Indonesia and Iran will also examine debates on this issue within Muslim majority and Muslim minority societies and highlight lessons learned from successful and less than accomplished models.

Dr Siti Musdah Mulia has been a research professor at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) since 2003. She also lectures at Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta. Since 2007, Dr Mulia has been the chairperson of the Indonesian Conference on Religion for Peace, an NGO actively promoting interfaith dialogues, pluralism and democracy. She is the author of many books and an activist for democracy, human rights and gender issues.

Imam Afroz Ali is the Founder and President of the Sydney-based Al-Ghazzali Centre for Islamic Sciences & Human Development. He has received licences to teach in various Islamic Sciences, having learned from the most esteemed Islamic scholars of our time. He has initiated philanthropic as well as sustainable environmental projects in Australia and abroad and continues to advocate peace, acceptance, justice and interpersonal rights. Ali received the International Ambassador for Peace award.

Ikebal Patel is the President of The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, the peak body articulating the interests of Australian Muslims. The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils manages seven Islamic schools, including one of the largest Australian schools, of which Ikebal is the Board Chairman. Ikebal is the Chair of the Australian Capital Territory Muslim Advisor Council and an Advisory Committee Member to the National Centre for Excellence in Islamic Education. He is a co-chairman of the National Dialogue between Australian Christians, Jews and Muslims.

Tariq Ramadan (www.tariqramadan.com) is Professor of Contemporary Islamic Studies at Oxford University. He is currently Senior Research Fellow at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan. He is active both at the academic and grassroots levels and lectures extensively throughout the world on theology, ethics, social justice, ecology and interfaith as well as intercultural dialogue. Through his writings and lectures, he has contributed substantially to the debate on the issues of Muslims in the West and Islamic revival in the Muslim world. Professor Ramadan is currently president of the European think tank, European Muslim Network (EMN), in Brussels.

Fuad Effendi was born in Menturo, East Java, Indonesia in 1947. He is a lecturer in Arabic Literature at the State University of Malang. In 1996, he was cofounder of the Padang Bulan religious studies class that promotes plurality and social harmony. As an Ustadz, he has travelled all over Indonesia and visited Australia, Brunei and Egypt.

Dr Ali Reza Araf is the President of the Al-Mustafa International University, Qum. He holds a degree in Islamic Jurisprudence (Fiqh and Usul). He has many research projects to his credit in different fields of Islamic sciences and has been teaching in different universities and seminaries for the past several years. Dr Araf has presented numerous papers at different seminars of world repute and is the author of three books in the field of education.

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INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION**Divided We Fall****Valarie Kaur, Writer and Co-Producer**

Room 107

Film

Valarie Kaur, a 20-year-old college student, travelled throughout the United States in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, documenting the reaction against Sikh, Muslim and Arab American communities. In 2005, director Sharat Raju and his crew joined Valarie as she retraced her steps across the country, revisiting her original interviewees and speaking with many others about race and religion in 21st century America.

Christian Action and Witness For the Environment: What You Can Do When You Go Home**Beth Blissman****Philip Wollen****Steve Harms****Margareta Dahlin Johansson**

Room 108

Panel Discussion

This panel presents three approaches to applying the Christian lessons of social justice, stewardship of the environment, and bearing witness on behalf of the oppressed, to environmental issues. Stories include community-based and individual responses to the environment and describe successful approaches for building community to support the earth.

Raised near the Allegheny Mountains in the eastern US, **Beth Blissman** is a scholar and activist who currently directs the Oberlin College Bonner Center for Service & Learning. Beth enjoys creatively linking people of faith with opportunities for eco-social transformation. Her academic background is interdisciplinary; she holds both an undergraduate degree in architectural engineering and a doctorate in religion and social change. Beth's research interests include emerging ethical frameworks that simultaneously address racial and environmental justice.

Philip Wollen is a former Vice President of Citibank and General Manager of Citicorp who left his job at age 40 to dedicated the rest of his life to helping animals, the environment, and poor and impoverished people throughout the world. He is vegan and runs the Winsome Constance Kindness Trust, which supports 400 projects in more than 40 countries. He will represent the Christian Vegetarian Association at the Parliament of the World Religions.

Reverend Steve Harms is the former president of the Interfaith Council for San Francisco Bay Area County. He is the Senior Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Danville, California.

Reverend Margareta Dahlin Johansson, ordained in 1981, is a former chaplain at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm. Her ministry has focused on ethics and women's and children's issues. Reverend Johansson serves as a pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Danville, California.

Interreligious Dialogue in Conflict Resolution Panel**Elwyn Neri****Fr Gerald Musa****Natalie Mobini-Kesheh**

Room 109

Panel Discussion

Too often, misunderstandings result from a lack of communication. Whether it is language barriers, mistranslations, or insufficient contact, the absence of dialogue only furthers discrimination, a lack of empathy, and the potential escalation to violence. On this panel, speakers from a range of traditions and from different parts of the world will discuss active engagement to increase dialogue between faiths, by creating opportunities for communities to interact and providing translation services. They will share their personal experiences as members of distinct communities who seek to further interfaith compassion and understanding.

Elwyn Neri is the Relationship Building Specialist and Davao PAR-Team Organizer for Peacebuilders Community in the Philippines. He is the primary networker in the field and has significant experience in organising and training Peace and Reconciliation Teams.

Fr Gerald M Musa is a Catholic Priest from the Diocese of Sokoto, Nigeria. He comes from a predominantly Muslim family. In his ministry as priest, he has worked in communities where Muslims and Christians live together. He has worked with the Nigeria Inter Religious Council (NIREC), as well as the Muslim-Christian Forum in Nigeria. He is currently pursuing a PhD at the School of Journalism and Communication, University of Queensland, Australia.

Dr Natalie Mobini-Kesheh has been a member of the Australian Baha'i community for almost 20 years. She is an active participant in interfaith dialogue on its behalf and convenes a Women's Interfaith Network group in western Sydney. Dr Mobini-Kesheh received her doctorate from Monash University. Her research focused on the Arab minority in Indonesia. She is the author of one book and several papers in this field.

Global Ethics and Religion Forum: Religion and Post War Reconciliation in a Sustainable and Just World of Human Rights**Joseph Runzo****David Little****Judith A Mayotte****Nathan Tierney****Brian Orend****Gerrie Ter Haar****Shin Chiba****Frank Brennan SJ**

Room 110

Panel Discussion Series of symposia/panel discussions

The human reality of war, its origins and its consequences have long been a matter of concern to the world's religions. Arrayed against deep human aspirations to live in harmony and peace, the persistence of war poses a daunting challenge to justice and sustainable living. One

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response to that challenge has been the centuries-long development of 'just war' thinking that has taken place in the context of a number of humanity's religious traditions. While just war thinking has taken a variety of forms in different religious contexts, it has not yet been fully articulated in terms that explicitly place it within the framework of the larger questions of sustainability. This panel will explore the ways in which the traditions of just war thinking intersect with the question of human and planetary sustainability. The panel will make a strong case for the positive, global contribution of the world's religions to a better world of sustainable peace and justice.

Dr Joseph Runzo is Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors of the Global Ethics and Religion Forum, an educational nonprofit dedicated to global ethical responsibility. He has written and lectured extensively around the world on comparative religion, religious ethics, human rights and the ethics of war and peace. He is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Chapman University, USA, and a Life Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge University, UK.

David Little is Professor of the Practice in Religion, Ethnicity, and International Conflict, Harvard Divinity School, USA.

Judith A Mayotte is a Member of the Board of Directors of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation in Cape Town and Professor of Theology at Marquette University, USA and South Africa.

Nathan Tierney is Professor of Ethics at California Lutheran University, USA.

Brian Orend is the Director of International Studies at the University of Waterloo, Canada.

Gerrie Ter Haar is a Professor of Human Rights in The Hague, Netherlands.

Shin Chiba is a Professor of Political Thought at the Institute for Peace Research, International Christian University, Japan.

Frank Brennan SJ is an Order of Australia (AO) Fellow, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at ANU, and Professor of Law in the Institute of Legal Studies at the Australian Catholic University. He is also the chair of the National Community Consultation on Human Rights in Australia.

Multifaith Insights on Deep Ecology

Vidya Sarveswaran

Kiyokazu Okita

Dr Dorji Wangchuk

Raymond Ogunade

Manjulika Ghosh

Room 111

Panel Discussion

Deep Ecology' is a term coined in the early 1970s by the Norwegian environmental philosopher Arne Naess. Deep Ecology calls for a paradigm shift in our consciousness of the natural world, in which we overcome our human-centred attitudes and look upon nature as an end in itself, independent of human needs. The vision of Deep Ecology has had a far-reaching impact on the environmental movement throughout the world. In this panel, participants will make the connections between the core principles of Deep Ecology and their own traditions and perspectives, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Catholicism, Gestalt Ontology and the Yoruba tradition of West Africa. This program provides an opportunity to reflect on how

the insights of Deep Ecology can help us to heal the earth and ourselves in a time of crisis.

Vidya Sarveswaran is a research scholar from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India. She was a Fulbright Fellow for the year 2008–2009 and specialises in the field of Literature and Environment. Her other interests include deep ecology, creative writing and film studies.

Kiyokazu Okita is a doctoral candidate at the Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford. His doctoral research focuses on Baladeva Vidyabhusana's philosophy and its relation to other Vedantic schools. He holds a BA in Religious Studies from International Christian University (Tokyo) and a Master's degree in the Study of Religion from Oxford.

Dorji Wangchuk was born in 1967 in East Bhutan. After the completion of his ten-year training in the Tibetan monastic seminary of Ngagyur Nyingma Institute at Bylakuppe, Mysore, South India, he studied Buddhism at the University of Hamburg, where he received his MA (2002) and PhD (2005) degrees. Currently he is on the faculty of the Department of Indian and Tibetan Studies, Asia-Africa Institute, University of Hamburg.

Raymond Ogunade holds a PhD from the University of Ilorin specialising in Yoruba Religion, Science and Religious Dialogue. He is a recipient of the Science and Religion Course Program, by the Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, and John Templeton Foundation, USA. He is also a member of various academic bodies including the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace, and an awardee of the Metanexus Institute on Religion and Science.

Dr Manjulika Ghosh is Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal. Her specialisation includes Philosophy of Language, Ethics and Phenomenology. Her papers have been published in professional journals in India and abroad. She has co-edited the anthology on Meaning and Reference under the SA program of her department.

Talkin' 'Bout My Generation – Daily Youth Session

Simran Jeet Singh

Gurvinder Pal Singh

Shakila Wijenayake

Mala Wijenayake

Heba Ibrahim

Manny Waks

Room 201

Panel Discussion

The parents of many of today's youth grew up in a world very different from the one in which we now live. With the progress of society comes change, and with that change comes challenges. Add religion, culture and migration into the mix and the challenges become even more complex. This session will explore the religious and cultural challenges that arise between the generations. Young people and their parents from Buddhist, Muslim, Sikh and Jewish backgrounds will share their experiences, challenges, and successes with respect to navigating cross-generational issues.

Simran Jeet Singh is the executive director of the Sikh Spirit Foundation. He is also a PhD candidate in the Department of Religion at Columbia University with a specialisation in Sikh and Punjab studies. In 2009, he received an MA from the Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures from Columbia University, where he focused on devotional traditions of pre-modern South Asia.

Dr Gurvinder Pal Singh is a board member for the Sikh Research Institute and the Sikh Spirit Foundation. He holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics from Drexel University in the United States.

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He has published over 50 technical papers and reports in this field, has been awarded six US patents for his innovations and in 1986, founded Karta Technologies.

Shakila Wijenayake is a member of the Youth Committee of the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions.

Mala Wijenayake is the founder of the Northern Suburbs Buddhist Temple in Victoria, Australia. She has gained distinction for her outstanding voluntary services to the Sri Lankan and Buddhist community in North West Victoria.

Heba Ibrahim is a board member of the Islamic Council of Victoria where her portfolios include interfaith and government, policy and advocacy as well as many other areas affecting the Muslim community. She also recently became a board member of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils taking on the area of youth where she aims to create a network of Muslim youth activists, representatives and workers nationwide.

Manny Waks is a Jewish community activist with a history of religious immersion. He has served in the Israel Defence Forces and subsequently worked in the Israeli security establishment. In Australia, he has completed a degree in International Relations (La Trobe) and worked with the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney. In 2006, he was appointed as Executive Officer of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission.

Interfaith and the Future of Africa

Ishmael Noko

Lally Lucretia Warren

Prabhudas Pattni

Margaret Lokawua, Uganda: Karimjong

Setri Nyomi

Room 202

Panel Discussion

Historically, Africa has always been a home of multi-religiosity. The past and the present are characterised by this reality, and all those working for a New Africa are better advised to take this fact on board. Many good initiatives intended for a better Africa have not succeeded, partly because the religious communities and institutions were either working in isolation or in competition with each other. A New Africa is not possible until there is coordination and unity of purpose with regard to shared values among religious communities and other stakeholders.

