

Sunday, December 6, 2009

8:00–9:00am
MORNING OBSERVANCES

Sukyo Mahikari: Light and Principles for Peace and Harmony Whatever the Faith

Andris Tebecis
Terrence Quinn
Sukyo Mahikari members
Room 102

Sukyo Mahikari is an international spiritual organisation dedicated to improving the quality of life and promoting happiness for all people and creatures, irrespective of their beliefs or background. This is done by applying certain laws or principles that are universal (Sukyo) and by radiating a purifying energy from the hand, a 'True Light' (Mahikari). People become purified spiritually, mentally and physically and develop positive attitudes, experience a growing health, harmony and material well-being and become motivated to use their personal development for the betterment of society. Sukyo Mahikari is overcoming the barriers of race, nationality and religion. Sukyo Mahikari has been concerned with reconciling with the Indigenous peoples, interfaith activities, nurturing the youth for the future, healing the earth with care and concern, and promoting good spiritual values in the everyday life of people and families, as well as in professional fields. During this program, Sukyo Mahikari members will present their experiences with True Light and also demonstrate the practicalities of giving and receiving the Light. Audience participation is encouraged. There will be time for questions and answers at the end.

Dr Andris K Tebecis is an Adviser with the Sukyo Mahikari Australia-Oceania Regional Headquarters, Canberra, and Deputy Director at the Yoko Civilisation Research Institute in Tokyo.

Terrence Quinn is a schoolteacher in Canberra.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Morning Observance

Elder Hoare
Room 103
Religious or Spiritual Observance

This observance of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will consist of many aspects of a typical Sunday worship service excluding partaking of the sacrament (communion). It will include prayers, music and a number of speakers talking about how the gospel of Jesus Christ has affected their lives and what it means to them.

Elder Hoare is a member of the Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Seventy are the body of senior Church leaders who supervise the worldwide Church under the governing leadership of the First Presidency (the prophet and his two counsellors) and the Twelve Apostles. The Seventy generally are located in their home countries rather than at the Church Headquarters, USA and function on a lay or unpaid basis.

Anglican Sunday Morning Liturgy

Archbishop Philip Freier
Bishop John Harrower OAM
Room 105
Religious or Spiritual Observance

This Sunday morning liturgy will be celebrated by the Melbourne Anglican Archbishop Philip Freier together with the Bishop of the Anglican Church in Tasmania, Bishop John Harrower OAM.

Dr Philip Freier became the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne in December 2006, following seven and a half years as Bishop of the Northern Territory. Dr Freier has been working towards engaging the Church with the wider community, particularly through his 'Prayer4Melbourne' quest, in which he has visited a range of public spaces, welfare centres and shopping malls. He is deeply involved in social justice issues affecting Indigenous peoples.

Bishop John Harrower OAM is currently the 11th Bishop of the Anglican Church in Tasmania.

Hindu Meditation: Spirituality in Everyday Life

Prabha Duneja
Room 108
Religious or Spiritual Observance

The Hindu practice of yoga and meditation originated with the ancient religious traditions of Vedic dharma as an effort to seek alignment with the source of life. It enables its practitioners to cultivate peace and harmony within the inner person, as well as with others and nature. The word 'yoga' is derived from the Sanskrit root word 'yui' meaning to combine or join together. This refers to the union and communication with the indwelling-soul, the harmonious joining of the mind, body and spirit. Through daily practice of Hindu meditation, one will experience unity with God and live with selfless love for others. This observance will feature a brief talk on the tradition of Hindu meditation followed by a guided practice making use of sacred sound.

Prabha Duneja is a writer, speaker and lecturer on Hindu religion. She is a missionary of the Geeta Society, Chairwoman of Women's Interfaith Circle of Service URI/CC, and an active leader of the interfaith movement in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has written numerous articles as well as the books 'Mantra and the Modern', 'The Legacy of Yoga in Bhagawad Geeta', 'An Introduction to Bhagawad Geeta', and 'The Gateway to Freedom: Bhagawad Geeta.'

Shum, A Language of Meditation

H H Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami
Room 110
Religious or Spiritual Observance

Shum is a language that can allow the meditator to move through the inner mind deftly without being distracted by externalising concepts. During this session a Shum meditation will be led by Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami, disciple of and successor to Satguru Sivaya Subramuniaswami, the modern Hindu renaissance leader who mystically brought forth the unique language

Sunday, December 6, 2009

8:00–9:00am
MORNING OBSERVANCES

of meditation called Shum in 1968. Fundamental to Shum are the concepts that there is only one mind and that man is an awareness with the ability to control his movement through the mind. There are names in Shum for all aspects of the mind, from objects in the outer reality of everyday life to emotional states, inner sights and sounds, and the deepest levels of superconsciousness. Meditators can use a Shum map to focus their awareness and guide them with precision from one profound experience to the next. Ultimately, they will reach a state of pure awareness—that moment when awareness is aware only of itself, an invigorating experience that can lead to samadhi, the ultimate goal of yoga meditation.

H H Satguru Bodhinatha Veylanswami is the designated successor to Sivaya Subramuniaswami of blessed memory. He was a Co-President of the 1993 Centenary Parliament of the World's Religions. H H Veylanswami is Guru Mahasiddhanam and 163rd preceptor of the 2,200-year-old Kailasa Parampara of the Nadinatha Sampradaya in the Saivite Hindu tradition. He is also the publisher of the international quarterly journal 'Hinduism Today'.

Guided Metta (Loving-Kindness) Meditation

Bhante Sujato

Room 111

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The term 'metta' refers to an unconditional loving-kindness that reaches out to encompass all beings. In metta meditation, we learn to free ourselves from the shackles of that selfishness which binds and constricts our innate emotional capacities. This practical, step-by-step approach to metta meditation leads beyond words to a direct experience of boundless, universal love, which is the foundation for all profound religious experience. By learning to cultivate love in our hearts not only for our dear ones, but also for those we feel neutral towards, and those we dislike, we learn to move beyond our personal preferences and prejudices to embrace all human beings equally. Bhante Sujato learned metta meditation from his Thai meditation teacher, Ajahn Maha Chatchai, and has practised it for fifteen years.

Bhante Sujato, an Australian Buddhist monk, was ordained in Thailand and spent many years meditating in forest monasteries and remote hermitages before becoming abbot of Santi Forest Monastery near Sydney. Bhante Sujato is an experienced meditation teacher who leads retreats in Australia and overseas. He has a special interest in the history of Buddhism and other world religions. He is deeply committed to developing a platform for the full ordination of women in Buddhism.

Remembrance of Allah and His Prophet Through Song

Zain Bhikha

Room 204

Religious or Spiritual Observance

In this observance, renowned Islamic Music singer-songwriter Zain Bhikha will share with participants how his Islamic Music serves as a means to remember Allah and His Prophet Muhammad through song. In the process, he will examine the power of song, its contribution to bringing about social change, its history in the South African struggle, and his own history and experiences. He will conclude with a song, giving everyone an opportunity to participate and experience how remembrance of God and His Prophet is inclusive of action-oriented engagement with society for a more just, peaceful and sustainable world.

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.

The Prayer of Women for Giving Peace on Earth II

Gusti Koes Murtiyah

Nurlia Ruddin

Room 207

Morning Observance

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, Gusti Koes Murtiyah from Karaton Surakarta, Central Java, Indonesia will sing *Tembang Macapat - Doa Keselamatan* prayer of safety. Nurlia Ruddin of Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia will sing the *Royong* prayer of the Bugis-Makassar.

Gusti Koes Murtiyah, of Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, is the daughter of the late Sri Susuhunan Pakubuwono XII, the king of Karaton Surakarta Hadiningrat. She holds a degree in Javanese Literature and is Director of Yayasan Pawiyatan Budaya Karaton Surakarta, which develops and preserves palace arts and culture. She has performed traditional Javanese court dances in Jakarta, Asia, Europe and the United States.

Nurlia Ruddin, of Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, is the daughter of a leading teacher of the ritual dance Pakarena. She is a dance teacher at the National High School for the Arts in Somba Opu. Nurlia regularly performs in Indonesia, and her students have received national recognition.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

8:00–9:00am
MORNING OBSERVANCES

By the Fig and the Olive Tree: A Qur'anic Perspective on Healing the Earth with Care and Concern

Speaker to be Announced

Room 208

Religious or Spiritual Observance

In this session, a speaker will share a Qur'anic foundation for healing the earth with care and concern. 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 inspirational recitations of the Qur'an, clear translation and illuminating exegesis around a different Parliament subtheme 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.

Baha'i Devotional Gathering: 'The Earth is but One Country'

Victorian Office of the Australian Baha'i Community

Room 209

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The Baha'i devotional gathering will address the Parliament theme 'Healing the Earth' by recognising that this goal requires us to acknowledge our global interconnectedness. We are a single human family with one planetary home, regardless of our backgrounds and circumstances. Through this recognition, we can transcend the identities and loyalties that divide us. The gathering will offer a tranquil environment for participants to reflect on these themes through inspiring selections from the Holy Writings of the Baha'i Faith and other Sacred Texts. Audio-visual presentations and music will complement the readings. In accordance with usual practice at Baha'i devotional gatherings, people of any faith or no faith are welcome to attend. Presenters will be a team of readers and artists brought together under the auspices of the Victorian Office of the Australian Baha'i Community.

Presenters will be a team of readers and artists brought together under the auspices of the Victorian Office of the Australian Baha'i Community.

Meditation and Sacred Music

Yogini Sri Chandra Kali Prasada Mataji

Room 212

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The ultimate goal of meditation is to realise one's own self. Self-realisation is experiencing that Supreme Power within one's own self. Meditation done with faith in God helps in this process. A self-realised person is compassionate and is committed to working towards peace and justice for all. He realises that he shares divinity with his fellow human beings. He will thus create a communal feeling and universal brotherhood, and will then be able to do selfless service to the community. To reach this ultimate goal, one must have a thought-free mind. Sacred music is an important means to attain a stable and focused mind. It has a calming effect on the wandering mind. Any divine music is a direct interview with God. One can express one's feelings or confess one's mind to God freely through divine music. Similarly, chanting the holy name of God (Mantra) has a very profound effect on the mind. A pure heart is absolutely essential to reap the kind of benefit you would like to have from divine music. One can lose body consciousness when singing or listening to divine music with absolute concentration. Such is the power of sacred music and meditation.