Ishmael Noko has been the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation since 1994. He is responsible for international affairs in contact with governments and political leaders and has worked with refugee services for various churches. He obtained his MA at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Canada and his PhD from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Lally Lucretia Warren is a nurse and midwife and the chairperson of the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i in Botswana. She has led a wide variety of interreligious initiatives and has served as Chairperson of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i in Botswana. She chaired a prominent session at the 2004 Parliament of the World's Religions entitled 'Strategies for Mainstreaming Gender into Peace Building and Inter-Faith Programs'.

Prabhudas Pattni is the General Secretary for the Hindu Council of Africa.

Margaret Lokawua is a member of the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues. She is also the Chairperson for Civil Society for Indigenous Organizations in Karamoja as well as the Director of the Indigenous Women Environmental Conservation Project.

Rev Dr Setri Nyomi is the General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) -- the first non-European to serve in this position. He comes from Ghana, and has studied in the University of Ghana and Trinity Seminary in Ghana as well as Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary in the USA. WARC is the global umbrella body of Presbyterian, Reformed, Congregational, Waldensian and some United and Uniting Churches.

Cambodia in the Aftermath of Genocide: Where Does Faith Come in?

Kim Hourn Kao

Prince Sirivudh

David Chandler

Thomas Bohnett

Room 208

Panel Discussion

Cambodia's society and economy were shattered by prolonged war and a genocide that took the lives of 1.5 million people. Its religious leadership and institutions were special targets. As Cambodia recovers and rebuilds, religion and religious institutions engage in countless ways. The World Faiths Development Dialogue and Asian Faiths Development Dialogue are exploring the many dimensions of faith in contemporary Cambodia. Key areas include Buddhist roles in peace building and forging regional links, reconciliation initiatives, work in health and education, action and advocacy to end abuse and trafficking, and care for the environment. The central question is how faith and faith communities are contributing to the development of a new Cambodia, linking the material needs of its people with their spiritual heritage and the values that make Cambodia unique.

Dr Kao is President of the University of Cambodia and Secretary of State of Cambodia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among other official positions. He holds a PhD in Political Science and heads the Asian Faiths Development Dialogue. His special interest is in regional affairs, and he has attended many national, regional and international meetings. As a scholar and diplomat, he has contributed to both Cambodia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sirivudh is Chairman of the Board at the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, a think tank focused on promoting understanding of national and regional development issues. He is Supreme Privy Counselor to His Majesty the King of Cambodia. Prince Sirivudh has been a firm proponent of political reform in Cambodia, and his extensive career in Cambodian politics includes positions in the Senate and Parliament as well as the positions of Co-Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

David P Chandler is regarded as one of the foremost western scholars of Cambodia's modern history. He has accompanied Amnesty International and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees on Cambodian research and fact-finding missions and has been a researcher in Cambodia archives for the US Department of Defense Office of POW/MIA Affairs. Chandler is a professor emeritus at Monash University.

Thomas Bohnett graduated from Princeton University in 2007, majoring in the Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs. He spent 2007 to 2008 working for the International Rescue Committee in Uganda. He joined the World Faiths Development Dialogue in November 2008 as Program Coordinator.

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Science, Spirituality, and Overcoming Religious Conflict (Session 2)

Philip Clayton
Praveen Chaudhari
F LeRon Shults
Dr Sangeetha Menon
Denis Edwards
Pauline Rudd
Room 210

Seminar

This second major session on science and spirituality focuses on overcoming religious conflict. Shared spiritual practices help build bridges between religious traditions, even traditions that are deeply at odds due to differences of belief. This session explores the ways that partnerships between science and religion can also help us to 'hear each other' across cultural and religious divides. The speakers represent many different religious and spiritual traditions and a variety of scientific fields. Each is an expert on science, religion, and their relationship. Each has spoken around the world on the power of new partnerships between these two great forces of the human spirit. Each talk will include an honest statement of the difficulties of partnerships between science and religion as well as suggestions for how these difficulties might be overcome. The panel will emphasise the implications for the issues of our day, especially the crisis of global climate change. After the opening presentations, the session will assume a workshop format. Questions and comments from the audience on science and spirituality will conclude the program.

Philip Clayton is Inghram Professor at Claremont School of Theology and Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Claremont Graduate University. He specialises in conflicts and connections between the sciences and religion, with particular focus on the biological sciences and the environmental crisis. He is the author or editor of seventeen books and over 100 articles, including the recent 'Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science' and 'In Quest of Freedom: The Emergence of Spirit in the Natural World'.

Dr Praveen Chaudhari received his PhD in physical metallurgy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined IBM in 1996. In addition to carrying out his personal research, he has held various management responsibilities in science and technologies. He retired from IBM in 2003 and became the Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory until 2006, when he returned to science. Dr Chaudhari has published over 160 technical papers and holds over three dozen patents.

F LeRon Shults is professor of theology and philosophy at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway. A leading authority on science and theology, he has published some ten books and dozens of articles in the field. Shults is the editor of the Brill book series 'Philosophical Studies in Science and Religion' and scientific director of the Transforming Compassion project at Stiftelsen Arkivet, a peace-building institute in Norway. His other current research interests include ethics, desire, differentiation and religious symbolism.

Dr Sangeetha Menon earned her doctorate degree in philosophy from University of Kerala. She is a Professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. Her core research interests are Indian ways of thinking in classical philosophical schools, Indian psychology and Indian dramaturgy and current discussions on consciousness.

Denis Edwards is professor of theology at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. An ecological theologian, he has published widely

on the interactions among ecology, environmental science, and religion. Among his best-known books are 'Breath of Life: A Theology of the Creator Spirit', 'The God of Evolution: A Trinitarian Theology', and 'Jesus and the Cosmos'. He will soon publish 'The Holy Spirit and Ecological Theology'.

Prof Pauline Rudd, BSc, LRIC, MA (Oxon), PhD, one of the world's leading molecular biologists, is head of the Dublin-Oxford Glycobiology Lab in Dublin, Ireland. She is Honorary Professor at St George's Hospital, London; is affiliated with the SAB Rega Institute for Medical Research, University of Leuven; and is Founding Scientist at Wessex Biochemicals (Sigma London). Rudd is a lay member of the Community of St Mary the Virgin in Oxfordshire and an internationally sought-after speaker on the world's mystical traditions.

The Art of Creative Expression: Youth Workshop

Zain Bhikha
Room 211

Words can change hearts, and changing hearts can change the world. In this workshop, Zain Bhikha will teach youth about the practical and emotional challenges involved with thinking and writing well. Zain will use guided poetry exercises, life experiences, drama, art, visual and audio guides and instructive examples in order to invite inspiration. The main focus of the workshop will be on self-expression, building confidence, and learning the importance of taking responsibility to help others who are less fortunate. The workshop is geared toward teens and young adults.

Born in Pretoria, South Africa, **Zain Bhikha** is a singer-songwriter who has achieved fame as a performer of Nasheed songs. Bhikha has collaborated on albums with other artists, released several solo albums and performed around the world. He is a pioneer in the Nasheed genre and, as one of the first Islamic singers in the English language, he has opened the door for many other Muslim artists.

Interfaith Dialogue and Education for a Culture of Peace: A Workshop for Empowerment and Transformation

Swee-Hin Toh
Room 212
Interactive Workshop

Social and political injustices abound throughout the world, but so do the opportunities for different faith traditions to come together to promote a culture of peace. This creative, hands-on workshop will discuss the importance of personal spiritual transformation and commitment to social action in the interfaith community. Participants will be challenged to develop a deeper sense of compassion for marginalised peoples and their daily struggles to create a better world for themselves. This program will draw insight from the field of peace education in order to empower interfaith leaders to more wholly embrace the principles of compassion, love, justice, kindness, reconciliation, respect and sustainability. Workshop participants will explore how diverse faiths and spirituality traditions can fulfill their ethical responsibility to build a culture

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of peace at the local, national and international levels. Examples of major issues facing humanity and the earth including violence, local/global injustices, human rights violations, intercultural conflicts, environmental destruction and inner peacelessness will be touched upon during the interactive portion of the workshop.

Toh Swee-Hin (S H Toh) is Professor and Director, Griffith University Multi-Faith Centre in Australia, which seeks to promote interfaith dialogue for a culture of peace. He is active in peace education and interfaith dialogue movements including a Parliament of the World's Religions, Religions for Peace, and the Asia-Pacific Interfaith Meetings for peace and cooperation, as a member of the Australian delegation. Swee-Hin was awarded the UNESCO prize for Peace Education in 2009.

Selections from the New Film 'Journey of the Universe'

Mary Evelyn Tucker, Executive Producer

John Grim

Room 213

Film and Discussion

The current environmental crisis has its roots in humanity's divisions and lack of planetary consciousness. This new film reconnects us with our shared roots by providing the longest possible view of our common heritage. Beginning with the Big Bang, through the formation of stars, galaxies and planets, and the emergence of life on Planet Earth, this film provides a scientific context for the critical nature of the present moment in human history. The film was directed by David Kennard.

Mary Evelyn Tucker is a Senior Lecturer and Senior Scholar at Yale University, where she has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Divinity School, and the Department of Religious Studies. Specialising in Asian religions and ecology, she has been a committee member of the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment at the United Nations Environment Program since 1986 and is a member of the Earth Charter International Council.

John Grim is currently a Senior Lecturer and Scholar at Yale University. He is Coordinator of the Forum on Religion and Ecology with Mary Evelyn Tucker, and series editor of *World Religions and Ecology*, from Harvard Divinity School's Center for the Study of World Religions. He has taught at Bucknell University and Sarah Lawrence College and is widely published on the subjects of religion and ecology.

Outreach to Indigenous Aetas in the Philippines

Ruel Cazar

Monsignor Marcos Orbito

Danilo Robles Valerio

Room 214

Seminar

Since 1980, the Interfaith Spiritual Church has led a successful outreach program in the Philippines, which is home to approximately 2,000 religions. Rev Cazar of the Interfaith Spiritual Church will lead a discussion with slide presentation depicting his church's work with the Indigenous people of the Philippines, the Aetas. The

Interfaith Spiritual Church has had a particularly successful relationship with the Aetas, devoting resources to build schools and provide much-needed poverty relief. Danilo Robles Valerio, a leader of the Aetas will join Rev Cazar to talk about his community, belief systems, and relationship with the Interfaith Spiritual Church. By hearing and responding to the needs and wisdom of the Aetas, a community that is closely tied to the land, the church honours the land and the earth itself. Honouring and supporting those who still move with the rhythms of the earth provides healing for the earth and all peoples. There will be a question and answer period at the conclusion of the discussion, as well as a brief demonstration of magnetic aura healing using a blessing of hot oil.

Danilo Robles Valerio, representative of the ancestral domain claims of the Aetas, was born on April 5, 1957 in Mariveles, Bataan Philippines. He became Vice President of the Provincial Association of Aetas in Bataan (Panalalawigang Asosasyon ng mga Aetas sa Pilipinas PASAMAB). He was chosen as tribal advisor of the Aetas in Mariveles, Bataan and is a very active member in this non-governmental organisation. He practises one of the traditional spiritual practices of the Aetas called 'Kagun'.

Rev Ruel Cazar was born into a long lineage of Filipino healers. Recognising his natural abilities and enthusiasm at an early age, his grandparents and elders of the church began teaching him healing techniques. He began his formal theology training in 1986 at the Interfaith Spiritual Church, where he studied with Monsignor Marcos L Orbito, a noted faith healer in the Philippines.

Monsignor Marcos L Orbito was born in Balungao, Pangasinan, Philippines in 1925. He served in World War II and witnessed the carnage of war. In 1955 he attended the congregation of the spiritualists where his parents were involved in a healing ministry. He later became a preacher under the banner of the Spiritual Church. Since that time he has been committed to supporting interfaith efforts throughout the Philippines.

Ending Legalised Violence Against Children – A Religious Imperative

Christine Dodd

Rev. Cecilia Wikström

Mali Nilsson

Room 215

Interactive Workshop

Violence blights the lives of children and has serious, long-term effects. Children who experience violence often become violent in their own relationships and as adults. As religious communities we cannot promote peace and justice unless we address the problem of violence against children, including corporal punishment. Corporal punishment violates the physical, emotional, and spiritual integrity of the child. It breaches fundamental rights to respect and human dignity, and its legality breaches children's right to equal protection under the law. There is growing faith-based support for halting violent relationships with children. This workshop will discuss the religious imperative to end all corporal punishment of children. It will address the role of religious leaders and communities as advocates for children. Participants will receive resources including information on nonviolent discipline, law reform, and a pack for taking action at community, regional and national levels. It will include an

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overview and update on the global situation, including the results of the United Nations Secretary General's Global Study on Violence Against Children and the report recommendations for 2009. Discussion will include examples of action taken by religious leaders and communities to end this violence.