Yogini Sri Chandra Kali Prasada Mataji is the spiritual leader of the Sri Kali Gardens Ashram and successor to Sri Babuji Maharaj of blessed memory who founded the Ashram. She is also head of numerous humanitarian and development programs, and an exponent of interreligious harmony.

The Master Key – Unlocking the Inner Treasures

Paramahansa Prajnanananda

Room 213

Interactive Workshop

In this enlightening observance, Paramahansa Prajnanananda, a world-revered master of Kriya Yoga, will reveal inspiring teachings for unlocking our greatest treasures within. Ancient, scientific methods will help enable participants of all faiths and backgrounds to realise such knowledge intrinsically through their own spiritual practices.

Paramahansa Prajnanananda is the current spiritual leader of the Kriya Yoga international organisations. These organisations were founded by his master, Paramahansa Hariharananda, who spread the teachings of Kriya Yoga all over the world. Paramahansa Hariharanandaji was Swami Shriyukteshwar and Paramahansa Yogananda's most outstanding direct disciple, one of the greatest realised Kriya Yoga masters in the lineage of Mahavatar Babaji Maharaj and Lahiri Mahasaya.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

8:00–9:00am
MORNING OBSERVANCES

Self-Inquiry: The Yoga of Thought and Feeling

Swami Ma Devi
Room 214

Interactive Workshop

Self-inquiry, a classical Hindu practice of meditation on the Inner Self, transcends doctrine. It is an investigation into the personal and divine aspects of Consciousness. By using simple and direct questions, we will inquire into the inner world of thought and feeling and explore four energy centres within the body. These centres touch directly upon inner and outer world issues. We will investigate them with the purpose of clearing away any tension or stresses that block the experience of peace.

Swami Ma Devi is the co-director of the Shiva School of Meditation and Yoga in Melbourne. An accomplished Hatha Yogi, Ma Devi established the Hatha Yoga courses and teacher training program at the Shiva School, and has taught hundreds of people to meditate. With a background in Gestalt Therapy, she helped Swami Shankarananda develop and refine the Shiva Process method of Self-inquiry, a practical yogic technique for working with thought and feeling.

Guided Gathering of Mind through Seven Steps

H H Swami Amarananda
Room 216

Religious or Spiritual Observance

During this session, Swami Amarananda will guide participants through a Seven Step meditative process. Beginning with the chanting of hymns and reflections on their meanings, he will continue with the observation of the mind as a witness; controlled breathing; prayer to various spiritual teachers of humanity; the imagination of oneself as emanating good wishes to all human beings, especially the marginalised, diseased, and handicapped; and repetition of a mystic syllable. He will then proceed to a series of visualisations based on the following fourteen images: a mountain peak, a placid lake, a waterfall, a candle flame, a flower, a sun, a cumulus cloud pouring forth rain, a forest, sand dunes, snow-clad terrain, star-studded sky in a village, a beam of light from in between one's eyebrows, a flying and singing skylark and vertebrate fish swimming in water. Participants will end the session with a prayer to their own beloved spiritual teacher.

H H Swami Amarananda is the senior monk of the Ramakrishna Order and president of the Centre Vedantique in Geneva. He is a former residential school headmaster and expert on disaster management. He has participated in numerous multireligious programs, including the World Faiths Development Dialogue, meetings of the Community of Santo Egidio, the Interreligious Platform in Geneva and the World Council of Churches.

Middle Way Meditation

Phrapalad Sudhammo Bhikkhu
Room 217

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Through meditation, we can achieve an inner peace and wisdom that enables us to have harmonious relationships with others across the world. This inner peace breaks down barriers among people of different nationalities and cultures so we become one family. Phrapalad Sudhammo Bhikkhu will conduct a one-hour guided meditation to demonstrate 'Middle Way' Buddhist meditation techniques. At the end of the session, there will be a short question and answer session for participants relating to their meditation experience.

Phrapalad Sudhammo Bhikkhu is the president of the Buddhist Federation of Australia, the general secretary of the Dhammachai Education Foundation of Australia, and the president of Middle Way Meditation Centres in Oceania. He has been practising meditation for over thirty years and is an expert in his field. Phrapalad Sudhammo Bhikkhu has established nine meditation centres in Australia, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands.

Zoroastrian Daily Morning Prayers and Worship: Day 2

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 woolen 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.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am

INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

INTRARELIGIOUS 9:30–11:00am

Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations: the Struggle for Recognition

Nana Osei Boakyewa Yiadom II, Akan/Ghana: Apeadu,
Moderator

Tonya Gonnella Frichner, USA: Onondaga

Anna Pinto, India: Meiti

Margaret Lokawua, Uganda: Karimjong

Plenary Hall

Panel Discussion

The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues examines and addresses among others such critical issues as Indigenous peoples' human rights, intellectual property and land rights, and the protection of cultural heritages. The panellists are active members of this forum and will discuss the challenges of bringing the issues of Indigenous communities to the United Nations and report on the progress made thus far.

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.

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.

Anna Pinto is executive director of the Centre for Organisation, Research and Education (CORE), an Indigenous peoples' policy research and advocacy organisation based in northeast 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.

Margaret Lokawua is the chairperson for the Civil Society for Indigenous Organizations in Karamoja, and director of the Indigenous Women Environmental Conservation Project.

Basic Tenets and Karma in Jainism

Davendra Keertiji

Dr Narayan Kachhara

Room 101

Panel Discussion

This panel will explain the doctrine of Karma that is central to the Jain philosophy. The doctrine holds that our actions determine the quality and quantity of future rewards and advocates a culture and practice of nonviolence. The karma body constitutes a system whereby a soul maintains a record of actions that becomes a guiding factor in the future. Thus every individual has an opportunity to shape the future by controlling his or her present

actions. While the good actions bring prosperity and well being, the evil actions cause suffering. Jain's basic tenets of five great vows include nonviolence, truth, non-stealing, non-possession and celibacy. By following these vows completely, a soul can break through the cycle of karma, get rid of the cycle of births and deaths, and pave the way for his or her nirvana. These five virtues lead householders to the conduct of nonviolence, friendliness, tolerance, forgiveness, self-control and respect for all living beings. Through good thoughts and actions, we can make a better world.

His Holiness Swami Devendra Keerti Ji is a Jain Bhattarak Swami. An authority on Jain philosophy and scriptures, he has attended various national and international conferences. He is very knowledgeable of ancient languages including Sanskrit, Prakrit and Kannada, and he specialises in new temple inaugural ceremonies and consecration of Jain deities.

Born in Udaipur, **Dr Narayan Lal Kachhara** received his PhD from the University of Salford. He has taught at the University of Jodhpur, Malviya Regional Engineering College, the University of Salford UK, and the University of Aden. Since retiring in 1997, Dr Kachhara has been working for religious and social causes and exploring the scientific nature of Jain philosophy, on which he has authored half a dozen books. He has lectured on Jain philosophy at many national and international conferences.

Spirituality and Healing in Melbourne's North

Pastor Esme Atkinson

Uncle Reg Blow

Elizabeth Pike

Room 102

This panel highlights the ways that Aboriginal and Indigenous communities and individuals have adjusted to the challenges of living within the larger social and cultural contexts. Aboriginal Pastor Esme Atkinson will provide insight about Barak Christian Ministries, the only Indigenous Church in Melbourne, highlighting its uniqueness among Melbourne's diverse faith communities. Aboriginal Community Elder, Uncle Reg Blow will present his belief that Aboriginal people have been disconnected from the source of their power by their legacy of inter-generational trauma caused through dispossession, loss of culture, identity and independence. The understanding of self is required by Aboriginal people to heal and connect us back to spirit. The Aboriginal community needs to strengthen the connections of Aboriginal families and community to the land and the culture, to revive our spirituality, so that inner peace and the resilience to live healthy and productive lives can be achieved. Elizabeth Pike describes the experiences of the offspring of the Stolen Generations through the eyes of an Aboriginal myth that mirrors her own life story.

Esme Atkinson is Pastor of Barak Christian Ministries.

Uncle Reg Blow is a senior Aboriginal Elder from Melbourne.

Elizabeth (Betty) Pike is writer in residence at Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne. She is a Nyoongah woman whose ancestors are the people of southwestern Australia and an Irish convict. Elizabeth is the author of numerous articles with an Aboriginal focus. Her work has appeared in 'Developing an Australian Theology' and 'Bread for the Table' as well as journals such as Madonna, Outlook, Summit, Nelen Yubu, Kairos and Earth Song.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

Creators of Peace

Pari Sanyu

Jean Brown

Jane Mills

Trish McDonald-Harrison

Room 103

Interactive Workshop

Creators of Peace (CoP) is an international network of women committed to the pursuit of a radical peace in which personal honesty and integrity form the basis of reconciliation. Launched in 1991 at the Initiatives of Change centre in Switzerland, CoP operates globally through conferences, workshops, personal encounters, community building activities and CoP Circles. CoP specifically challenges women of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds to discover their unique capacity in creating a culture of peace in their homes and communities. This interactive workshop will provide a transformative space for interpersonal, interreligious and interethnic dialogue. Participants will work together through material and exercises that explore the personal challenges and cost of creating peace; allow deep reflection and inner listening to the voice of truth, or God, as a source of inspiration; promote a change of heart, starting with oneself as a primary tool of peace creation; and aid women to act on their particular concerns through effective social action. Participants will have the opportunity to share life stories in an atmosphere of trust and respect through active, compassionate listening and engagement.

Pari Sanyu is a social worker by profession. Coming from a situation of personal and political conflict in Nagaland, she is committed to building the capacity of individuals as peace creators. She engages in the programs of Initiatives of Change and is a skilled facilitator of their training programs. She is also a member of the Whitehorse Interfaith Network and International President of Creators of Peace.

Jean Brown is the International Coordinator of Creators of Peace. She is responsible for designing and developing the Creators of Peace Circles program and manual and is an Elder with the Initiatives of Change program and Faculty with the Tools for Change program.

Jane Mills is a trainer for Creators of Peace and International Conference Coordinator for Initiatives of Change.