Christine Dodd is a coordinator of the Churches' Network for Non-Violence and Inter-Faith Liaison, a charity which works in partnership with others to end all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment. Christine also has a background in public health and community development and has been involved in projects designed to prevent violence against women and children.

Rev Cecilia Wikström has been a member of the European Parliament since 2009 and part of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE). She currently sits in the Committee of Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. Cecilia Wikström gained her Master's of theology at Uppsala University in 1993 and has published several books. She is Parish Pastor, Student Pastor, Pastor for Prisoners and Cathedral Canon of Uppsala Cathedral in the Church of Sweden.

Ms Mali Nilsson is the Global Advocacy & Technical Advisor on Child Protection with Save the Children Sweden based in Stockholm. She is also the International Save the Children Alliance Global Focal Point on all forms of corporal punishment. She is responsible for supporting operational programs worldwide: developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating strategies for ending violence against children via legislative change, with a specific focus on all forms of corporal punishment.

Youth Spirituality: Join the Evolution! Youth, Spiritual Development and Activism

Nina Meyerhof

Yuka Saionji

Jimmy Lama

Karoline Venator Buys

Amorntip Cherry Henderson

Vaibhav Parulkar

Ping Ping Worakate Thangsurbkul

Colin Lee

Room 216

Interactive Workshop

The World Spirit Youth Council is an international youth movement that brings youth, spirituality and activism together. This project is sponsored by Children of the Earth, an 18-year-old, nonprofit organisation recognised as a UN-NGO. Children of the Earth teaches youth from around the world to become conscious leaders in order to bring about a peaceful global society. The youth on this panel are from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions, yet are unified under the Principles and Code of Ethics of Children of the Earth. The youth participants will share stories about their traditional backgrounds, as well as offer suggestions for encouraging unity and examples of how they have put their values into practice. They will demonstrate and involve audience participants in some of the processes that they use to engage other youth. In addition, they will identify local and international projects that further the spiritual youth movement for living ethics. Dr Nina Meyerhof, President of Children of the Earth will

facilitate this program.

Nina Meyerhof is Founder and President of Children of the Earth. Yuka Saionji is a deputy chairperson of a religious organisation Byakko

Yuka Saionji is a deputy chairperson of a religious organisation Byakko Shinko Kai, which is dedicated to world peace and raising the consciousness of humanity. Byakko believes in the divinity of all humanity and hosts interfaith events such as Symphony of Peace Prayers, where a diverse group of religious leaders lead more than 10,000 participants in harmonious prayer. She is also a member of the World Spirit Youth Council.

Shinko Kai, which is dedicated to world peace and raising the consciousness of humanity. Byakko believes in the divinity of all humanity and hosts interfaith events such as Symphony of Peace Prayers, where a diverse group of religious leaders lead more than 10,000 participants in harmonious prayer. She is also a member of the World Spirit Youth Council.

Jimmy Lama is an advisor to Youth Society for Peace. Born to a Buddhist family in Nepal, he is a member of World Spirit Youth Council, and coordinates the Nepalese chapter of the UN-NGO Children of the Earth. He works with over 700 children across 10 different local community-run schools, promoting peace and values-based education.

Originally from Colombia, **Karoline Venator Buys** now lives in Munich, Germany with her South African husband. She has a passion for languages and speaks Spanish, English, German and some Japanese. She is a translator for the Academy for Future Science in various parts of the world. Ms Buys is currently working as Chapter Coordinator for Children of the Earth and is a member of World Spirit Youth Council.

Amorntip Cherry Henderson was born in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to a Thai mother and Australian father. She attended Chiang Mai primary school for four years before moving to Australia in 2000. Ever since her mother introduced her to the Dhammakaya temple, she has been practicing her religion. She is enthusiastic about promoting the practice of meditation to achieve inner peace.

An engineer by training, **Vaibhav Parulkar** later chose a spiritual path that was influenced by dreams, paranormal phenomena, intuitive messages, and out-of-body experiences as a child. Vaibhav Parulkar's mission in life is to serve humanity, spread spiritual awareness, raise consciousness and promote world peace.

Ping Ping Worakate Thangsurbkul is a Project Coordinator of Peace Revolution initiated by World Peace Initiative Foundation and supported by Dhammakaya Foundation. This program encourages young adults aged 18 to 30 years old to participate in an online, self-development program. Presently, there are about 700 participants from 115 countries joining the program under the concept of 'World Peace through Inner Peace'. She has been a member of the World Spirit Youth Council since its inception.

Colin Lee is the founder of Shift International from Australia and is one of the founding members of the World Spirit Youth Council. Born to a Catholic Christian family migrated from Malaysia, Colin engages deeply with other religious groups and promotes interfaith dialogue and the art of spirituality. Colin trains and empowers the next generation of youth in his locality and does the same as he travels around the world with Children of the Earth.

Building Peace in the Pursuit of Justice: A Baha'i Approach

Wendi Momen

Dr Moojan Momen

Room 217

Panel Discussion

Is it possible to build peace without establishing justice? Is it possible to establish justice without securing peace? How do we achieve both? How can we structure society to create social cohesion in the pursuit of peace? The teachings of the Baha'i faith provide insights into the attitudes, values, practices and structures that are needed at every level of society, from the individual to the global, to establish peace, social cohesion and justice.

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11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

Wendi Momen holds a BSc in Economics and a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics. She is a freelance book editor. She was a member of the national governing council of the Baha'is of the UK from 1982 to 2005. She is Chair of Bedford Council of Faiths, Trustee of the Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby, secretary of the UK National Committee for UNIFEM and the author of twelve books.

Dr Moojan Momen was born in Iran but raised and educated in England, attending the University of Cambridge. He has a special interest in the study of the Baha'i faith and Shi'i Islam. His principal publications include: 'Introduction to Shi'i Islam' (Yale University Press, 1985) and 'The Phenomenon of Religion' (OneWorld, Oxford, 1999, republished as 'Understanding Religion', 2008). He has contributed articles to encyclopaedias and academic journals.

Voices of Challenge and Wisdom: Gay and Lesbian Perspectives on Faith, Spirituality and Embodied Grace

Michael Kelly
Chaplain Pamela Yetunde
Donald Chalmers
Rev Rowland Macaulay
Madelaine Imber
Ben Colburn
Room 218
Panel Discussion

Throughout the history of religion, no group has been more excluded, silenced, condemned and demonised than gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. In order to heal the world's spiritual rifts, we must embrace the unique perspectives on spirituality offered by this community. This panel discussion will explore the spiritual insights, questions and wisdom of gay, lesbian and queer people both in relation to mainstream religious traditions and in the shaping of their own spiritualities. Speakers from a variety of faith traditions will share the experience of coming out as gay in the face of widespread religious condemnation. They will also reflect on new ways to embrace the sacredness of the body and sexuality and the prophetic challenges they offer to institutional religion. The session will include discussion of the situation facing gay and transgender minorities in Africa, with a special focus on Nigeria.

Michael Bernard Kelly is an educator, retreat leader, activist and spiritual writer who has worked in Australia, the USA and the UK. He is the author of the book 'Seduced by Grace: Contemporary Spirituality, Gay Experience and Christian Faith' and creator of the video series 'The Erotic Contemplative'. He holds professional qualifications in theology, spirituality, education and creative media and is a doctoral candidate at Monash University.

Chaplain Pamela Yetunde is a member of Insight Atlanta and is a hospice and hospital chaplain in the United States.

Donald Chalmers is a campaigner for equal rights within religion in Australia.

Rev Rowland Macaulay is a campaigner for equal rights within religion.

Madelaine Imber is a youth and sexuality educator in Melbourne, Australia.

Ben Colburn is a queer student, activist, poet and spiritual researcher in Providence, RI, USA.

Colonisation: Indigenous Peoples Striving for Self-Determination

Linda Hogan, USA: Chickasaw, Moderator
Marcos Terena, Brazil: Terena
**Mandaza Augustine Kademwa, Zimbabwe: Shona/
Ndebele**
Room 219
Panel Discussion

The devastation wrought by Western colonisation continues to run deep in the lives of many Indigenous peoples worldwide. The recovery and self-determination efforts undertaken by Indigenous communities takes many forms, from the simple power of the spoken and written word to inspire a nationalist sense of pride, to formal legislative processes. The panellists in this session will speak to some of the most pressing issues facing their respective Indigenous communities.

Linda Hogan is a member of the Chickasaw Nation. She is the author of four novels, as well as a poet, environmental writer, and longtime participant in Native Science Dialogues. She works for the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma as Writer in Residence, and is Professor Emerita at the University of Colorado. Ms Hogan has produced documentaries on Native Religion and has studied ceremonial literature. Her main interest is in the connection between the natural world and spirituality.

Marcos Terena is a professor of Traditional and Spiritual Knowledge of the Indigenous People and Coordinator of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity. He founded the United Indigenous Nations, the first Indigenous movement in Brazil and he was a leader in gaining recognition for Indigenous rights in the Brazilian Constitution. He is a spokesman for Indigenous rights for the UN and President of the Intertribal Committee and VIATAN, an Indigenous information centre.

Mandaza Augustine Kademwa was born a Svikiro (in Shona, his native tongue)—a carrier of many earth and water spirits, and a Mhondoro—one who is in constant prayer on behalf of others. As a vessel of the Spirits, Mandaza receives visions and dreams, makes offerings, performs healing rituals, and serves as messenger for the Ancient Ones. Mandaza teaches us to become 'living prayers' in service of the One Spirit.

Landscape of Faith: Sharing Wisdom for a New Vision of Community – Part II: Living in Community in the Shadow of Injustice

Ibrahim Abdil-Mu'id Ramey
Room 220
Seminar

This one-day, interfaith educational seminar seeks to provide a context for community building by addressing the challenges of prejudice, injustice and alienation from the earth, while weaving the theme of the possibility of transformation through the arts throughout the day. Participants are asked to attend all four sessions. The arts have the potential to bring diverse peoples into new understandings, cooperative peacemaking and shared revisioning of relationships. The key to the power of the arts is their capacity to evoke memory and enact or make visible the sacred. When people make art together it is

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a manifestation of their highest selves and as such is a transformational experience. During the Open Space time, a presentation on this theme will be followed by an Aboriginal dance that re-enacts a time of reconciliation. Also during the Open Space, participants will receive a small paper disc upon which they may inscribe a message. These discs will be collected from as many Parliament participants as possible and be used in the creation of a work by Aboriginal and guest artists. This work will convey a vision of the sacred landscape created by participants from around the world as they interact with one another at the Parliament.

Ibrahim Abdil-Mu'id Ramey is a member of the Board of Directors of the Temple of Understanding and the Director of the Human and Civil Rights Division of the Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation. He is actively involved in numerous media, interfaith, and social justice projects at the national and international level.

LUNCHTIME PROGRAMMING

1:00–2:30pm

Global Ethics and Religion Forum – The Role of Religion in Post War Treaties, Constitutions and International Law

Hans Corell
Philip Towle
Masaki Ina
Temario River
Helen James
Frank G. Madsen
Gerhard Beestermuler
Gregor Noll
Room 110
Symposium

This is Panel #2 in the 'War and the Role of Religion in a Just and Sustainable World' Symposium.

Hans Corell is the former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and the Legal Counsel of the United Nations, as well as the Chairman of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Lund University, Sweden.

Philip Towle is a Lecturer in International Studies, Cambridge University, England.

Masaki Ina is Director at the Center for Rotary Peace Fellows, International Christian University, Japan.

Temario River is Associate Director at the Center for Rotary Peace Fellows, Japan.

Helen James is Adjunct Associate Professor at the Social Research Institute, Australian National University, Australia.

Frank Madsen is the former Head of Criminal Investigation, Interpol, a Queens' College Fellow, and a member of the Program in Religion and Ethics in War and Peace-Making at St. Edmund's College, Cambridge University, England.

Gerhard Beestermuler is Associate Director at the Institute for Theology and Peace, Germany.

Gregor Noll is Chair in International Law and Refugees at the University of Lund, Sweden.

ENGAGEMENT 2:30–4:00pm

International Partner Cities and 2009 Ambassadors Reception

Zabrina Santiago
Alisa Roadcup
Room 101
Networking Event

This special networking reception will honour Legacy Partner Cities, 2009 Parliament Ambassadors and Pre-Parliament Event hosts from over 70 cities around the world. This unique event provides an opportunity for the Council to recognize those who have made unique contributions in support of the 2009 Parliament, and to set in motion the expansion of Partner Cities Network over the course of the next five years. .

Zabrina Santiago is Deputy Executive Director and Partner Cities Director for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. She oversees involvement of local interreligious movements in cities around the world in preparation for Parliament events. Previously, she worked for over 15 years in major investment firms and financial entities. She has a Master's degree in theological studies from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and has been active in many social justice issues.

Alisa Roadcup is Outreach Director and Development Associate for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. She brings seven years of non-profit experience in strategic communications, programming and development to the Council. Alisa holds a BA in Humanities, an MA in Religious Studies and wrote her thesis on Thomas Merton's Theology of the Self as Influenced by Christian Mysticism and Zen Buddhism. She went on to study contemplative Social Action at Naropa University.

Rivers of the Heart: Indigenous Knowledge and Literature

Linda Hogan, USA: Chickasaw
Room 102
Literary Reading & Seminar

In recognising the humanity of the other, we enlarge our community to the world around us. Ceremony and dance gatherings serve this purpose, but words also have the power to create change. Linda Hogan, an award-winning Indigenous poet, storyteller, academic, playwright, novelist, environmentalist and writer of short stories, will perform a reading from her work and lead a conversation and Q&A, making connections among science, astronomy and ceremonial literatures. Hogan works for the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma as Writer in Residence, reading and speaking internationally at environmental and literary gatherings and conferences. She focuses on Indigenous knowledge systems, ceremonial literatures, and how these contain knowledge of ecosystems in their regions.

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Linda Hogan, Chickasaw, is the author of four novels: 'Mean Spirit' (Pulitzer finalist), 'Solar Storms' and 'Power' (both International Impact Finalists and award winners), and 'People of the Whale', read internationally. She has participated for fifteen years in Native Science Dialogues (Indigenous Knowledge systems and environment). She is Professor Emerita of the University of Colorado and has done documentaries on Native Religion. She has studied ceremonial literature, and her main interest is in the connection between the natural world and spirituality.

Reconciliation with Land – Reconnecting Spirituality, Ecology and Human Creativity, and Reverence for Earth

Catherine van Wilgenburg

Dr Colin Hocking

Helen Rzesniowiecki

Robert Jackson

Mary Tinney

Mary Long

Room 103

Interactive Workshop

This program includes two parts, namely: Reconciliation with Land—reconnecting spirituality, ecology and human creativity, and Reverence for Earth. The first part of the program will provide an opportunity for participants to share their experiences of the connection between spirituality and the environment and what it means to take local action to protect biodiversity. They will also compare their conceptions of traditional and contemporary faith perspectives on human and spiritual relationships to land. The second part involves activities and a presentation about how reconciliation with the land means experiencing the reconnection of human creativity with spirituality and the environment. The presenter explores spirituality that envisions the Sacred as intimately embodied in the earth and the cosmos, which brings into force powerful emotions of reverence for all life and commitment to justice for the earth. A deep bonding with nature, and recognition that humankind is only one element in the interdependent web of life, underpins this spirituality.

Catherine van Wilgenburg is a practising visual artist grounded in her local community at Iramoo Sustainable Community Centre at St Albans, Victoria, Australia. She is working to develop arts programs that emerge from a reconnection with the land at Iramoo and within a community of multi-disciplined Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, environmentalists and local multifaith communities living in the western region of Melbourne.

Dr Colin Hocking, Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Health, Engineering and Science, Victoria University, has made an outstanding contribution to the university through his critical role in establishing the Iramoo Sustainable Community Centre and Wildlife Park, St Albans; his research on threatened species; and his efforts to negotiate with local community groups and agencies to establish wildlife open spaces. His engagement with the community on behalf of the university includes a range of community education programs.

Helen Rzesniowiecki is Community Engagement Officer at Iramoo Sustainable Community Centre, Iramoo.

Robert Jackson is a composer, performer, improviser, painter, street performer, saxophonist and guitarist. In 2006, he was Artist-in-Residence at The Hunt Club Community Arts Centre for Brimbank City Council. Since 2000, he has played the part of Weasel in the Australian Shakespeare Company's production of 'Wind in the Willows'. In 2005, he toured Northern Australia with the ASC production 'Much Ado About Nothing'.

Mary Tinney is the coordinator of Earth Link, a community environment centre at Ocean View, about an hour north-west of Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Mary Long is a member of the Earth Link Core group and a co-presenter in its programs which facilitate deep bonding with Earth. She believes that this bonding is vital if we are to have a world where there is 'respect, reverence and care for earth'. She brings her experience as an educator and as a searcher for the sacred in earth.

Innovative Approaches to Multicultural and Interfaith Education in Schools

Walter Rapoport

Simon Oats

Richard Mallaby

Room 104

Interactive Workshop

This workshop will explore different approaches to multicultural and interfaith education in schools through a presentation of innovative pedagogies. These educational approaches will focus on encouraging respect for the 'other' through a process of storytelling and respectful listening and the use of gardens and nature in children's education.

Walter Rapoport is the Chairman of the Council of Christians & Jews in Victoria, Australia. He is on the editorial committees of two interfaith journals, Geshar and Dialogue Asia Pacific.

Simon Oats is a qualified teacher, gifted storyteller, songwriter and actor.

Richard Mallaby directs a program on 'Children and Gardening', at Church of Christ in Victoria, Australia. Richard is a Church of Christ minister working in a Baptist church in Victoria. He has a degree in Agricultural Science, postgraduate degree in Divinity, Master's degree in Environmental Science and is currently working toward the Doctor of Ministry Studies at the Melbourne College of Divinity. Richard has worked in Community development in Indonesia for seven years.

Vegetarianism – Ethics, Environmental Concerns, and Complex Realities

Rabbi David Rosen

Naresh Jain

Room 105

Panel Discussion

Vegetarianism is widely understood to be an environmentally appropriate and humane way of eating, but it is not necessarily widely embraced. Some religious traditions advocate vegetarianism as part of the teaching and practice of non-violence, and for many this lifestyle has deeply religious aspects. This session will present some of the moral religious, scientific and environmental aspects of this diet, and the implications of this choice for the community, including the larger Earth community.

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Rabbi David Rosen is Director of the American Jewish Committee's Department for Interreligious Affairs and the Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding. He serves on several international interreligious organisations. Formerly Chief Rabbi of Ireland, he is the immediate past Chair of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, a broad-based coalition of Jewish organisations representing world Jewry to other religions.

Naresh Jain represents the Jain community at the national and international levels. He actively works with the religious and spiritual communities in New York and New Jersey to organize interreligious programs. He served as an advisor to the 2004 Barcelona Parliament Program Task Force, 2006 Montreal Global Congress of World's Religions, and 2009 New Delhi Global Congress of World's Religions, and as a member of the 2009 Parliament Site Selection Task Force.

Sacred Sites, Sacred Solidarity: Stories from the Frontlines

Sharon Rosen

Additional Speakers to be Announced

Room 106

Some of the most perilous and inspiring accounts on the 'frontlines' of the interreligious movement involve facing the threats to sacred sites of the world's religious and spiritual communities. When ethnic, cultural or religious tensions flare, places of worship and practise are often the first targets for anger and violence. Such attacks can fan flames of rage within and among spiritual communities. But when religious neighbours and others from abroad stand in solidarity with the aggrieved community, cycles of hatred and destruction can be reversed, and the fires may be stopped before they spread beyond control. This session of the 'Sacred Sites, Sacred Solidarity' Symposium will feature the real life encounters that involve sacred sites around the world, the efforts to protect them and the ways in which diverse communities have come together in solidarity.

The Last Yoik in Saami Forests?

Room 107

Film

Over the last half-century, population growth and logging damage have taken their toll on the forests of Finnish Lapland. These forests are essential to the Indigenous Saami people's reindeer herding and traditional ways of life. This film discusses alternatives to logging as well as more efficient uses for Lappish timber, but the issue of Indigenous land rights is at the root of this story of economic pressure and cultural survival. The film was directed by Hannu Hyvonen.

Religious Freedom and Interreligious Dialogue: IARF and Its Work in India

Dr Homi Dhalla

Dr Thomas Mathew

Dr John Taylor

Jathedar Singh Sahib Giani Gurbachan Singh

Rev Johanna Boeke

Rev Richard Boeke

Orlanda Brugnola

Room 108

Panel Discussion

The International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF), founded in 1900 and with chapters in North America, Britain and Europe, now works mostly in Asia. Every four years, it holds an international congress, which in 2010 will be held in Cochin, India. This session will highlight the work of IARF in southern India in fostering friendship and community between Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Jains and Christians.

Thomas Mathew is Council President of IARF.

Dr John Taylor is a representative of the International Association for Religious Freedom in Geneva and Vice-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Coalition. He holds a PhD from McGill University and for many years worked for the World Council of Churches.

Jathedar Singh Sahib Giani Gurbachan Singh, aged 60, is the current religious head of Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib, the supreme religious authority of the Sikhs, based in Amritsar, Punjab, India. He was appointed as Jathedar on 6 August 2008, after serving 37 years as a Sikh religious preacher. His last appointment was as Head Granthi of Sri Harmandir Sahib, also known as the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Rev Johanna Boeke is a former International Association for Religious Freedom representative to the UN, Geneva.

The Rev Dr Richard Boeke was founding President of the US Chapter of the International Association for Religious Freedom and is a Vice President of the World Congress of Faiths. He is the author of 'God is No-Thing.' His latest essay is 'Evolve or Explode? A Lesson From Darwin For Our Time.'

The Gülen Movement's Global Peace and Social Reconciliation Vision and Projects: Lessons Learned from Germany, the US and Medina

Ercan Karakoyun

Ibrahim Sayar

Ali Riza Candir

Room 109

Panel Discussion

The life and works of distinguished Turkish-Muslim scholar, Fethullah Gülen, are best described by his deep respect for and connection to all creation. 'Living to let others live' is the core principle of his understanding of the service to humanity. In this program, we will hear from three social activists inspired by Gülen, and through their voices we will gain insight into the Gülen Movement's global peace and social reconciliation vision and projects. We will see this first in a presentation about the Gülen Movement's

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social responsibility and solidarity vision and projects in the US; second, in a presentation about the contribution of the Gülen Movement for the integration of Muslims in Western societies with emphasis on the Gülen Movement in Germany; and third, in a presentation about the model society the Prophet Muhammad established in Medina based on universally-recognized moral principles represented at the core of the Gülen Movement works today.

Ercan Karakoyun was born in 1980 in Schwerte (Germany) and studied spatial planning at the University of Dortmund with a focus on urban sociology. Since 2007, he has been working on his PhD on 'Transnationality among Turkish entrepreneurs in Germany' at the Goethe University of Frankfurt/Main. He is a correspondent for the magazine *Zukunft* and has numerous published writings. His research interests include regional and urban research, residential sociology, integration issues, migration and other subjects.

Ibrahim Sayar was born and received his education in Turkey. After graduating with a Theology degree from Harran University, Turkey, he traveled to the USA to receive his MA in Psychology at Concordia University, Chicago. In 2003 he started working for TACA as the religious leader of the Turkish community in Chicago. Since 2005 he has been working for the Boston Dialogue Foundation as an Imam and Director. Mr Sayar has been active in interfaith dialogue since 1999.

Mr Ali Riza Candir has a BS degree in Electronics Engineering in Turkey and has been working with the Rain Drop Foundation as Executive Director since 2007. He is also President of the Gülen Institute, a non-profit organization that promotes academic research in global peace, social harmony and social justice. He has actively organized intercultural and interfaith dialogue activities in cities such as Houston, Mexico City and Washington, DC.

Interreligious Regional Concerns: Africa

Ishmael Noko, Moderator

Lally Lucretia Warren

Prabhudas Pattni

Setri Nyomi

Room 110

How does spirituality—and the interreligious movement in particular—express itself through the prism of geography? In this series of regional conversations, panellists hailing from varying religious traditions but similar areas of the globe engage and investigate. Topics include how water-related issues are reshaping and reconfiguring Africa and the uses of African rituals related to the healing of memories.

Rev Dr Ishmael Noko has been the General Secretary of the Lutheran World Federation since 1994. He is responsible for international affairs in contact with governments and political leaders and has worked with refugee services for various churches. He obtained his MA at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon, Canada and his PhD from McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Lally Lucretia Warren is a nurse and midwife and the chairperson of the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í in Botswana. She has led a wide variety of interreligious initiatives and has served as Chairperson of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'í in Botswana. She chaired a prominent session at the 2004 Parliament of the World's Religions entitled 'Strategies for Mainstreaming Gender into Peace Building and Inter-Faith Programs'.

Prabhudas Pattni is the General Secretary for the Hindu Council of Africa.

Rev Dr Setri Nyomi is the General Secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC)—the first non-European to serve in this position. He comes from Ghana, and has studied in the University of Ghana and Trinity Seminary in Ghana as well as Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary in the USA. WARC is the global umbrella body of Presbyterian, Reformed, Congregational, Waldensian and some United and Uniting Churches.