Trish McDonald-Harrison is Regional Coordinator and Trainer for Creators of Peace.

Orthodoxy in Australia: Current and Future Perspectives

Trevor Batrouney

Zvezdana Peuraca

Keith Morrison

Room 104

Seminar

This program will include three presentations. The first will explore the origins and current situation of Orthodox Christian churches in Australia. In particular, it will examine the immigration and settlement of Orthodox Christians in Australia including waves of migration and the birthplace, ethnic origin and geographic distribution

of the immigrants. This will lead to a discussion of the formation of Orthodox communities from the late 19th century to the present. A discussion of Orthodox identity in Australia will provide the basis for examining some futures for Orthodoxy in Australia. The second presentation will illustrate some of the above elements through a case study of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Australia. The third presentation will focus on a specific aspect of Orthodox Christian tradition: that of theosis or divinisation. Some of the socio-ecological consequences of this teaching will be articulated, namely, the praxis of social justice and environmental concerns. The Orthodox tradition also provides rituals and meditation techniques to facilitate the realist purpose of religion. Following the three presentations there will be a panel discussion and participant questions.

Trevor Batrouney is an Antiochian Orthodox by faith and a historian and sociologist by profession. He has written extensively on the migration and settlement of Lebanese and other immigrant groups in Australia. He has also written and lectured on Orthodoxy in Australia in both national and international forums. Dr Batrouney is currently an Adjunct Professor at RMIT University, Melbourne.

Zvezdana Peuraca was born in Croatia. In the 1990s she moved to Serbia where she studied at Belgrade University. In 2000, Zvezdana migrated to Australia. She completed a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in International Studies at RMIT University, Melbourne. Currently, Zvezdana is undertaking a Master of Arts degree in International Studies at RMIT University with a particular focus on the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Reverend Dr Keith Morrison is the superior of the St Isaac House of Prayer and director of the Sustainable Community Development Research Institute. Keith has been an academic human ecologist at the University of the South Pacific, Lincoln University and the University of Canterbury, and now directs an independent research institute grounded in interdisciplinary and intercultural collaborative research. Keith is also a deacon of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Australasian archdiocese, providing spiritual retreats.

Changing the World from the Inside Out: Making a Difference through Evolutionary Enlightenment

Andrew Cohen

Room 106

Lecture

Nowadays, with the advent of global warming and the palpable fear of conflict and upheaval, we have become focused on the question of survival. But there is a significant difference between being concerned with how we are going to survive and thinking seriously about how we are actually going to evolve at the deepest level. It's far more common to experience concern about our survival, but to experience the urgent necessity for higher development in the deepest part of ourselves, in the soul, is another matter altogether. That soul-level transformation is essential if the future that we seek is to become a reality. In this lecture, spiritual teacher Andrew Cohen offers a dramatically new spiritual solution to the problems we collectively face. Placing the human predicament within the context of the vast, unfolding Kosmos, Cohen awakens us to the evo-

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

lutionary impulse—the creative source that springs from the depth of our being. This ecstatic and dynamic source of spiritual liberation gives new meaning to the profound truth that the inner and outer are one, empowering us to transform the world as we know it from the inside out.

Andrew Cohen is a spiritual teacher and founder of EnlightenNext magazine (formerly What Is Enlightenment?). A visionary thinker, Cohen is widely recognised for his original contribution to the emerging field of evolutionary spirituality. Through his talks, retreats, publications and ongoing dialogues with leading philosophers, mystics and activists, he is becoming a defining voice in an international alliance of individuals and organisations that are committed to the transformation of human consciousness and culture.

With One Voice

Room 107

Film

This documentary brings together mystics from fourteen different spiritual traditions to share their perspectives on the unifying truth that transcends all religions. These teachers address profound questions about life and love, the existence of God, the path to spiritual awakening and the way to true peace in the world. They ask us to look within our own hearts and listen deeply, so that we too can join the conversation and speak With One Voice. The film was directed by Matthew Flickstein.

Integration of Immigrants and Refugees into Australia: Interfaith and Cross-cultural Understanding

Philip Hughes
Ruth Powell
Robert Dixon
Room 108

Seminar

Migration is at the core of the Australian experience, and the country's cultural and religious diversity continues to increase. The churches of Australia have developed a variety of ways of welcoming these immigrants, building socially cohesive communities and developing ways in which people can serve each other. This seminar brings together Australia's three top Christian research agencies to look at Australia's religious profile, its multicultural churches and their pastoral strategies. The session will be of particular interest to those who are working with young people, both through schools and religious organisations. It will be of importance to all those who are interested in contemporary social change and how current changes may have an impact on the paths to creating better interfaith and cross-cultural understanding and working for peace, justice and sustainability.

Dr Philip Hughes is a Senior Research Officer at the Christian Research Association of Australia.

Dr Ruth Powell is the Director of the National Christian Life Survey.

Robert Dixon is the Director of the Pastoral Projects Office of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and a member of the Board of the Christian Research Association. Bob has degrees in science, theology and education and is nearing completion of a PhD in sociology at Monash University.

Transforming Compassion in Science and Religion (Session 1)

LeRon Shults
Solomon Katz
Michael T H Wong
Manuka Henare
Imam Afroz Ali
Room 109

Panel and Interactive Workshop

Compassion is a value that is central to many of the world's religions and a phenomenon that can be studied from a variety of scientific perspectives. This first session of a mini-symposium sponsored by the International Society for Science and Religion contributes to the growing interest in integrating interreligious with interdisciplinary dialogue. It will provide a context within which different voices can come together around the shared concern to understand and facilitate empathy and altruism across religious and other significant boundaries. This symposium focuses on transforming the way we think about compassion through listening to one another and on facilitating compassion that has a meaningful impact on the human condition. It will also discuss facilitating a level of compassion that transforms the human condition. The first session will begin with a panel including a biologist, a psychologist and an economist, who will address the question, 'How does your discipline help us understand and foster compassion?' The panel will be followed by group exercises in which audience members discuss initial reactions and implications.

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 Solomon Katz is director of the Krogman Center for Childhood Growth and Development at the University of Pennsylvania and is a professor of anthropology and a senior fellow at the Wharton School Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics. He was founder and Chairman (1984 to 1986) of the Task Force on the African Famine for the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and is currently Chair of the AAA Task Force on World Food Problems.

Michael T H Wong is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Monash University, Australia.

Manuka Henare is the Associate Dean at the University of Auckland Business School, New Zealand.

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.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

Socially Engaged Buddhism: a Pathway to Peace

Sulak Sivaraksa
Tony Le-Nguyen
Jill Jameson
Karma Lekshe Tsomo
Room 110
Panel Discussion

This panel discussion will focus on the incredible success that socially engaged Buddhist leaders have had in combating modern problems such as war, poverty and AIDS, as well as the diversity of the responses. These stories attest to the limitless well of compassion within the Buddhist tradition, as applied via the skilful means of social activism. In sharing these stories of success, presenters will also discuss the obstacles to peace and the social, political and cultural causes of suffering that still remain and must be addressed.

Sulak Sivaraksa, of the Santi Pracha Dhamma Institute, is a Nobel Prize nominee and prominent Buddhist social and environmental activist in Thailand. He has founded numerous organisations and has been involved in Buddhist-Christian dialogue for decades. His books include 'Seeds of Peace: A Buddhist Vision for Renewing Society' and 'Loyalty Demands Dissent'.

Tony Le-Nguyen is currently the Executive Producer for Australian Vietnamese Youth Media. Last year he assisted the Vietnamese Community in Victoria to co-ordinate 'Children of the Dragon', a community arts project to celebrate 30 years of Vietnamese settlement in Australia. Mr. Le-Nguyen was the first Vietnamese-Australian to be appointed as an Official Prison Visitor to Port Phillip and Fulham Prison by the Minister for Corrections, the Honourable Andre Haermeyer in 2003 to act as an independent voice for the Prison system in Victoria. In 2000, He was awarded the Community Cultural Development Fellowship by the Australia Council for the Arts, a two year professional development program to research different Community Cultural Development practices in the United States, Canada, France and Vietnam.

Jill Jameson, is a human rights activist and trainer from Melbourne's Buddhist Peace Fellowship chapter in Australia. Jill has been engaged in the work of the International Network of Engaged Buddhists, offering training in conflict transformation and peace-building in Burma, as well as being part of a small delegation of Buddhists to Burma following the Saffron Revolution.

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.

Zoroastrians: Their Imperative to be Bridge Builders

Arnavaz Chubb, Moderator
Dr Dolly Dastoor
Dr Sam Kerr
Perviz Dubash
Kayzad Namdarian
Room 111
Panel Discussion

Zarathushtis are unique in the interfaith world. Small in number, they have great respect for all other faiths, and, in turn, they command the respect of others. This presentation will explore the Zarathushti imperative to be Bridge Builders, Nithashnametheshim and Hamazor, the kinds of schism causes, what it means to be a Bridge Builder and how Zarathushtis may offer their services to be Bridge Builders between and among the faiths.

Arnavaz Chubb holds a Master's degree in Avesta and Pahlavi (the ancient scriptural languages of the Zoroastrians) and a Bachelor's degree in English Literature and Ancient Indian Culture, both from the University of Bombay, India. She has served in various capacities on the managing committee of the Zoroastrian Association of Victoria. She conducts the religious education classes organised by the Association for children and adults.

Dolly Dastoor is the past president of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America and the Zoroastrian Association of Quebec as well as editor-in-chief at Fezana Journal. She is currently Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at McGill University, Canada.

Sam Kerr was born in Bombay, India. He is an emeritus surgeon to the University of New South Wales and its College Hospitals, Sydney, Australia. Dr Kerr was initiated into the Australian Zoroastrian Association of New South Wales in 1969 as a founding member. In addition to his professional writings, he has published and lectured on the social, cultural, historical and scriptural aspects of the religion of Zarathushtra.

Perviz Dubash is the former president of the Zoroastrian Association of Victoria. He is currently the honorable trustee for the Zoroastrian Association of Victoria and the Current Coordinator of the Zoroastrian Group for the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Kayzad Namdarian was brought up and studied in Melbourne, Australia. He is completing a Master of Diplomacy and Trade. He works in the Kingdom of Tonga on assignment. He has been involved in various Zoroastrian community activities in Australia and abroad, such as preparing for a religious presentation on the importance of gender equality at the UN Women's Rights Conference in 2005.