Indigenous Perspective on Education: Building Academic Skills with a Strong Cultural Grounding

Darlene St Clair, USA: Dakota, Moderator

Margaret Lokawua, Uganda: Karimjong

Constantino Pinto, East Timor: Timorese

Room 111

Panel Discussion

It is widely acknowledged that most Indigenous peoples have suffered the impact of colonisation. Today, many Indigenous people continue to struggle to access an education that is respectful and supportive of their rights. Indigenous peoples also wish to learn and to speak the language of their people and to maintain their cultural and spiritual identities while also enjoying the benefits of education. Panellists in this session will discuss these themes within the broader framework of self-determination.

Iyekiyapiwin (Darlene St Clair) is an assistant professor of American Indian Studies at St Cloud State University, where she is also the director of the Multicultural Resource Center. Her work examines the integration of Native cultures' histories and languages into curricula, the arts, cultural expressions and education of Native peoples. She is Bdewakantunwan Dakota and a member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota, USA.

Margaret Lokawua is a member of the United Nations Forum on Indigenous Issues. She is also the Chairperson for Civil Society for Indigenous Organizations in Karamoja, as well as the Director of the Indigenous Women Environmental Conservation Project.

Constantino Pinto is co-founder and current director of Fundacao Lafaek Diak (FLD: The Good Crocodile Foundation), an Indigenous Timorese non-profit, non-government community development organisation. He and his family lived through the Indonesian military invasion and occupation of East Timor.

Le Carnaval Spirituel

Indradyumna Swami

Room 201

Artistic Performance

Le Carnaval Spirituel is a joyful, colourful tapestry of theatre, dance, music, song, yoga, martial arts and meditation, bringing forth the timeless spiritual wisdom of ancient India's Vedic culture. Le Carnaval performs 'Bharat Natyam,' an ancient form of divine dance from South India, in its traditional style and in a contemporary East-meets-West fusion dance. 'Katak,' a dance native to North India, is divinely graceful, each movement imbued with deep spiritual significance designed to elevate our consciousnesses and put us in touch with our inner selves. Classically trained ballerinas from Russia add a

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magical touch. Le Carnaval also enacts an ancient tale of Divine romance, intrigue, love and war from a time when pious kings ruled the earth and their evil counterparts fought them with mystic powers and supernatural weapons. In 'The dance of the warrior', the audience travels back through centuries to a time when warriors developed martial arts to protect lands from marauding invaders. Though lethal, these martial arts were amazingly artistic and graceful in their style. 'Yoga Moves' showcases beautiful, stylised yogic movements set to a musical score. In 'The Art of Happiness', the audience is guided through a deeply relaxing, illuminating group meditation, putting us in touch with our spirituality.

Indradyumna Swami is a disciple of A C Bhaktivedanta Prabhupada, founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. He is a sannyasi or celibate monk, travelling preacher, and guru, or spiritual teacher, in the Chaitanya Vaisnava tradition. Each year, he circles the globe, teaching the message of the Bhagavad Gita and introducing thousands to kirtan and chanting. He and his group of spiritual entertainers present concerts. He also assists in various welfare campaigns globally, such as Hare Krishna Food For Life.

The Responsibility of the Mainstream for Reconciliation (Part 1)

Panel to be Determined

Room 202

While the words of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd of 'Sorry Day' on June 11, 2007 moved Australia a step further on its journey of meaningful co-existence, the troubled legacy of the past it addressed still holds a powerful grip on Australian society. 'Reconciliation' is often the term used to point to efforts to come to terms with the shared history of Aboriginal peoples with the once-immigrant and now majority populations which now make up mainstream Australian society. It is also the term used to describe the efforts to redress the debilitating conditions hindering Aboriginal communities. What is the ethical responsibility and potentially unique role of mainstream religious communities in Australia in furthering a process of reconciliation? How can it support the struggle of Aboriginal peoples for self-determination in non-paternalistic ways? How can it present new frameworks of mutual respect and collaboration? Hear from representatives of organisations and communities committed to reconciliation about what is happening, and more importantly, what is possible, as Australia strives to make the vision of 'Sorry Day' an everyday reality.

Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding: The Case of Papua New Guinea

Esther Nokolu

Win Ali

Bena Seta

Room 203

Panel Discussion

For decades, there has been significant tension between landowners and the government in Papua New Guinea. In addition, with more than 700 languages spoken in Papua New Guinea, there is a great deal of conflict rooted in differences between tribal cultures. In these situations, mediation is problematic without a deep understanding of cultural traditions.

Esther Nokolu, from the Southern Highlands Province, is the CPP coordinator for Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea. She has worked closely with women's groups by teaching self-reliance in village development activities, small income generation projects, and promoting awareness and community participation in improving quality of life in the villages. She has also assisted in assessing the health needs of rural communities.

Mr Win Ali has worked with communities in building trust and encouraging them to support and work together for the betterment of the whole. He has worked to implement literacy programs in the various regions of the country; it is his belief that learning how to read and write can improve daily life significantly and address social, health and economic issues.

Bena Seta is a Civil Servant working in the Public service of Papua New Guinea as a Provincial Culture and Environment Officer. For a number of years Bena was involved in Distribution and Restorative Justice for resources owners and affected Tribal people. She worked with the United Church of Papua New Guinea as a National Program Coordinator of Young Ambassadors for Peace, designed for the Restoration of Southern Highlands and Bougainville.

Talkin' 'Bout My Generation – Daily Youth Workshop

Anna Hutchens

Alice Chew

Room 204

Interactive Workshop

This program will feature the stories of young people and their parents from Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh backgrounds as they share how they were able to navigate the challenges between the generations. With the progress of society comes change and with that change comes challenges. Add religion, culture and a move to foreign lands into the mix and the challenges become even more complex. The Centre for Multicultural Youth will facilitate this workshop.

Anna Hutchens is Project Manager for the Centre for Multicultural Youth, based in Victoria.

Alice Chew is a participant in the Multicultural Youth Mentoring Project at the Centre for Multicultural Youth, based in Victoria.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Engaging Faith-Based Organisations for the Millennium Development Goals: Comparative UN Experiences

Dr Azza Karam
Ali Moussa Iye
Stephen Hanmer
Sally Smith
Dr Thomas Uthup
Tim M Rwabuhemba
Quentin Wodon
Room 207
Panel Discussion

In 2001, recognising the need to spur development by improving social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries, 192 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organisations agreed to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals. These international development goals, to be achieved by 2015, range from reducing extreme hunger to promoting gender equality and environmental sustainability. While not all UN bodies have a policy for engagement with faith-based communities on all issues, several have established different means of doing so with diverse groups. To showcase the range of partnerships and issues with which some UN bodies work with faith-based communities, this interactive panel will bring together six members of the UN family (UNESCO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNFPA, the Alliance of Civilizations, the World Bank) to introduce their respective areas of work and, specifically, the successes, challenges and ways forward for their faith-based organisation outreach.

Dr Azza Karam serves the Culture mandate at the United Nations Population Fund. A political scientist and economist by training, she has managed international development programs; served as a gender and culture Trainer and Specialist for various international intergovernmental entities; and is a Lecturer on politics and religion in several academic arenas. She has several books and publications to her name. She has worked in the Middle East, western Europe and the United States.

Ali Moussa Iye is the Chief of the Intercultural Dialogue Section of UNESCO in Paris, where he coordinates the slave routes projects and UNESCO's History of Africa.

Stephen Hanmer, a UNICEF Partnerships Advisor, supports UNICEF's faith-based partnerships.

Sally Smith is a UNAIDS Partnership Adviser.

As research manager, **Dr Thomas Uthup** coordinates all research and education activities for the UN Alliance of Civilizations project. His major responsibilities include the development of clearinghouses and appropriate networks of clearinghouse partners, the development of a Research Network, and the building of bridges between organisations to understand the 'other'. Currently, his major focus is on developing a network of partners for the Education about Religions and Beliefs clearinghouse.

Tim M Rwabuhemba is the UNAIDS Country Coordinator in Papua New Guinea. Prior to this, he was the UNAIDS Country Coordinator in Lesotho. He has also worked for UNICEF as Programme Officer. Rwabuhemba has broad experience and knowledge on public health, HIV programming and policy development issues gained over thirteen years in the UN system and five years working with nongovernmental organisations, including faith-based organisations. He holds a degree in Education and post-graduate qualifications in Health.

Quentin Wodon worked in business after studying engineering and business. In 1988 joined for five years the ATD Fourth World, an inter-

denominational grassroots and advocacy NGO working with the extreme poor. He later completed a PhD in Economics, taught at the University of Namur, and finally joined the World Bank in 1998. Since November 2008, he heads the Development Dialogue on Values and Ethics, the unit at the World Bank working on faith, ethics and development.

Protecting Religious Freedom & Sacred Sites: Examples from Indigenous Communities (Session 2)

Amos Tripp, USA: Karuk
Alejandro Argumedo, Peru: Quechua
Aqqaluk Lyngø
Room 208
Panel Discussion

In this second session, members of the panel will discuss why sacred sites are a necessary part of the spiritual life of their respective Indigenous communities. The spiritual beliefs and practices of most Indigenous peoples are land based. As such, sacred places are an essential part of the culture. There are many different types of sacred sites and while some bear the mark of the ancestors, another place might be the place of emergence or the home of an important deity. Sacred sites, therefore, can be a community's creation story. Various religious or sacred ceremonies are conducted at these sites and are blessed with songs, prayers, and other offerings.

Amos Tripp is a Karuk-wuh-uttah-uttah from the middle section of the Klamath River in northwestern California. He studied law at the University of California-Davis and currently works for United Indian Health Services in Arcata, California. His local tribes are 'Fix the World' tribes, who believe in living in balance with their surroundings. Mr Tripp is very proud to be part of the healing after the land grab in California devastated these tribes.

Mr Alejandro Argumedo, a Quechua from Peru, is Executive Director of the autonomous international NGO, Cultural Survival Canada, focusing on the connection between cultural and biological diversity and on Indigenous peoples' traditional resource rights. Mr Argumedo is coordinator for the Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network (IPBN) and is a member of the steering committee and advisory group for IPBN's Indigenous Knowledge Programme. He holds a degree in agriculture from McGill University.

Aqqaluk Lyngø is President of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) Greenland and ICC Vice-Chair for Greenland. He has represented the Inuit of Alaska, Canada, Greenland and the Far East of Russia as President of the ICC from 1997 to 2006. Mr. Lyngø was first elected to the Greenland Parliament in 1983 and also served as a Minister with various portfolios. He has demonstrated a deep commitment to pan-Inuit unity since the early 1970s.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Striving to Live in a Livable World (Session 1)

Dr Joseph Henry Suina, USA: Cochiti Pueblo, Moderator
Anna Pinto, India: Meitei
Chief Megaron Txukarramae
Room 209
Panel Discussion

Environmental safety and sustainability of a healthy environment is a global problem for many Indigenous communities. Maintaining a healthy environment is an increasingly difficult challenge as Indigenous communities struggle to protect their land and all those who live around it. The land not only serves as source of sustenance, but also provides materials for homes, feed for livestock and herbal medicine for health. This land also contains special or sacred places. Panellists representing the Cochiti Pueblo tribe of the American Southwest, the Meitei of India, and the Kayapo of Brazil will discuss the challenges and the spiritual significance of their environments.

Dr Joseph H Suina is a Professor Emeritus in the College of Education at the University of New Mexico and has numerous publications on culture and education. He directed the Institute for American Indian Education at UNM for tribes throughout the Southwest. He is a former governor and a current tribal council member, who continues to advocate for Native American tribes in the areas of health, museums, language retention, sacred sites, economic development and housing.

Anna Pinto is Executive Director of the Centre for Organisation, Research and Education (CORE), an Indigenous peoples' policy research and advocacy organisation based in the North East of India. An active member of the Indian Women's Movement for over two decades, she is also a prolific writer whose work addresses and critiques such issues as policy initiatives by the government of India and international agencies such as the World Bank.

Megaron Txucarramae is grand chief of the Kayapó people from the Amazonian Basin of Brazil, the head administrator of the National Indigenous Foundation (FUNAI) in his region, and a board member of Conservation International. The traditional lands of the Kayapó represent the single largest tract of protected tropical forest in the world. Chief Megaron works toward the preservation of his people's lands, culture and identity, and to promote their economic and political autonomy.

Religion, Science, and Environmental Activism (Session 3)

Philip Clayton
Praveen Chaudhari
F LeRon Shults
Denis Edwards
Pauline Rudd
Room 210
Panel Discussion

Healing the Earth will require partnerships not only among all the world's faith traditions but also with the scientific experts who best understand the problems and potential solutions. The first two sessions on science and spirituality, also sponsored by the International Society for Science and Religion, have focused on ways to form constructive partnerships between these two great social forces. In this final, hands-on session, we turn to

specific examples of environmental activism, exploring concrete examples of religion-science partnerships that can help heal the Earth. Environmental activists and heads of organisations will be present both on stage and in the audience. After the opening presentations on how to foster constructive partnerships between scientists and religious leaders, we will move into workshop format. Leading activists and other audience members will describe their experiences with these sorts of collaborations. The invited experts will present models for successful alliances. Together we will then explore ways to implement such alliances both at the local level and in high-visibility international projects that address the global environmental crisis.