Tari Sesaji Tri Yoni Saraswati

Yayasan Dharma Samuan Tiga
Ni Ketut Arini
Gusti Koes Murtiyah
Nurlia Ruddin
Suprpto Suryodarmo
Diane Butler
Eddy Supriono Wirabhumi
Ida Pedanda GK Sebali Tianyar Arimbawa
Eko Kadarsih
Room 201
Artistic Performance

Tari Sesaji Tri Yoni Saraswati is a new ritual dance offering to Saraswati, the Goddess of knowledge, the arts and wisdom. In South Sulawesi, she is known as 'Colliq

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

Pujie Arung Pancana Toa', author of the world heritage literature, La Galigo. This dance depicts a woman's search for enlightenment through three phases. The first two consist of an Agni Hotra purification ceremony and Kalaruci innertime, in which the oneness of earth, moon and sun meets the small holy one in ourselves. Then, it depicts three sacred feminine ethnic sources from Bali, Central Java, and Makassar, South Sulawesi, manifesting as Saraswati with the Barong Pa-Hayu Buwana/World Peace Barong. From the radiation of Dewi Saraswati's compassion and breathing of religiosity in art, we pray within 'bhinneka tunggal ika', unity in diversity, to Nature, Ancestors and the Great Oneness of God. Barong Pa-Hayu Buwana/World Peace Barong was conceived in March 2003 during the Sharing Art and Religiosity program in Bedulu, Bali. This barong is a new creation made from coral, stones, bark, roots, feathers, fabric, bells and materials gifted every year by people across the earth. In 2011, it will be dedicated to the 1000-year anniversary of Pasamuhan Tiga.

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.

Ni Ketut Arini, of Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia, is a distinguished performer, choreographer and teacher of classical and modern Balinese dance. She was a faculty member at the Indonesian Conservatory of Performing Arts (KOKAR) and then a supervisor for national high schools throughout Bali. In 1973, she founded Sanggar Warini, a traditional studio in her birth-village Lebah, where she continues to guide hundreds of young artists. She has toured extensively throughout the world.

Gusti Koes Murtiyah, of Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, is the daughter of the late Sri Susuhunan Pakubuwono XII, the king of Karaton Surakarta Hadiningrat. She holds a degree in Javanese Literature and is Director of Yayasan Pawiyatan Budaya Karaton Surakarta, which develops and preserves palace arts and culture. She has performed traditional Javanese court dances in Jakarta, Asia, Europe and the United States.

Nurlia Ruddin, of Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, is the daughter of a leading teacher of the ritual dance Pakarena. She is a dance teacher at the National High School for the Arts in Somba Opu. Nurlia regularly performs in Indonesia, and her students have received national recognition.

Suprpto Suryodarmo founded his Padepokan Lemah Putih school in Mojosoongo, Solo, Java in 1986. Since 1970, he has studied free movement, Vipassana and Javanese Sumarah meditation. He uses these practices in the nature, temple and human fields. For twenty years, Suprpto Suryodarmo has taught his Jaged Amerta method and created ritual art in Indonesia, Europe, the US, Mexico, Australia, the Philippines, Japan and India. He is a founding member of Dharma Nature Time and Yayasan Dharma Samuan Tiga.

Diane Butler was born in the United States and has resided in Bedulu and Tejakula, Bali since 2001. She is a movement artist, teacher and cultural/education program director who has worked in contemplative intercultural arts in the US, Europe, Mexico and Asia. Diane holds a BFA in Dance from Juilliard and an MALS in Dance & Culture from Wesleyan. She is completing her PhD in Cultural Studies at Universitas Udayana in Bali. She is a founder and president of Dharma Nature Time.

Eddy Supriono Wirabhumi, of Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, holds an MA in Economics and a PhD in Law from Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang. As a Board Member of the foundation Yayasan Pawiyatan Budaya Karaton Surakarta, he is costume director for the artists of Karaton Surakarta and an advisor for the renovation and revitalisation of the palace architecture. Sacred Earth: Music for Inner Peace.

Ida Pedanda Gede Ketut Sebali Tianyar Arimbawa, of Amlapura, Bali, Indonesia, was confirmed as a Bali Hindu Priest in 1985 and is currently Dharma Adhyaksa of the High Priests' Assembly of Parisada Hindu Dharma Indonesia (Indonesian Hindu Council). He is active in AIDS education and care for youth and fosters the presence of traditional eco-

socio-religious knowledge and practices in national/global environmental forums. Pedanda Arimbawa has joined interreligious art, prayer, and dialogues throughout Indonesia and internationally.

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.

Walking With Wisdom by Jeremy 'Yongurra Yerin' Donovan

Jeremy 'Yongurra Yerin' Donovan

Room 201

Artistic Performance

Jeremy's music is evocative and heartfelt. His stories and music stirs emotions in his audience as he transports them back to the Dreamtime.

Religious Leaders for a Sustainable Future

Bishop Geoffrey Davies

James Buchanan

Room 202

Interactive Workshop

This session is framed to consider first the complex issues of a globalizing world and then outstanding regional solutions. We need to develop new forms of global civil society, networks of dialogue, engagement and action which work as a check and balance to the powerful global institutions which often do not represent common values. The presentation will explore the special role that Interfaith communities need to play in the creation of these global civil social networks and of the demand that these networks offer real workable alternatives to the bad practices of many of the global actors and institutions. Bishop Geoffrey Davies of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI), will discuss how his organisation works to mobilise religious communities and people of faith to care for the whole creation. Believing that climate change, biodiversity loss, economic injustice and poverty are moral issues, SAFCEI seeks to galvanise all varieties of faith communities to use their moral authority and extensive networks to seek environmental justice and equity for future generations. The work of the Institute serves as a model that can be replicated, showing that diverse religious people have much in common and can indeed live in peace and harmony with one another while seeking a sustainable, peaceful future.

Bishop Geoffrey Davies is Coordinator and founder member of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environmental Institute, which works to raise awareness of environmental issues, such as climate change, among different faith communities. He participated in Christian Aid's Cut the Carbon march around the UK, which aimed to draw attention to global warming and the urgent issue of reducing our carbon footprint.

James Buchanan is director of the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Center works on globalization and global issues through conferences, publications and a variety of

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

projects around the world. Interfaith dialogue, engagement and action are central to the work of the Center. Dr Buchanan has his PhD from the University of Chicago in Comparative Religion and Value Systems. He has published widely and lecture throughout the world.

Who Do We Want To Be: Exploring the Mission of the Jewish People in the 21st Century

Rabbi David Rosen
Rachael Kohn, Moderator
Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence
Rabbi Brad Hirschfield
Rabbi David Saperstein
Room 203
Panel Discussion

Contemporary Judaism, whether as expressed in Israel itself or in the Jewish Diaspora, faces many challenges as it moves further away in time from the Holocaust and from the foundation of Israel. This panel, consisting of several leading Jewish leaders and thinkers, will discuss these challenges and the evolving nature of Judaism in the 21st century. The session will be facilitated by Rachael Kohn, one of Australia's leading religious affairs commentators.

Director of the American Jewish Committee's Department for Interreligious Affairs and the Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding, **Rabbi David Rosen** 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.

Rachael Kohn is producer and presenter of *The Spirit of Things* on ABC Radio National.

Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence is Senior Rabbi at The Great Synagogue, Sydney. He serves as registrar and a judge on the Sydney Beth Din and is Orthodox rabbinic advisor to the New South Wales Board of Jewish Deputies and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. He is a founder member of the NSW Jewish Arbitrators and Mediators Service. He was formerly Rabbi in Auckland and a founder member of the Auckland Interfaith Council. He holds a degree in Jurisprudence from Oxford University and has been associated with interfaith dialogue and the CCJ since student days. Rabbi Lawrence is a keen technophile, broadcaster and lecturer. Other interests include the environment, magic, Gilbert & Sullivan and skydiving. Rabbi Lawrence is married to Mandy and has four children ranging from two to sixteen years old.

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield is an acclaimed interfaith activist described by Newsweek as 'one of America's most influential rabbis'. He is the creator of 'Building Bridges' and 'American Pilgrimage' on Bridges TV, the author of 'You Don't Have To Be Wrong For Me To Be Right: Finding Faith Without Fanaticism', and a columnist for Beliefnet.com and Newsweek/WashingtonPost.com. Hirschfield is the President of CLAL—The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, America's leading Jewish institution for religious pluralism.

Designated in Newsweek's 2009 list as the most influential rabbi in the United States and described in a Washington Post profile as 'the quintessential religious lobbyist on Capitol Hill', **Rabbi David Saperstein** represents the national Reform Jewish Movement to Congress and the Administration as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

The February 2009 Bushfires in Victoria: Religious Response in the Role of Recovery and Renewal

Chi Kwang Sunim
Christine Nixon
Brother Trevor Parton
Pastor Russell Wright
Room 204
Panel Discussion

In February 2009, Australia experienced the most devastating bushfire in the country's history. Nearly 200 people were killed, and more than 400 more were injured, as fires spread rapidly across the land. In the aftermath of the disaster, relief workers from many religious communities came together to help the survivors. Reverend Chi Kwang Sunim, a Buddhist nun and survivor of the Kinglake fires, will lead a dialogue with Christine Nixon, Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, and several religious leaders, about working with emergency relief, dealing with the suffering and grief of survivors and victims, and rebuilding community. The presenters will also share stories of outstanding acts of kindness experienced during the Kinglake Ranges' recovery and renewal, as well as look into deeper questions of ecological sustainability.

Chi Kwang Sunim has been a Zen Buddhist nun for 30 years. Born in Korea, she now resides in Kinglake, Victoria. She is a founding member of the Buddhist Library in Sydney, Wat Buddha Dharma, and The Seon Centre, and is a seasoned meditation and Buddhist teacher. She is currently Chair of the Australian Sangha Association and recognised in Buddhist and Interfaith circles in Australia and abroad.

Christine Nixon is the Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBARRA). Prior to this, Christine was the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, having served New South Wales Police from 1972 and Victoria Police from 2001. Christine is an Advisory Board member of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation, and a patron of the Blue Ribbon Foundation.