Philip Clayton is Ingraham Professor at Claremont School of Theology and Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Claremont Graduate University. He specialises in conflicts and connections between the sciences and religion, with particular focus on the biological sciences and the environmental crisis. He is the author or editor of seventeen books and over 100 articles, including the recent 'Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science' and 'In Quest of Freedom: The Emergence of Spirit in the Natural World'.

Dr Praveen Chaudhari received his PhD in physical metallurgy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined IBM in 1996. In addition to carrying out his personal research, he has held various management responsibilities in science and technologies. He retired from IBM in 2003 and became the Director of Brookhaven National Laboratory until 2006, when he returned to science. Dr Chaudhari has published over 160 technical papers and holds over three dozen patents.

F LeRon Shults is professor of theology and philosophy at the University of Agder in Kristiansand, Norway. A leading authority on science and theology, he has published some ten books and dozens of articles in the field. Shults is the editor of the Brill book series 'Philosophical Studies in Science and Religion' and scientific director of the Transforming Compassion project at Stiftelsen Arkivet, a peace-building institute in Norway. His other current research interests include ethics, desire, differentiation and religious symbolism.

Denis Edwards is professor of theology at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. An ecological theologian, he has published widely on the interactions among ecology, environmental science, and religion. Among his best-known books are 'Breath of Life: A Theology of the Creator Spirit', 'The God of Evolution: A Trinitarian Theology', and 'Jesus and the Cosmos'. He will soon publish 'The Holy Spirit and Ecological Theology'.

Prof Pauline Rudd, BSc, LRIC, MA (Oxon), PhD, one of the world's leading molecular biologists, is head of the Dublin-Oxford Glycobiology Lab in Dublin, Ireland. She is Honorary Professor at St George's Hospital, London; is affiliated with the SAB Rega Institute for Medical Research, University of Leuven; and is Founding Scientist at Wessex Biochemicals (Sigma London). Rudd is a lay member of the Community of St Mary the Virgin in Oxfordshire and an internationally sought-after speaker on the world's mystical traditions.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Pastoral Responses to HIV/AIDS from the Global to the Local Perspective

Antje Jackelen
Margaret Hayes
Adam Breasley
 Room 211
 Seminar

This program features pastoral responses to HIV/AIDS from the Bishops' Conference of Sweden and the Melbourne Church of Australia. The Bishops' Conference of the Church of Sweden published a pastoral letter on HIV in the Global Perspective. This letter offers suggestions for the religious communities to work with politicians, international organisations, health care providers and pharmaceutical providers around the world. The Melbourne Church has taken pastoral care initiatives with people suffering with HIV/AIDS and will look at programs that the Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry offers to address the practical issues that people living with HIV/AIDS face. Together, these prominent institutions will discuss an issue that must be addressed and brought to the attention of people from all faiths.

Rev Dr Antje Jackelen is Bishop of Lund in the Lutheran Church of Sweden, the first woman bishop to be popularly elected the Church of Sweden. She was previously a professor of systematic theology/religion and science at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and director of the Zygon Center for Religion and Science. She is the author of 'Time and Eternity' (2005) and numerous articles in a variety of languages. Currently, she serves as president of the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology.

Marg Hayes coordinates Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry in Melbourne. She is a trained social worker and holds a degree in theology. Marg has been privileged to work at Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry for eight years and is often challenged and humbled by the situations many people living with HIV/AIDS confront on a daily basis.

Adam Breasley is a graduate student in Human Rights at Australian Catholic University.

Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding: the Case of the Philippines

Elwyn Infante Neri
Lilybeth Sulutan, Phillipines: Bagobo Tagabawa
Abdulkadir M Abubakar
 Room 212
 Panel Discussion

In the Mindanao regions of the Philippines, the primary conflicts are highly political, often including territorial arguments, anti-Moro discrimination, and conflict between Indigenous peoples, lowlanders, and Christians regarding tribal customs. The Peace and Reconciliation Teams of the Peacebuilders Community (PAR-T) are based in Mindanao, the Philippines, where they act as third-party

mediators mainly in various regions. PAR-Ts include members of all groups involved: Bangsamoro Muslims, Indigenous peoples, and Christians. The organisation trains teams and local volunteers in armed conflict survival training, conflict transformation, and peace education.

Elwyn Infante Neri is the primary networker in the field and PAR-T team leader. He has significant experience in organising and training the PAR-T. He is an Evangelical Christian, one of the three primary groups involved in recent conflicts.

Lilybeth Sulutan is a member of the Bagobo Tagabawa tribe of Mindanao and represents Indigenous peoples, a major party involved in local conflicts. She is an expert in post-training PAR-T activities as well as the problems that arise in the field.

Abdulkadir M Abubakar is a Peace and Development Motivator and Instructor for Arabic, Islamic Studies and Peace Education at Southern Christian College, Midsayap, Cotabato, the Philippines. He is also Strategic Adviser for Bangsamoro right to self-determination of the Peacebuilders Community, Inc; Secretary General and Head of the Bangsamoro Secretariat of the Mindanao Peoples' Peace Movement; and Executive Director of the Bangsamoro Development and Resource Center.

The Street Theology of Anger and the Logic of Dying to Win

Abdul Malik Mujahid
Dr Muhammad Shafiq
 Room 213
 Panel Discussion

This panel will look into the discourse of anger in the world and the strategic logic of suicide terrorism. It will examine how traditional Islamic concepts and terminology are being used in new meanings to justify the fight against real or perceived injustice, as well as the internal and external 'enemies' of Islam and Muslims. It will also compare Indian Naxalites with the Pakistani Taliban to see how poverty and socioeconomic injustice are contributing to armed insurgencies against governments in South Asia. The panel will interweave sociological and empirical evidence to increase our understanding of social movements, rebellion and theology.

Abdul Malik Mujahid is the founder of Sound Vision Foundation and executive producer of the daily Radio Islam show. He served two terms as the Chairman of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago and is currently Vice Chair of the Council for a Parliament of World Religions. As national coordinator of Bosnia Task Force, USA, he successfully led efforts in collaboration with the National Organization of Women (NOW) to declare rape a war crime.

Dr Muhammad Shafiq is executive director of the Center for Interfaith Studies and Dialogue (CISD), professor of Islamic and religious studies at Nazareth College and Imam of the Islamic Center of Rochester. Dr Shafiq has written several books, including 'Interfaith Dialogue: A Guide for Muslims'. His latest article is 'Abrahamic Faiths: Models of Interfaith Dialogue in the United States [A Case Study of Rochester, New York]', published in 'Peace-Building By, Between, and Beyond Muslims and Evangelical Christians'.

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2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

A String and A Prayer: Creating Universal Peace Beads

Eleanor Wiley

Room 214

Interactive Workshop

This experiential, non-denominational workshop brings together people of all ages and spiritual traditions to create a personal prayer strand. Participants will receive a Sacred Wheel of Peace (a mandala based on a talk by Jim Kenny at the Chicago Parliament in 1993) and will choose beads from a common bowl to create their prayer strand. The act of creation gives each person the experience of present moment practice while working in community with people of many faiths. Participants will also share their traditional use of prayer beads, revealing interfaith connections. Participants may then take home a physical tool to support their personal prayer practice and deepen their spirituality. It will also serve as a reminder of the gifts of understanding and global community. The personal prayer strand will be a tangible sign of the creator's commitment to generate justice, sustainable living, and a better world. Creating a personal prayer strand is an opportunity to learn to listen and hear in a new way, to see our similarities and the ways we can unite to make a difference. All materials are free and the workshop requires no artistic background.

Eleanor Wiley has been creating interfaith prayer beads since 1994. She has presented workshops in such countries as the US, Turkey, Ireland, UK, Spain, and South Africa. She is the author of 'A String and A Prayer' and 'There Are No Mistakes'. Wiley's interfaith beading workshops allow participants to find a new way of understanding diverse spiritual paths, learn about commonalities and create community.

Arctic Peoples: Environment and Traditional Ways

Norma Kassi, Canada: Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation, Moderator

Minnie Lucy Naylor, USA: Inupiaq Eskimo

Room 215

Special Panel

The cultures, languages and spiritualities of Indigenous peoples of the Arctic reflect the Arctic environment. Traditional values provide instruction on how we should live on this planet. The ability of Indigenous peoples to practise traditional ways and subsist in the face of climate change will be the focus of this panel.

Norma Kassi, raised in Old Crow, Yukon, is Vuntut Gwich'in (People of the Lakes). From 1985 until 1992 she was a member of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. She has been a spokesperson in the effort to preserve the Porcupine Caribou Herd and serves on the International Gwich'in Steering Committee for the Preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. She is Co-director of the Arctic Health Research Network: Yukon, engaged in health research.

Minnie Naylor, an Inupiaq Eskimo raised in Kotzebue, Alaska, works with the Sivuliq Youth Media Group, which is finishing its current produc-

tion, 'The Lost Dances', a film about Eskimo dances exchanged between Alaska and Russia. She has been an academic advisor at the local university branch campus and has been involved in local government. She is a recent graduate of the Rural Development Program at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

Maori Custom Law and Listening to the Land – Australian Aboriginal Meditation

Merekaraka Caesar

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann

Room 216

Interactive Workshop

Merekaraka Caesar, Wahine Maori of Queensland, will explain Tikanga, or Maori Custom Law, a practical, vibrant, living part of the Maori Culture that has been handed down from our Tipuna, or Ancestors. Tikanga is from our God and our Ancestors and gives spiritual guidelines for our daily lives and interaction. From the very beginning of time, when once we stood as eternal brothers and sisters, it has helped to remind us of our sacred cultural and spiritual values. Next, Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, Aboriginal artist, will present Dadirri, a form of Australian Aboriginal meditation that is based on listening deeply to the land and reconnecting to the Earth, our mother. A unique gift of the Aboriginal people, Dadirri is inner deep listening and quiet still awareness. Dadirri recognises the deep spring that is inside us. The contemplative way of Dadirri spreads over our whole life. It renews us and brings us peace. It makes us feel whole again. In our Aboriginal way, we learned to listen from our earliest times. Our Aboriginal way has taught us to be still and wait. We do not try to hurry things up. We let them follow their natural course—like the seasons.

Merekaraka Caesar is Founder and President of a nonprofit cultural humanitarian organisation, Wahine Maori of Queensland Inc, based on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. It has a humanitarian arm and plans to build orphanages in third world countries, commencing with Thailand.

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, a member of the Ngangiwumirri language group, was born in the bush near Daly River in 1951. She received a Bachelor of Arts from Deakin University, a Bachelor of Education, and a Master of Education, with High Distinction. In acknowledgment of her leadership and example in the fields of Aboriginal education and the visual arts, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from Northern Territory University.

Indigenous Land Rights: Struggles and Survival (Session 1)

Tonya Gonnella Frichner, USA: Onondaga, Moderator
Marcos Terena, Brazil: Terena

Room 217

Panel Discussion

In the first of two sessions, the participants on this panel will give examples of their struggles for land rights. The survival and livelihood of most Indigenous communities depend on their land rights and ownership of their land base. Dispossession of these ancestral homelands is a

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major problem confronting Indigenous peoples worldwide. Economic development and various forms of governmental policies pose the threat of weakening or dispossessing Indigenous peoples of their rights to their homelands.

Tonya Gonnella Frichner, Esq is the North American representative to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and a professor of Native American law and human rights. She is president and founder of the American Indian Law Alliance, an NGO in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. An expert on the legal aspects of Indigenous peoples' rights, she is a veteran activist and advocate with long experience of the United Nations and its systems.

Marcos Terena is a professor of Traditional and Spiritual Knowledge of the Indigenous People and Coordinator of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity. He founded the United Indigenous Nations, the first Indigenous movement in Brazil and he was a leader in gaining recognition for Indigenous rights in the Brazilian Constitution. He is a spokesman for Indigenous rights for the UN and President of the Intertribal Committee and VIATAN, an Indigenous information centre.

African American Muslims: Mirrors for Global Justice

Imam Khalid Griggs

Amir Al-Islam

Ndidi Amatullah Okakpu

Dawud Walid

Room 218

Panel Discussion

In this session, African-American Muslims from diverse backgrounds and generations will trace the quest for justice by African Muslims in America. The panel will focus first on the history of African-Americans as slaves, then as souls disconnected from the religion of Islam, before proceeding to the movement of millions returning to the faith, and concluding with a look at African-American Muslims as advocates for justice, nationally and globally.