Brother Trevor Parton is resident at the Christian Brothers Centre for Ecology and Spirituality in Glenburn, Victoria, within the area devastated by the bushfires. Trevor is a lecturer and presenter at Glenburn, as well as in Hobart, Brisbane and Perth. His work concentrates on eco-literacy and on creating a more functional and spiritual relationship between the human and the natural world.

Pastor Russell Wright is the Christian Outreach Centre's mission and operations manager. He has managed disaster relief projects in both Australia and overseas, including the Asian tsunami and Kinglake bushfires. For eight years, he has led more than 300 youth in mission training in Asia, in hopes of creating a new generation of community outreach leaders.

Jain principles for Corporate Social Responsibility

Dipak Jain
Room 207
Lecture

Dr Dipak Jain, former dean of the Kellogg School of Management, will address business ethics from a Jain perspective. Over the past year, the economic tsunami that swept through the world's financial markets has highlighted weaknesses in the global banking system. The

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

crisis then spread quickly because of the very quality that otherwise lends strength to this network: the interconnectedness of these financial institutions. From a Jainist perspective, some spiritual tenets could help prevent these market excesses. The market, it seems, should regard the accumulation of material wealth as spiritually helpful so long as this wealth is deployed in ways that create widespread social benefit. In his humorous style, Dr Jain will present several examples from daily life and the current business environment.

Dr Dipak C Jain has been dean of the Kellogg School of Management since 2001. His career in education began as a student in Tezpur, north-east India. He earned his Master's Degree in Mathematical Statistics from Gauhati University in India and his PhD in Marketing from the University of Texas. Since 1989, Dean Jain has also been a visiting professor of marketing at the Sasun Graduate Institute of Business Administration at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok.

The Calling to Interfaith Ministry and Interfaith Practice

Roger Ross

Robert Sellers

Robert Hrasna

Tim Miner

Beth Katz

Room 208

Panel Discussion

This panel describes organisations that have formed to support the growing number of interfaith ministers who have answered the call of this expanding and dynamic movement. It will take a look at the powerful application of interfaith cooperation and mutual learning in Christian leadership, scholarship and among its adherents, as well as the environmental challenges people of all faiths face together.

Rabbi Roger Ross is the Executive Director of the New Seminary for Interfaith Studies, the Executive Director of the Rabbinical Seminary International, and the Treasurer of the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, New York. He received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Philosophy from New York University, and his ordination as Interfaith Minister from The New Seminary. Rabbi Ross received Rabbinical Ordination from the Rabbinical Seminary International.

Robert P Sellers is Connally Professor of Missions and Theology at Logsdon School of Theology, Hardin-Simmons University, in Abilene, Texas. He draws on experience working in Indonesia and travelling through 36 countries to teach cross-cultural studies, liberation theology and interreligious dialogue. A brief account of his personal faith pilgrimage and interreligious perspective is found in 'The Cave: Teaching Religion Students to Rethink Exclusivism and Embrace Tolerance', in *The World's Religions After September 11*, Vol. 4.

Reverend Robert Hrasna is an ordained Interfaith Minister and a graduate of The New Seminary in New York. He continues to serve there as Director of Music. Reverend Hrasna lives in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, where he formed a ministry in the field of Holistic/Spiritual health and counselling. He currently serves as the chairman of the board for A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy.

Reverend Timothy Miner, OUnI, is the founding secretary of the Order of Universal Interfaith and the organiser of both the Council of Interfaith Congregations of the United States and the World Council of Interfaith Congregations. He is a graduate of interfaith and traditional seminaries in the United States. He is also a board member of A World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy working to recognise the training and work of interfaith ministers.

Beth Katz is the founder and executive director of Project Interfaith (www.projectinterfaithusa.org), an innovative organisation based in Omaha, Nebraska that serves as a leader and resource on interfaith and religious diversity issues. She also teaches courses on international conflict resolution and religious diversity in the schools at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

The Sacred Journey

Marjorie Tidman

Peter Tidman

Dr John Davidson

Natasha Tidman

Raymond Tidman

Kyle Lister

Room 209

Interactive Workshop

Spiritual development is conceptualised within the broad framework of increasing our individual and collective capacity to love God and also to love humanity, to alleviate human suffering and to contribute our share to the advancement of civilisation. The major part of this program will focus on the sacred journey in search of the Beloved throughout this world and beyond. The workshop is based on Baha'u'llah's most important mystical work, 'The Seven Valleys', revealed in the late 1850s in response to the questions of a judge who was also a prominent Sufi. The presentation will use various art forms, especially music, to engage the audience. The events of each individual journey are unique, but the golden threads of love, courage, insight and submission are common to all who progress along the spiritual path. The second part of the program highlights the newly constructed Baha'i Centre of Learning, located at the gateway to Hobart, Tasmania, which has attracted widespread public interest because of the beauty of its architecture and its many environmental features. The presentation will briefly survey the architecture, functions and aspirations of the Centre to serve the spiritual and social needs of the community, and tell some of its stories of tragedy and triumph.

Dr Marjorie Rose Tidman is an educational consultant and psychologist, and a former member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Australia. She is currently the Critical Incident (Trauma) Co-ordinator for Western Australia, for PPC Worldwide, co-ordinator of 'Sacred Steps' Spiritual Retreat and a member of the Board of Baha'i Studies for the Yerrinbool Baha'i Centre of Learning, Australia.

Peter Charles Tidman is an optometrist and a musician, playing classical, jazz, rock, folk, and Spanish guitar; he also performs on vocals and pipes.

Dr John Davidson is a member of the Baha'i Council for Tasmania and has been engaged with the Baha'i Centre Project since its inception. He is retired from teaching psychology at the University of Tasmania and spends most of his time at the Baha'i Centre of Learning. He has a long interest in the development of educational programs within the Australian Baha'i community.

Natasha Anna Tidman is a year 12 school student who performs vocals.

Raymond Maxwell Tidman is a year 9 school student who plays the guitar and drums.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

Sikh Youth Perspectives

Jagjit Singh, Moderator

Jessi (Jasjit) Kaur

Kulmeet Singh

Gurpal Singh

Room 210

Panel Discussion

Every faith sustains itself by nurturing its next generation with care and dedication. This session, which includes several young Sikhs along with Sikh youth camp organisers, addresses the needs of Sikh young adults. It will speak to their specific issues in the context of a modern, globalised world. It will also address the future of Sikh youth. This session will present and highlight intergenerational perspectives relating to Sikh youth development.

Jagjit Singh is an auditor who is member of the Sikh community of Melbourne and practices the Sikh way of life. He actively participates in community activities and practices Seva (volunteering 'selfless service') in various aspects of life, including participation in activities of Langar (preparing, serving, washing dishes, etc). One of his interests includes meeting people of varied backgrounds to share the values of Sikhism and to encourage harmony between the different cultures of Australia.

Jessi Kaur is a frequent speaker at interfaith conferences and has travelled extensively sharing spiritual values taught by the Sikh Gurus. Co-founder of the International Institute of Gurmat Studies and author of 'Dear Takuya', a children's book that promotes acceptance of diversity among young children, Jessi is also Fine Arts Commissioner for Cupertino, CA, USA. She believes that harmony is possible in a diverse world when barriers of ignorance are brought down.

Kulmeet Singh is the Executive Director of the group FATEH, a Sikh youth service organisation that offers Sikh young adults the opportunity to work in Punjab, India for the betterment of the Sikh community.

Gurpal Singh is a software engineer by profession. Religion, faith and belief have stimulated his thinking since childhood. Living in a multicultural world prompts him to reflect on diversity and to ponder his values. He is a firm believer of 'Unity in Diversity' and values the uniqueness of each culture. The Parliament of the World's Religions will surely be a platform for new horizons to share, care and learn from different sections of society.

Our Interreligious Future

Rev Dirk Ficca

Charles Gibbs

Yoland Trevino

Dr William Vendley

Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid

Room 211

Panel Discussion

The interreligious movement is barely a century old, yet it is clear that it will play an increasingly important role in the years ahead. Where is it all going? Will the religions play a larger role in the issues challenging the human community? Is there a potential for greater common action among the world's religious and spiritual communities? What are the next steps in the journey, what is motivating the movement and what are the obstacles to realising its visions? These and other topics will be addressed by directors of leading interreligious organisations, their colleagues and the audience.

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.

The Rev Canon Charles Gibbs serves as Executive Director of the United Religions Initiative, a global interfaith network for peace active in 72 countries.

Yoland Trevino is a globally respected Indigenous leader of Mayan ancestry and the Global Council Chair of the United Religions Initiative.

Dr William F Vendley has served as Secretary General of Religions for Peace since 1994 and has mobilised and equipped religious communities in war-torn regions worldwide. He was a participant in His Majesty King Abdullah's historic interreligious meeting in Madrid, Spain in 2008 and has been requested by the Muslim World League to serve on its Follow-up Committee. Dr Vendley is also an advisor to US President Barack Obama.

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.

What Religious Insights Can Bring to Secular Education

Venerable Jian Tan

Bernard Korbman

Annette Subhani

Dr Philip Riley

Sri Paramahansa Prajnanananda

Room 212

Panel Discussion

Religion has always inspired and influenced human thought in significant ways. We believe that some ideas and practices from religion can be used to help us understand current deficiencies in secular education and make us rethink what is truly important in school education: teaching us how to be human beings. In this program, speakers from Chung Tai Chan Monastery, the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne, the grassroots character development program Sharing Circles, and Santa Clara University discuss 'What Religious Insights Can Bring to Secular Education'.

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.

Bernard Korbman is the Executive Director of the Jewish Holocaust Centre in Melbourne. He lectures extensively in Holocaust education, both nationally and internationally, as well as in issues dealing with human rights and effective teaching methods. Before working at the Jewish Holocaust Centre, Bernard was employed in the Government State School system for a 25 year period.

Annette Subhani is the Secretary of the Baha'i Council for Victoria. She is a parent, has a Diploma in Primary Education, holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Early Childhood Education, and has participated in numerous professional development programs for various industries. She founded

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

the grassroots character development program Sharing Circles, which contributes to the character and spiritual development of children aged two and beyond.

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.

Paramahansa Prajnanananda is the current spiritual leader of the Kriya Yoga international organizations. These organizations were founded by his master, Paramahansa Hariharananda, who spread the teachings of Kriya Yoga all over the world. Paramahansa Hariharanandaji was Swami Shriyukteshwar and Paramahansa Yogananda's most outstanding direct disciple, one of the greatest realized Kriya Yoga masters in the lineage of Mahavatar Babaji Maharaj and Lahiri Mahasaya.

Taking Our Place in the Interreligious Movement: Women in Society, Peacemaking, and Interfaith Dialogue

Trish Madigan
Rev Denise Yarbrough
Sussy Gumo
Shehara Viswanathan
Natalie Lindner Lhuillier
 Room 213
 Panel Discussion

This program contains four sessions. (1) World Peace: Myth or Reality. A growing body of UN research shows that capitalising on the activities of women peacebuilders not only advances women's rights, but also leads to more effective programs. This presentation is by Pushpa Wood, a Hindu woman from New Zealand, and Trish Madigan, a Christian woman from Australia, both participants in the intergovernmental International Dialogues on Interfaith Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. (2) Make a World of Difference: Gender, Religion and Human Rights—A Kenyan Perspective. Gender equality and the empowerment of women is one of the prioritised agendas of the Millennium Development Goals. The aim of this paper is to examine how women are marginalised politically, economically, socially and spiritually in Kenya. (3) Women and a Model for Interfaith Dialogue. The central topic of this theme will be the roles and representation of women in each faith tradition. (4) Too Political?! The Story of Believing Women for a Culture of Peace. Members of this women's interfaith group will share stories of challenges and opportunities, and reflect on the experience of women and the goal of the interfaith movement to 'hear each other and heal the earth'.

Trish Madigan is a Catholic Dominican sister, a member of the Women's Interfaith Network and a Christian representative on the Australian National Dialogue of Christians, Jews and Muslims. In 2002 Trish participated in a Consultation of the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue for the Asian region held in Seoul, South Korea. She has been an Australian delegate at four regional intergovernmental conferences of the International Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace and Harmony.

Rev Denise Yarbrough is the Canon for Christian Formation and Theological Education at the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, New York, and acts as the Interreligious and Ecumenical Officer for the Diocese. She teaches interfaith studies and world religions at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School and serves on various interfaith bodies. She has

authored a curriculum for interfaith education in Christian congregations and is working on a book on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

Dr Sussy Nyakan Gumo teaches theology and philosophy in the Department of Religion at Maseno. She received her BA in education in 1991 and MA in 1995 from the University of Nairobi, and her PhD in religion in 2005 from Maseno University. She lectures on research methods, gender issues, religion and community development, religion and culture, and comparative religion.

Shehara Viswanathan is a member of the Uniting Church in Australia and the Convenor of the Young Women's Interfaith Network. From 1999–2003 Shehara was the Australian representative on the Women's Advisory Committee of the World Council of Churches in Switzerland. During this time she helped organise an International Young Women's Leadership Conference in Kenya. In 2002 she was one of a team of four who represented the Australian churches on a solidarity visit to Sudan.

Natalie Lindner L'Huillier has a professional background in pastoral ministry. Natalie received her undergraduate degree in Christian Theology from the Brisbane College of Theology. With the support of the National Council of Churches Ecumenical Leadership Fund, she travelled to Ireland to complete a Masters of Philosophy at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin. Natalie has recently taken up a position as Indigenous Research Support Officer within Australian Catholic University's Indigenous Research Office.

Decolonising our Hearts and Minds, Healing the Earth and Ourselves: North American Indigenous Perspectives

Nancy Martin
Ines Talamantez
Javier Davila
 Room 214
 Lecture

This panel of papers explores the need to decolonise our ways of thinking, to face honestly and directly the plight of North American Indigenous peoples, and to move beyond it. This is necessary in order to recover the wisdom and traditions that are endangered or forgotten and to move toward healing and reconciliation both between peoples and with the earth. The session will include the following papers: 'Decolonising our Hearts and Minds' by Ines Talamantez, professor of Native American Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara; 'Genocide in the Guise of a Helping Hand' by Javier Davila, professor of Infectious Diseases, University of California, Irvine and founder of the Native American Healing Center in Southern California; and 'Remembering Who We Are, Recovering the Sacred: First Nations Voices from the Yukon', a presentation by Nancy M Martin, professor of Religious Studies, Chapman University and co-founder of the Global Ethics and Religion Forum.

Nancy M Martin is associate professor of Religion and Grisct Lecturer in Ethics at Chapman University, California, USA. Dr Martin has published widely and lectured internationally on religion in South Asia and comparative religious ethics. She is co-editor of a series of volumes on comparative religious ethics including 'The Meaning of Life in the World Religions' and 'Human Rights and Responsibilities in the World Religions'.

A member of the Mescalero Apache tribe, **Ines M Talamantez** is a professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Talamantez is the author of 'Teaching Religion and Healing' and has contributed articles to 'Native Religions and Cultures of North America: Anthropology of the Sacred', and 'Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives'. The past president of the Indigenous Studies Group at the American Academy of Religion, she is a pioneering figure among American Indian scholars.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

Javier Davila is the founding director of the American Indian Healing Center and senior partner of South Coast Infectious Disease Medical Center. Having received his medical degree from the University of California, Irvine, he went into private practice in 1984 and taught about infectious diseases at the UCI Medical School from 1986 to 2005. Dr Davila founded the non-profit American Indian Healing Center in Whittier, California in 2000 to address the health needs of urban Native Americans.

Meditation: the Ultimate Transformative Experience

Dr Andrew Vidich, Moderator

Dr Margarete Czerny

Jim Rose

Sue Rose

Dr Art Stein

Room 215

Interactive Workshop

In this interactive experiential symposium, participants will learn how meditation can transform all aspects of their life. Learn how a simple but profound technique of meditation can help heal our bodies, open our hearts, liberate our minds and lead directly to the deepest levels of peace and joy within. Each of us already contains within us everything we need to be completely healthy, happy and spiritually fulfilled. We are, in fact, hard-wired for happiness and peace. This experience is accessible to each one of us right now. In fact, it is our birthright. All we need is the inner technology of transcendence, known in many traditions as meditation, to access this vast inner wealth. Daily contact with this inner fountainhead of Life and light will result in personal healing, spiritual fulfilment and global transformation. As Gandhi once said, 'If we want to change the world, we should first be the change we seek'. Experience for yourself how meditation can change your life forever and how you can be a catalyst for healing the world by becoming a living Ambassador of Light.

Andrew Vidich has taught as an adjunct assistant professor of religion at Manhattan College and Iona College. He is currently a literacy coach and mentor for the New York City Department of Education. He is the author of 'Light Upon Light: Five Master Paths to Awakening the Mindful Self' which won the 2008 National Book Award for best book in Eastern Religions. Dr Vidich is an international speaker in the field of meditation and spirituality.

Margarete Czerny is a scientist and economic advisor to the government of Austria and the European Union. She was recently honoured with the Golden Order of Merit of the Republic of Austria. Dr Czerny was head of the Department of East-West Relations, Infrastructure, Housing Policy, and International Economics at the University of Vienna. Her expertise is in developing plans for transitioning nations. Her interests include methods of fostering world peace and interreligious dialogue.

Jim Rose recently retired from Johnson & Johnson with 35 years of experience in human resources management and leadership development. In 1984, he began the spiritual path of Sant Mat, where he practices a vegetarian diet, meditates daily and studies under the guidance of a spiritual teacher, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj. Jim provides workshops and training to groups throughout the world where he connects meditation and spiritual development to other aspects of our lives.

Susan Rose has been a vegetarian and has meditated for over 35 years. She cooks and studies nutrition with an emphasis on finding healthy vegetarian alternatives for her family and friends. Since retiring from a career in sales and marketing, Susan has taught classes in vegetarian cooking and vegetarian diet in New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia

and various locations in New Jersey. She has most recently given workshops and talks in India and Dubai.

Arthur Stein teaches Peace Studies and Comparative Religion in the honours program at the University of Rhode Island (URI), USA. Co-founder of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at URI, he has been engaged in educational and conflict resolution/reconciliation service on every continent. Author of several books and other publications, he has been a participant and scholar in working towards mutual understanding and peacebuilding among ethnic national communities.

Politics and Governance: An Islamic Perspective on Religious Democracy in Iran

Dr Mahdi Mostafavi

Room 216

Academic Paper

Islam has been considered a religion that does not separate religious beliefs and political practice. However, the proper system of governance in an Islamic society has sparked debates among a number of Muslim thinkers and scholars. The model of state established by the Noble Prophet of Islam in the city of Medina emphasised the principles of justice and equality, which allowed political participation of sorts for all the citizens including Muslims, Christians and Jews. In the contemporary world and after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini put this doctrine into practice and devised a new political system in Iran based upon his unique concept of Vilayat-e Faqih (Rule of Jurisprudence), which is popularly referred to as 'Religious Democracy'. This paper seeks to explore the ways, means and mechanisms through which divine teachings and religious values can be reconciled with contemporary issues related to governance and the participation of people in political, social and cultural affairs. The author believes that the doctrine of 'Religious Democracy' is the result of such reconciliation and that it has been implemented in the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dr Mahdi Mostafavi is the advisor to the Iranian president and is the President of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organisation, which shapes Iran's cultural relations with the rest of the world. Dr Mostafavi holds a PhD degree in Strategic Management and has held different positions in government, including 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.

Preservation of Sikh Heritage

Jasbir Singh, Moderator

Devinder Pal Singh

Dr Balvinder Singh

Sarbpreet Singh

Room 217

Panel Discussion

The Sikh faith is now over 500 years old. Preservation of that faith's religious heritage has become a central and critical issue for the global Sikh community. This session provides an overview of the efforts being undertaken to preserve the written, architectural and musical heritage of the Sikhs throughout South Asia and the rest of the

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

world. Discussion will focus on the challenges of preservation and methods to address these challenges.