Imam Khalid Fattah Griggs has been the imam of The Community Mosque of Winston-Salem in North Carolina since 1984. He is co-chairman of the North Carolina-based Black Leadership Roundtable of Winston-Salem-Forsyth County. Griggs holds a degree in political science and English from Howard University in Washington, DC. He was part of the anti-Vietnam war movement in the late 1960s and was involved with the Islamic Party of North America in the 1970s after his conversion.

Amir Al-Islam is a Distinguished Lecturer of African American History, Islam and World Civilization at Medgar Evers College (CUNY) in Brooklyn. He is the former Secretary General of the World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations, USA. He is chairman of the Board of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network in Chicago, and Vice-Chair of the Malcolm X and Dr Betty Shabazz Memorial Education Center, and the Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development.

Ndidi Amatullah Okakpu is currently an assistant at the 'Muslim Journal'. She worked directly for world leader Imam W Deen Mohammed as Coordinator of his Islamic training program and joined the first delegation from his community to study at Abu Nour University in Damascus, Syria under late Sheikh Ahmad Kufaro. Ndidi works closely in interfaith efforts with the Catholic organisation Focolare Movement and was a Muslim American delegate at their conference in Castelgandolfo, Italy.

Dawud Walid is currently the Executive Director of the Michigan chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a chapter of America's largest advocacy and civil liberties organisation for Muslims. Walid also serves as assistant Imam at Masjid Wali Muhammad in Detroit, MI and board trustee for the Metropolitan Detroit Interfaith Worker's Rights Committee. Walid also served in the United States Navy under honourable conditions earning two United States Navy and Marine Corp Achievement medals.

Healing the Earth with Care and Concern: Religious Responses to the Earth Charter

Michael Slaby

Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp

Chief Oren Lyons

Sr Joan Chittister OSB

Uncle Bob Randall

Paramhans Sri Swami Maheshwarananda

Room 219

Panel Discussion

The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century. It seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations. Since its launch in 2000, hundreds of religious organisations use the Earth Charter in their efforts of conducting environmental education and teaching the vision and values of eco-justice ethics, raising awareness of the meaningful linkages between the environment, justice and faith; enacting environmentally inspired liturgy and forming interreligious alliances to safeguard our planet. The panel will start with a presentation of case studies and best practices of how religious institutions are responding to the Earth Charter's integrated ethical vision and call to action. Then, there will be a sharing of deep experiences of connection and oneness in a unique dialogue between the elders and the young in which the deepest life experiences of the elders and the aspirations of the young will be expressed by using the Native American methodology of the Feather.

Michael C Slaby works for the International Earth Charter Secretariat and coordinates the Earth Charter Programme on Religion and Sustainability. He holds Masters in Comparative Religion, Political Science and International Law from Heidelberg University. Since 1996, he has been actively involved in youth, leading civil society initiatives on sustainable development, human rights and refugee aid. He has also volunteered as Earth Charter Youth Coordinator, helping to network the youth organisations of the Initiative.

Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp is President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, European Region and co-recipient of the 2005 International Alliance Peace Award with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf. He is an award-winning human rights advocate, lecturer, writer, environmental activist and champion of civil society worldwide.

Chief Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy, is a powerful and passionate spokesperson for Indigenous human rights and spiritual perspectives. An environmental champion, he speaks around the world, is active at the United Nations, and is widely known through his writings. He is a Professor Emeritus, in American Studies, SUNY Buffalo and the co-author of 'Exiled in the Land of the Free: Democracy, Indian Nations and the U.S. Constitution'.

Joan Chittister, OSB, is a noted national and international lecturer who focuses on women in church and society, human rights, peace and justice, and contemporary religious life and spirituality. In addition to being the executive director of Benetvision, a centre for contemporary spirituality located in Erie, Pennsylvania, she is author of 22 books, including 'Illuminated Life: Monastic Wisdom for Seekers of Light' and 'The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life'.

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4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE

Bob Randall is a member of the Yankunytjatjara people and a listed traditional owner of Uluru. He has served as the Director of the Northern Australia Legal Aid Service and established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander centres at multiple universities. He continues to present cultural awareness programs at schools and other institutions. Bob was named 'Indigenous Person of the Year' at the 1999 National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration awards.

Landscape of Faith: Sharing Wisdom for a New Vision of Community – Part III: Addressing Alienation within the Human Family and with the Natural World

Oren Lyons
Jake Swamp
Room 220
Seminar

This one-day, interfaith educational seminar seeks to provide a context for community building by addressing the challenges of prejudice, injustice and alienation from the earth while weaving the theme of the possibility of transformation through the arts throughout the day. Participants are asked to attend all four sessions. Chief Lyons will give the history of colonialism in the United States during which time the First Peoples were stripped of their rights as stewards of the land they had been living on for generations. In 1493 the Doctrine of Discovery was the legal document that set the precedence for disenfranchising Indigenous peoples. The loss of stewardship by the First Peoples created a number of problems, resulting in an alienation that has had serious ecological consequences. Jake Swamp will describe his environmental nonprofit organisation, 'The Tree of Peace Society', and his work to inspire the planting of over 200 million trees. He will also explain the work that he and Chief Lyons began at the Grand Council meeting in July of 2009 of the Haudenosaunee Six Nations. During this session they will call for action from the religious community to address these legal and ecological issues.

Chief Oren Lyons, Faithkeeper of the Onondaga Nation of the Iroquois Confederacy, is a powerful and passionate spokesperson for Indigenous human rights and spiritual perspectives. An environmental champion, he speaks around the world, is active at the United Nations, and is widely known through his writings. He is a Professor Emeritus, in American Studies, SUNY Buffalo and the co-author of 'Exiled in the Land of the Free: Democracy, Indian Nations and the U.S. Constitution'.

Jake Swamp is employed with the Men for Change Program, part of the Iethini'sten:ha Family Violence Shelter. He is a former leader of the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation and was involved directly in the creation of the Akwesasne Freedom School — an acclaimed Mohawk language immersion school that has been an inspiration to many First Nation peoples in the United States and Canada.

OPENSPACE 4:30–6:00pm

Movement Mudra of Traditional Solonese Dance

Eko Kadarsih
Room 102
Interactive Workshop

Yayasan Dharma Samuan Tiga is a nonprofit public foundation in Bedulu, Bali, Indonesia dedicated to maintaining and supporting the spirit of conciliation that arose in the interfaith meeting at Samuan Tiga Temple in the year 1011. The foundation strives to promote intercultural collaboration through sharing in the arts and religiosity among cultures in Indonesia and among nations throughout the world. In this program, Eko Kadarsih will guide participants through a sequence of movement mudras from the traditional Solonese dance of Central Java. Meditative silence transforming in posture and gesture cultivates fluid equanimity, awareness, dignity and inner and outer harmony.

Eko Kadarsih, of Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, is a leading performer of classical palace dances of the Karaton Surakarta. Since 1986, Eko has performed with the karaton artist's delegation and as an independent artist in several Indonesian provinces, and in Jakarta, Asia, Europe and the USA. She holds a degree in literature.

The Practicalities of Getting from 'Is' to 'Ought': Religion, Science and Ethics

Dirk Ficca
James Doty
Antje Jackelin
Room 105

As social, political and ecological crises mount round the world, the collaboration between religion and science is urgently needed to address these challenges. Sadly much of the current public debate about the relationship between religion and science deals with outmoded categories, paradigms and trains of thought from two hundred years ago or more. The proper and practical roles that religion and science each needs to play in today's world are still linked by the discipline of ethics, and the perennial underlying philosophical question of the relationship of 'is' to 'ought.' While this question may be ultimately philosophical in nature, now implications of how we answer it could not be more practical. What do science and religion each bring to contemporary ethical deliberations? Using case studies examples, this program will highlight the relevance of a proper understanding of the relationship of religion to science, and its practical application, in matters of public discourse, societal values, and humane progress.

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OPEN SPACE

Rev Dirk Ficca serves as Executive Director of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. Dirk worked closely with the religious and spiritual communities of the Chicago metropolitan area to plan and organise the 1993 Parliament in that city. After the 1993 event, Dirk continued to lead the Council's efforts to build a vibrant interreligious movement in Chicago and around the world. Dirk is also an ordained Presbyterian minister.

James Doty is the director and founder of Project Compassion and a Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery at Stanford University. In addition to being a neurosurgeon, he is also an inventor, entrepreneur and philanthropist. As founder of Project Compassion, Dr Doty works with both the Stanford Institute for Neuro-Innovation and Translational Neuroscience and a variety of scientists from a number of disciplines examining the neural bases for compassion and altruism.

Rev Dr Antje Jackelén is Bishop of Lund in the Lutheran Church of Sweden, the first woman bishop to be popularly elected the Church of Sweden. She was previously a professor of systematic theology/religion and science at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago and director of the Zygon Center for Religion and Science. She is the author of 'Time and Eternity' (2005) and numerous articles in a variety of languages. Currently, she serves as president of the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology.

'The Imam and the Pastor' and 'Australia's Muslim Women'

Shazia Fiaz, Director

Tasneem Chopra

Paul A. Wee

Room 107

Film

Two films will be shown in this session. The first will be 'The Imam and the Pastor', directed by Alan Channer. This stirring documentary tells the story of Pentecostal Pastor James Wuye and Muslim Imam Mohammed Ashafa, former ringleaders of militias involved in the Christian/Muslim strife in Nigeria. Pastor James loses a hand in the fighting, while Imam Ashafa's two cousins and his spiritual leader fall victim to the unrest. Realising that forgiveness is a principle held in common by both Islam and Christianity, the two men lay down their weapons and establish a Christian-Muslim Interfaith Mediation Centre in the northern state of Kaduna. A separate follow-up discussion of the issues the film addresses, 'The Imam and the Pastor: An Exploration of Muslim-Christian Dialogue and Collaborative Power in Nigeria', will take place later in the Parliament.

The second film shown will be 'Australia's Muslim Women'. For many Australians, the Muslim women in their midst remain a mystery. This short film demystifies Australian Muslim women and allows their individual voices to be heard. It features a group of vibrant women who describe what it is like to be a participant in two different cultures. A discussion with director Shazia Fiaz and Tasneem Chopra will follow the screening.

Shazia Fiaz works as an independent filmmaker and writer. She pro-

duces and directs documentaries about multicultural issues.

Tasneem Chopra is Chair of the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria and an independent Cross Cultural Consultant specialising in diversity training. She was recently acknowledged in the Weekend Australian Magazine's listing of Emerging 100 Young Leaders 2009.

Paul Wee is presently adjunct professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, DC. He served as program officer for the United States Institute of Peace where he worked primarily on interfaith conflict resolution in Nigeria and Colombia. He received his BA from Harvard University, a Masters of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary and a PhD, magna cum laude, in Philosophy and Social Science from the University of Berlin.

Learn Arabic Letters in 90 Minutes – An Interfaith Cultural Presentation You Can Use

John Myers

Room 108

Interactive Workshop

Humans fear that which they do not understand. Fear of the Islamic and Arabic cultures is a top problem being pushed by demagogues in Western nations. The inability to even perceive Arabic script, let alone read it, promotes learned helplessness. The language is seen as an incomprehensible cloud of scribbles, projecting a poor image on those who use the language. This seminar aims to cut this Gordian Knot by making Arabic script comprehensible and familiar. In one whirlwind 90-minute tour, 41 letters and diacritics will be presented using kooky, fun and memorable cartoons and poems. The workshop is suitable for children, teens and adults who don't mind having lots of fun while they learn simple lessons. The session is based on the program 'Actually Learn Arabic Letters: A Fun Course That Works—In Three Weeks', which aims to enforce the principle that everyone is human by showing that what was once incomprehensible can be easily understood and mastered.

John Myers is the Director of Real World Peace, a grassroots organisation dedicated to making a difference in the world by promoting effective communication. He lived in Japan for almost five years and learned how to respect and understand the culture and writing systems of a completely different tradition. John leads workshops and presents at speaking engagements.

URI – Global Community Gathering

Room 110

Saturday, December 5, 2009

4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE

Agape Choir

Rickie Byars, Music Director

Room 201

Artistic Performance

The Agape Choir is a multiethnic group with an average roster of 200 members. It began with a thirty-voice holiday season presentation in December of 1988. Rickie Byars is the Music and Arts Director of the Agape International Spiritual Center in Culver City, California, where she directs the Agape International Choir. Together with her husband, Rev Dr Michael Bernard Beckwith, founder of the Agape International Spiritual Center, their powerful partnership has resulted in a dynamic catalogue of songs that enable transformational healing through the power of music. With the combined writing and composing talents of Byars and Beckwith, the choir early on began performing original Beckwith/Byars compositions. As the choir has developed and grown in membership, so has the complexity of Byars' vocal and instrumental arrangements. Over the past six and a half years, Agape Choir music has become known for its signature sectional harmonies, counterpoint, tempo-patterns, devotional power, and energetic enthusiasm.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Samoan Choir

David Cray, Music Director

Room 201

Artistic Performance

Established in 2002, this 80-voice choir has inspired love and harmony between people of many faiths and cultures. Sometimes accompanied by Polynesian dancers, the choir has performed at the Commonwealth Games Victorian Premier's Award Concert, and were featured artists at the City of Greater Dandenong First Annual Gathering, and at Australia Day celebrations and flag raising ceremonies. The Samoan choir is comprised of 80 Polynesian singers from the Melbourne area from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It presents spiritually uplifting programs of songs that cross a range of faiths and cultures. The choir uses its music to promote feelings of peace and harmony.