Mr Jasbir Singh has been the Chairman of the Rajasthan State Minorities Commission, an Indian government agency working for the welfare of five religious minorities (Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Zoroastrians and Buddhists). As the Vice President of the State Sikh Samaj, he has encouraged propagation of secular ideals propounded by Sikh Gurus. As Secretary General of the Indian chapter of GCS International, a UN-affiliated NGO, he has led initiatives for global peace.

Devinder Pal Singh is the Operations Director of the Nanakshahi Trust based in Chandigarh, India. The mission of the Nanakshahi Trust, established in 2001, is 'to develop the Sikh aesthetics and to assist the destitute and downtrodden'. The Trust is a research and action organisation dedicated to creating awareness of Sikh culture. Projects undertaken include creating audio-visual aides, printing text, sponsoring education and recognising outstanding contributors.

Balvinder Singh is Reader and former Head of the Guru Ramdas School of Planning at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, and is an INTACH Scholar. He has presented at 17 international conferences and is a well-respected Sikh conservationist. His recent research projects have included documentation of artwork in Siri Harimandir Sahib, with special emphasis on floral designs, and documentation of Sikh Shrines in Pakistan.

Sarbpreet Singh is the founding director of the Gurmat Sangeet Project. The Gurmat Sangeet Project is an organisation dedicated to the preservation and propagation of Gurmat Sangeet (Sikh Sacred Music). It disseminates high quality recordings from its website and organises events that focus on young practitioners of this tradition. He has written short stories, poetry and plays on Sikh-related themes and writes a regular blog on Gurmat Sangeet.

The Spiritual Tradition of Scientology

Emmanuel Foundas

Robert Adams

Room 218

Panel Discussion

Scientology is a new religion which emerged late in the 20th century and continues to be one of the most talked about religions as it continues to grow. This presentation is designed to let people know what Scientology actually is, what we do in the community, and how we relate to other religions and religious beliefs in our attempt to heal the earth.

Emmanuel Foundas is the President of the Church of Scientology in Melbourne.

Rev Robert Adams was born in San Francisco, California in 1946. He holds a Masters degree in Physical Education and a Bachelors degree in Biology from University of the Pacific in Stockton, California and holds a lifetime teaching credential from the State. As a Scientologist and Scientology Minister since 1984, he has assisted hundreds of people to achieve greater awareness and spiritual freedom. He holds the position of Vice President of the Church of Scientology International working with officials in government and private industry to better understand the aims of Scientology and the importance and workability of the array of social betterment activities to help make a better world.

The Headscarf Debates: Religious Dress and Secular Fundamentalism

Janaan Hashim

Dr Siti Musdah Mulia

Room 219

Panel Discussion

At the 2004 Parliament of the World's Religions in Barcelona, three Muslim women from three very different, yet democratic, societies (the United States, France and Turkey) shared their experiences of creating a proper space to wear the hijab in the public sphere. In this session, the American from the original group is now joined by Muslim women from yet two other very different democratic countries: England and Indonesia. Continuing the conversation from 2004, they will discuss the societal and governmental challenges that have arisen over the past five years with regard to this issue and how they have navigated such challenges. They will describe how their fellow citizens and governments have changed in understanding the hijab, the dynamics behind such change, the direction in which they are going, and what the interfaith community can do to shape that direction. More so, these three dynamic speakers will address how Muslim women in democratic societies contribute to the building and promotion of humanitarian and modern values, despite obstacles such as laws prohibiting the hijab or enforcing it.

Janaan Hashim is a criminal defense and civil rights attorney practicing in Illinois with Amal Law Group, LLC. She co-founded this firm, the first of its kind in the US, with five other Muslim women. Ms Hashim writes a legal column for Arab Horizon newspaper in Chicago. She is also an adjunct professor at McCormick Theological Seminary. From 2004 to 2008 she was the spokesperson for the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago.

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.

Charter of Compassion

Karen Armstrong (by video)

Sr Joan Chittister

Dr Chandra Muzaffar

Tariq Ramadan

Room 220

Karen Armstrong, the highly acclaimed British author of 'A History of God' and numerous other works on comparative religion, has called upon Jews, Christians and Muslims to draw up a 'Charter of Compassion' which would apply shared moral priorities to foster greater global understanding. The result of months of consultation, the final manifesto was publicly unveiled on November 9th of this year, and includes such signatories as His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former UN Human Rights High Commissioner Mary Robinson. In conjunction with issuing the Charter, Armstrong is calling for the establishment of an alliance of individuals, orga-

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

nizations and communities to advocate for global change. Learn of the deep connection that compassion has to the world's major religious and spiritual connections, its embrace by youth movements for service worldwide, and its relevance in addressing the critical issues facing the global community.

INTERRELIGIOUS 11:30am–1:00pm

Buddhist–Christian Dialogue

Lindsay Falvey

Paul Sanders

John May

Vincent Pizzuto

Padmasiri de Silva

Room 101

Interactive Workshop

This program includes four parts. Firstly, panel members will discuss ways in which Christianity and Zen Buddhism have been able to learn from each other. The workshop fosters a spirit of enquiry and openness, which leads to a softening of prejudice and fear. Participants will be offered examples from the Canonical gospels, the Gospel of Thomas, as well as writings from Meister Eckhart, Thomas Merton, and the Japanese Zen master Dogen. This workshop will present approaches to objectless meditation, and explore its vital place in uncovering wisdom. Secondly, presenters will aim to show how issues raised by dialogue in contexts of pluralism could be explored collaboratively by Buddhists and Christians by retrieving strands of tradition such as compassion, empathy, care and forgiveness. Thirdly there will be a presentation of the recently released book, 'Dharma as Man', which is an ancient story read each evening by an old man to his young son in rural India. It is a universal tale condensed to combine the world's stories, which renders Jesus' life into Buddhist concepts in an ancient Indian setting. Fourthly, there will be a discussion of how traditions might better understand their shared vocation to alleviate suffering through interreligious dialogue and shared interspiritual contemplative silence.

Lindsay Falvey is a professor of the University of Melbourne, where he was previously Chair of Agriculture, Dean of Land and Food Resources, and Dean of Agriculture, Forestry and Horticulture. He is also a life member of Clare Hall, Cambridge, at the University of Cambridge. He has written extensively on religion, agriculture and issues of sustainability from multireligious perspectives.

Paul Sanders is director of the Augustine Centre and has trained intensively in contemplative spirituality in the US and in Australia. He leads retreats and programs in contemplative spirituality and is a senior Zen student.

John May has a doctorate in Ecumenical Theology, Muenster and a doctorate in History of Religions, Frankfurt. He was Ecumenical Research Officer in Papua New Guinea from 1983-1987 and Associate Professor of Interfaith Dialogue at the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin from 1987-2007. He is from Melbourne originally.

Vincent Pizzuto is Associate Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion at the University of San Francisco. He has a PhD in New Testament theology from Leuven, Belgium. Vincent was ordained to

the priesthood in the Celtic Christian Church (an independent Catholic church) in 2006, in which he now ministers to a small contemplative community. He has a number of publications and his primary theological interests lie in New Testament theology and Christian mysticism.

Dr Padmasiri de Silva is a Buddhist philosopher in the Theravada tradition and has written a number of books about Buddhism in the modern context. He has held teaching positions in Sri Lanka, Singapore, the US and New Zealand, and is at present a research associate with the School of Historical Studies at Monash University.

Panentheism: God and World in an Ecological Age

Joseph Prabhu

Max Charlesworth

Philip Clayton

Purushottama Bilimoria

Freya Mathews

Room 103

Panel Discussion

Panentheism means that all things are in God. It is distinct as a theological doctrine from pantheism, which says that all things are divine, and from theism, which distinguishes and separates God from the world. Panentheism, by contrast, distinguishes but does not separate God from the world. Many developments, sacred and secular, have led to panentheism, among them religious experience, feminist perceptions of the Divine and current ecological trends. This panel incorporates theological, philosophical, ecological and political insights stemming from this doctrine and furthermore seeks to make contact with and foster East-West dialogue on the topic. The monotheistic faiths have generally been considered dualistic and the Eastern faiths non-dualistic. The panellists, drawn from different religious, cultural and gender perspectives, will situate panentheism on this spectrum and attempt to expound the wisdom of panentheism and its significance for contemporary spiritual and social life.

Joseph Prabhu, PhD, is a Professor of Philosophy at California State University, Los Angeles and the President of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy. He has taught at universities around the world and is the author of 'Human Rights in Cross-Cultural Perspective' and 'Liberating Gandhi: Community, Empire and a Culture of Peace' (forthcoming). He is a Program Task Force Chair and Trustee of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.

Max Charlesworth is an emeritus professor of philosophy associated with La Trobe University in Melbourne. He was formerly Professor of Philosophy at Deakin University and its Founding Dean of Humanities. Charlesworth is also the Founder and first editor of *Sophia*, the (now) international journal in metaphysical theology and philosophy of religion. He has written on a wide range of topics from the best in philosophical theology to the Aboriginal land rights to issues within the Catholic Church.

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'.

Purushottama Bilimoria is a Professor of Philosophy and Comparative Studies at Deakin University in Australia and Senior Research Fellow, University of Melbourne. He is a regular Visiting Professor at State University of New York (Stony Brook), Columbia University and the

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

University of California, Berkeley. His areas of specialist research and publications cover classical Indian philosophy and comparative ethics; Continental thought; cross-cultural philosophy of religion; diaspora studies; bioethics; and personal law in India. He is an Editor-in-Chief of the *Sophia Journal of Philosophy of Religion*.

Freya Mathews has published widely in the field of ecological philosophy. Her books include 'The Ecological Self', 'For Love of Matter: A Contemporary Panpsychism' and 'Reinhabiting Reality: Towards a Recovery of Culture'. Active in disseminating ecophilosophical ideas in the wider community, Freya's work focuses on ecological metaphysics, epistemology and ethics, philosophy of place and reinhabitation, and Indigenous thought, especially in the Indigenous traditions of Australia and China.

Practising Yoga: Covert Conversion to Hinduism or the Key to Mind-Body Wellness for All?