Conversation with Sr Joan Chittister

Sr Joan Chittister

Room 207

Enjoy this opportunity for informal conversation with Sr Joan Chittister. Whether you'd like to learn more about her writing and her work, or to share some of your thoughts and concerns with her, now is the time.

Joan Chittister, OSB, is a noted national and international lecturer who focuses on women in church and society, human rights, peace and justice, and contemporary religious life and spirituality. In addition to being

the executive director of Benetvision, a centre for contemporary spirituality located in Erie, Pennsylvania, she is author of 22 books, including 'Illuminated Life: Monastic Wisdom for Seekers of Light' and 'The Story of Ruth: Twelve Moments in Every Woman's Life'.

Vedantic Wisdom and Middle Eastern Affirmations

Dr Thillayvel Naidoo

Room 209

Panel Discussion

One of the focal points in the study of religions is the multiplicity of claims about their origins. Religions with their origins in India are referred to as Wisdom Religions and those that originated in the Middle East as Religions of Revelation. These religions differ not only in their origins, but also in the basis of their content. This discussion will take a look at some of these differences and others that divide religions. Presenter Thillayvel Naidoo will specifically explore the claims and contentions surrounding the idea that God is responsible for their origins through revelation.

Dr Naidoo was a lecturer specialising in Eastern Religions in the Department of Science of Religion at the University of Durban Westville in South Africa for many years before his retirement. He participated in the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago, Cape Town and Barcelona and is very familiar with the first Parliament in Chicago 1893 because of his interest in Swami Vivekananda, who played a prominent role in making that Parliament a success.

Cultivating Universal Intelligence

Sheila Keene-Lund

Room 210

Interactive Workshop

What do we need to better listen and hear each other, heal the earth, and personally contribute to world peace? Can we, as individuals, actually become the catalyst needed to change society's proclivity for divisiveness? In this workshop, participants will learn how to cultivate standards of higher moral and spiritual culture, a cosmic awareness, and the capacity to love. 'The Urantia Papers' will be introduced as a source that offers new answers to age-old questions about human trust, friendship and Love. As well as providing a larger frame in which to think, one that may satisfy scientists, philosophers and religionists alike, 'The Urantia Papers' reveal a fresh perspective on Personality. They trace for us the rise and role of Love, from the eternal core of the Absolute to the human heart. Drawing from personal experience, the teachings of 'The Urantia Book', and a companion book, 'Heaven Is Not the Last Stop', this workshop will provide an experiential roadmap for living, a framework to develop a personal prototype of spiritual character and perspective.

Two childhood near-death experiences propelled **Sheila Keene-Lund** onto an exploratory path that included teaching Transcendental Meditation for 15 years and led her, in 1992, to 'The Urantia Book'. Her discovery of its astonishing capacity to integrate personal spiritual evolution into the vastly enlarged perspective of universe citizenship is recorded in her book 'Heaven Is Not the Last Stop'. A lively speaker and teacher, she leads classes and workshops focused on spiritual principles.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE**Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai (Premier Film Series Selection)**Room 211
Film

When rural Kenyan women lacked firewood and clean drinking water, Wangari Maathai suggested they plant trees. Discover how this simple act led to a Nobel Peace Prize and the overthrow of a dictator. The film was directed by Alan Dater and Lisa Merton. Q & A to follow.

Appreciative Inquiry and Healing the Earth: Extending Faith Beyond the Realms of ReligionKunal Turakhia
Reena Ginwala
Room 215
Training Session

This workshop will explain the concepts of Appreciative Inquiry and Emotional Intelligence and present a set of tools that can be used individually or in groups. These tools will be applied to understand the emotions that are within each human being and to learn to appreciate on humanitarian grounds what we see in the other. The basis for the training and interactive workshop will be the four D's: Discover, Dream, Design and Destiny. The workshop will also focus on understanding the self, managing the self, understanding the other and managing social relationships.

Kunal Turakhia has an MBA with focus in Organisational Behaviour from Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University, USA. He is also a certified practitioner of Appreciative Inquiry, working in Mumbai. He is currently undergoing rigorous training to be a certified Life/Executive Coach from Results Coaching Systems. He works with individuals to develop a community of people who are equipped and willing to make this world a better place to live in.

Reena Ginwala is a corporate trainer and social worker. She teaches youth at grassroots levels, MBA students, and young executives in programs on Leadership, Group Dynamics and Personal Growth. She and Kunal share a dream of teaching the tools of Appreciative Inquiry and Emotional Intelligence to youth in India. Reena is from Ahmedabad and can relate to the pain of communal disharmony and the day-to-day dilemmas of lay people trying to live in peaceful co-existence.

Sri Chinmoy International Music Group Open Space ConcertSri Chinmoy International Music Group
Room 216

This Open Space concert will be based on the music of Sri Chinmoy, which includes the quotations of the Lord Jesus Christ, set to music, as well as other songs written about the Lord Christ and songs composed for the Lord Buddha by Sri Chinmoy, as well as spiritual songs and mantras written in English and Bengali. The group is composed of musicians and singers with expertise in the presentation

and arrangement of Sri Chinmoy's music spanning over 30 years. The group has recorded and performed concerts in New York, Europe and Asia.

Mr Prachar Stegemann, conductor and arranger of Sri Chinmoy International Singing Group for over 18 years, will lead the group. The group will also include: **Ms Sushmitam Rouse**, cellist; **Mr Christopher Willis**, acoustic guitar and voice; **Mrs Marion Gray**, harmonium, singer, and musical arranger; **Mr Pushpendra Uppal**, oboe; **Ms Phoolanjaya**, piano and flute; **Mr Marichi Clarke**, electric guitar and voice; **Mr Veeraja Uppal**, singer; **Ms Ankhi Elliott**, singer; **Ms Hariratna Monro**, singer.

Multifaith Perspectives on Interreligious Holidays and CelebrationsGeorg Ziselsberger
Norman Habel
Jorge Veiga e Castro
Deirdre Pulgram Arthen
Room 217
Interactive Workshop

Whether celebrating Earth Day, the Season of Creation, or any number of local holidays, developing an interreligious celebration that includes a wide range of traditions can be challenging. We will use this time to discuss ways to create a ceremony that celebrates both the occasion and our diversity—one that attempts to include as many groups as possible by paying special attention to language, symbolism, history and style. We will then design a peacemaking ritual together, which we will share as a morning observance later in the week. Participants are invited to bring liturgy or songs they feel might be relevant to either the conversation or the celebration.

Georg Ziselsberger SVD is professor of Theology at Ateneo de Manila University and President of the GeoChris Foundation, which advocates biological, cultural and spiritual diversity by working with Indigenous peoples for a living planet. He is co-leader of the ECEN Working Group 'Creation Time' and organised the Teilhard Asia 2006 International Conference and Teilhard Asia Annual Lectures.

Norman Habel is currently professorial fellow at Flinders University. He initiated and edited the five-volume 'Earth Bible' series and the more recent work 'Exploring Ecological Hermeneutics'. He has been active in a range of social justice and eco-justice areas, including a school for Dalits (Untouchables) and Tribals in Tamil Nadu. He has initiated and promoted the Season of Creation in Australia, a new season of the church year that is now spreading to other countries.

Jorge Veiga e Castro is founder and President of the Portuguese Yoga Confederation. In 2001, he proposed to UN and UNESCO the creation of the first worldwide holiday, to be celebrated on the Solstice of June 21st.

Rev Deirdre Pulgram Arthen is the Director of the EarthSpirit Community, a religious and educational organisation dedicated to the preservation of earth-centred spirituality, particularly the Indigenous European traditions. She has been a leader in the Pagan community in the United States for thirty years and is known as a ritualist, musician, teacher and spiritual counsellor. She has offered presentations at the 1993, 1999 and 2004 Parliaments.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE**A Listening Place Each Day**

Kristen Hobby
Lynette Dungan
Bernie Miles
Kava Schafer
Jill Manton
Nola Vanderfeen

Room 218

Interactive Workshop

We welcome you to a safe place where you can simply be. This is a quiet place where you can sit and meditate or reflect on what has touched or challenged you throughout the day of the Parliament of the World's Religions. Spiritual directors will be available in this room; you may talk to them if there is anything you would like to share. Spiritual directors are trained to listen in a non-judgmental and respectful way and are available for people of all faith traditions.

**Educating Religious Leaders for
 a Multi-Religious World:
 Practical Initiatives and Examples of
 Multi-Religious Education**
North American Theological School Students

Room 219

Panel Discussion

In this session, we want to look carefully at concrete examples in which learning about or engaging with religious others have been successful. We also want to learn from efforts that have not been so successful and ask why. We will gather practical initiatives of interreligious engagement from different categories and contexts of encounter: 1) Examples of everyday living together: the experience of living together as members of different religions in the same neighbourhood, village or school. How do people 'naturally' or spontaneously deal with their differences? How do they create communities that still honour diversities? 2) Examples of interreligious study: methods of enabling people to grasp and learn from the texts and teachings of other traditions. How can this be done in a way that opens strange new worlds in an engaging manner but also in an assuring, non-threatening manner? What are the 'pedagogies of interreligious education'? 3) Examples of sharing in each other's religious practices and spiritualities. What are the possibilities and limits, the hopes and the fears, of actually sharing each other's spiritual practices of prayer, meditation and celebration? 4) Examples of interreligious action: How have religions found themselves challenged and then enabled to work together in confronting common problems in their neighbourhoods, nation and world? How does 'dia-praxis' enable 'dia-logue'?

This is part of a symposium entitled 'Educating Religious Leaders for a Multi-Religious World'. The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, with the support of The Henry Luce Foundation, has coordinated with fifteen theological institutions to explore ways to increase education for interfaith leadership in North American theological schools. Institutions strongly acknowledged the urgency of interfaith engagement and the preparation of a religious leadership equipped with knowledge and understanding of the plurality of faith traditions in the contemporary world.

**Landscape of Faith: Sharing Wisdom
 for a New Vision of Community – Part IV:
 The Arts as Transformation**
Orlanda Brugnola

Room 220

Artistic Performance and Interactive Workshop

This one-day, interfaith educational seminar seeks to provide a context for community building by addressing the challenges of prejudice, injustice and alienation from the earth while weaving the possibility of transformation through the arts throughout the day. Participants are asked to attend all four sessions. The arts have the potential to bring diverse peoples into new understandings, co-operative peace-making and shared re-visioning of relationships. The key to the power of the arts is their capacity to evoke memory and enact or make visible the sacred. When people make art together, it is a manifestation of their highest selves and as such is a transformational experience. During the Open Space time, a presentation on this theme will be followed by an Aboriginal dance that re-enacts a time of reconciliation. Also during the Open Space, participants will receive a small paper disc upon which they may inscribe a message. These discs will be collected from as many Parliament participants as possible and will be used in the creation of a work by Aboriginal and guest artists. This work will convey a vision of the sacred landscape created by participants from around the world as they interact with one another at the Parliament.

Orlanda Brugnola is an interdisciplinary scholar teaching philosophy and religious studies at John Jay College. She has an MFA in painting and curates art exhibitions for college galleries. She is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister who has worked over the years for the International Association for Religious Freedom.

Saturday, December 5, 2009

9:00–10:30pm
EVENING PROGRAMMING

EVENING PROGRAMMING 9:00–10:30pm

The Sacred Planet

Dr Joseph Runzo, Director

Room 107

Film

Filmed on location in Japan, the Yukon and Southern California, 'The Sacred Planet' promotes ethical responsibility toward the environment. It addresses and proposes a solution to the global environmental crisis with science, government, business, NGOs, individuals and the world's religious traditions working together for sustainable living. This film shows that the world's religions have an essential role in changing attitudes and fostering a sense of sacred connection and proper stewardship of the earth. The film was directed by Joseph Runzo and Neil Mclean.

Dr Joseph Runzo is Executive Director and President of the Board of Directors of the Global Ethics and Religion Forum, an educational nonprofit dedicated to global ethical responsibility. He has written and lectured extensively around the world on comparative religion, religious ethics, human rights and the ethics of war and peace. He is Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Chapman University, USA, and a Life Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge University, UK.