Rev Ellen Grace O'Brian, Moderator
Swaminathan Venkataraman
Chris Chapple
Dr Amir Farid Isahak

Room 104

Panel Discussion

The science of yoga has grown enormously on the global stage in the last few decades due to widespread recognition of its physical and mental health benefits. Hinduism teaches that yoga is comprised of eight steps of which the popularly practised postures are an integral part. Although yoga's origins are Hindu, its practitioners come from virtually all faiths. The United States alone has about 20 million practitioners, with hundreds of millions worldwide. However, the Hindu roots of yoga and the use of Hindu chants, such as the sacred syllable 'Om', appear to have created apprehensions that the practice of yoga leads to de facto conversion to Hinduism. Yet, as a pluralistic, non-exclusivist and non-proselytising religion, Hinduism teaches that one need not become a Hindu or repudiate one's own faith to practice yoga and reap its benefits. How founded is the fear of conversion? Is the practice of yoga inconsistent with the tenets of other religions? Can interfaith dialogue help individuals, irrespective of faith, reap the immense benefits that follow from the practice of yoga? The aim of this program is to foster understanding among faith traditions and to create a sustainable basis for the practice of yoga by all.

Rev Ellen Grace O'Brian is the Spiritual Director of the Center for Spiritual Enlightenment and a minister 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, is the President of Meru Seminary, and leads a thriving congregation. She is the author of several books on meditation and spiritual practice.

Swaminathan Venkataraman is a member of the Hindu American Foundation's Board of Directors and coordinates that organisation's interfaith efforts. Mr Venkataraman practises some of South India's ancient Hindu traditions including Vedic chanting. He is an engineer from IIT Madras and has an MBA from the IIM Calcutta, now based in San Francisco. He is currently a Director with Standard & Poor's at their Utilities and Infrastructure group. He also raises money for charitable hospitals.

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' (Brill).

Dr Amir Farid Isahak, a medical consultant, is a Trustee of the Global Council of the United Religions Initiative (URI) and President for the Asia-Pacific Region of the World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations (WCMIR). He is also Chairman of the Interfaith Spiritual Fellowship (INSFAF) of Malaysia and a committee member of both the Malaysia Interfaith Network and the Research and Information Centre on Islam and an advisor to the Persatuan Darul Fitrah Malaysia, the Muslim Converts Welfare and Propagation of Malaysia.

Global Poverty Project

Hugh Evans

Room 105

Interactive Workshop

The Global Poverty Project is a slideshow and presentation that will explore the issues around poverty and what we can do to help.

Hugh Evans is the Founder and Director of the Oaktree Foundation, a youth led aid and development organisation, which has now been established in the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, India and East Timor providing educational opportunities to more than 40,000 young people. In 2004 he was awarded the Young Australian of the Year.

Towards a Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions

Dr Arvind Sharma, Moderator

Rabbi David Saperstein

Dr Joseph Prabhu

Dr Chandra Muzaffar

Dr Mihir Meghani

Dr Chris Chapple

Dr Ines Talamantez

Brian Lepard

Room 106

Panel Discussion

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, represents a landmark in the evolution of the moral imagination of humanity. While the period in which it was proclaimed possessed a decidedly secular orientation, the religious background of its drafters played a role in its formulation. Increasingly, religious traditions come to serve as champions of human rights. In 1998 a new initiative was launched to frame a Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions. This is an ongoing process in which the text has been examined, revised and modified at various gatherings, including the Parliament of the World's Religions at Barcelona in 2004. This program carries that process forward by inviting representatives of a number of religious traditions to reflect on the current state of the text. This session will run for three hours.

Arvind Sharma is a Birks Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. He specialises in comparative religion, Indian philosophy and ethics, and Hinduism (both classical and North Indian).

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

Designated in Newsweek's 2009 list as the most influential rabbi in the United States and described in a Washington Post profile as 'the quintessential religious lobbyist on Capitol Hill', **Rabbi David Saperstein** represents the national Reform Jewish Movement to Congress and the Administration as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Joseph Prabhu is a Professor of Philosophy at the California State University at Los Angeles and the President of the Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy. He is also the author of 'Human Rights in Cross-Cultural Perspective' and 'Liberating Gandhi: Community, Empire and a Culture of Peace' (forthcoming). He is a Program Task Force Chair and Trustee of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.

Dr Chandra Muzaffar is a political scientist and founding president of the Malaysian-based NGO International Movement for a Just World (www.just-international.org), which seeks to raise public consciousness on the moral and intellectual basis of global justice. He also served as the first director of the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue at the University of Malaya. In addition to writings on civilisational dialogue, he has published extensively on religion, human rights, Malaysian politics and international relations.

Mihir Meghani is the co-founder and President of the Hindu American Foundation, an American Hindu human rights group advocating on behalf of the Hindu community in the United States.

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' (Brill).

A member of the Mescalero Apache tribe, **Ines M Talamantez** is a professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Talamantez is the author of 'Teaching Religion and Healing' and has contributed articles to 'Native Religions and Cultures of North America: Anthropology of the Sacred', and 'Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives'. The past president of the Indigenous Studies Group at the American Academy of Religion, she is a pioneering figure among American Indian scholars.

Brian D Leopard is Law Alumni Professor of Law at the University of Nebraska College of Law, where he has taught International Human Rights Law, among other courses. A member of the Baha'i Faith, he is the author of numerous books and articles on human rights, ethics, international law, and world religions, including the book 'Hope for a Global Ethic: Shared Principles in Religious Scriptures'.

The Dhamma Brothers (Premier Film Series Selection)

Room 107
Film

The Dhamma Brothers' is a moving story of transformation. Men held in an overcrowded maximum security prison in Bessemer, Alabama, are forever changed by a meditation program. 'The Dhamma Brothers' has been described as a film where 'East meets West in the Deep South', an apt portrait of what happens to a number of hardened criminals who volunteer for a ten-day Vipassana retreat. The film was directed by Jenny Phillips, Anne Marie Stein, and Andrew Kukura. Q & A to follow.

Who is My Neighbour? Religious Identity and the Limits of Love

Michael Fagenblat
Ruwan Palapathwala
Room 108
Panel Discussion

During this panel discussion, we will explore how Jews, Christians and others relate to people who are different from them, particularly in terms of religious identity. The Bible commands us to 'love thy neighbour', but as a Jewish lawyer once asked Jesus, 'who is my neighbour?' Is the neighbour someone like us? Or is he or she a stranger to us? How far does our love have to go? The panel, consisting of a Jew and two Christians, will reflect on how we have practised, and still do practise, the commandment to 'love thy neighbour', and on what the idea demands of us in today's world. This will be an interactive program and audience members will be invited to share their perspective on the merits and problems involved in loving our neighbours.

Michael Fagenblat is Lecturer in the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University, and convener of the Masters in Interreligious Studies, Monash University. His first book, 'A Covenant of Creatures: Levinas' Philosophy of Judaism', is forthcoming from Stanford University Press. He is interested in the interaction between Judaism and other cultures.

Dr Ruwan Palapathwala lectures in Asian Religions and Religion and Culture in the United Faculty of Theology, the Melbourne College of Divinity, and at Trinity College, the University of Melbourne. He is also the part-time Parish Priest of St Alban's Anglican Parish, North Melbourne, Australia. He is interested in globalisation, religious traditions of South and Southeast Asia, and religion and culture.

Global Ethics and Religion Forum – Religion and the Future of Humanitarian Intervention in a Sustainable and Just World

Joseph Runzo
Brian Leopard
Gerard Powers
Dan-Erik Andersson
Seamus Miller
Antje Jackelén
Room 110
Symposium

This is Panel #3 in the 'War and the Role of Religion in a Just and Sustainable World' Symposium.

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.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

Brian D Lepard is Law Alumni Professor of Law at the University of Nebraska College of Law, where he has taught International Human Rights Law, among other courses. A member of the Baha'i Faith, he is the author of numerous books and articles on human rights, ethics, international law, and world religions, including the book 'Hope for a Global Ethic: Shared Principles in Religious Scriptures'.

Gerard Powers works at the Joan Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, USA.

Dan-Erik Andersson is Director of Human Rights Studies, University of Lund, Sweden.

Seamus Miller is Director of the Australian National University Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics and is affiliated with Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.

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.

Families: Family and Kinship in Contemporary Indigenous Communities

Margaret Lokawua, Uganda: Karimjong, Moderator

Anna Pinto, India: Meitei

Rosita Worl, USA: Tlingit

Room 111

Panel Discussion

One of the traditional strengths found among Indigenous cultures is the inclusion of extended family members in all aspects of family life, including child rearing. Governmental policies, however, intervene and place children outside the family circle, thereby robbing them of their cultural heritage, language, and values. Panellists will present examples of the impact of such policies on Indigenous families.

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

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.

Rosita Worl, whose Tlingit names are Yeidiklats'okw and Kaa.hani, is Tlingit, Ch'aak' (Eagle) moiety of the Shangukeidi Clan from the Kawdliyaayi Hit (House Lowered From the Sun) in Klukwan. She is President of Sealaska Heritage Institute, a nonprofit organisation dedicated to perpetuating the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures. Formerly an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska Southeast, she has a PhD and MS in Anthropology from Harvard University and a BA from Alaska Methodist University.

Removal: The Indigenous Reality – Daily Youth Session

Mathew Luke Crane, Moderator

Visopiano Sanyu

Darlene St Clair

Melissa Brickell

Room 201

Unfortunately, one of the common threads that tie together the experiences of Indigenous peoples throughout the world is removal—removal from family, removal from land, removal from culture, and removal from language. This session will look at the impact removal has had on young Indigenous people at the individual, family, community and societal levels. Stories will be shared from Native American, Aboriginal Australian and Naga perspectives.

Mathew Crane is Aboriginal man from South Australia; Currently completing a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Theology at Australian Catholic University; Administrative Assistant to Jim-baa-yer Indigenous Unit, Centre for Indigenous Education and Research, Australian Catholic University; Member of the Anglican Church of Australia and parishioner at St. Peter's Eastern Hill; Verger at St. Paul's Cathedral; Committee Chair of Critical Mass - a group that seeks to connect progressive young Anglicans in the Diocese of Melbourne.

Visopiano Sanyu is Indigenous to Nagaland.

Iyekiyapiwin (Darlene St Clair) is an assistant professor of American Indian Studies at St Cloud State University and the director of the Multicultural Resource Center. Her career has focused on the education of Native peoples from early childhood to college, the integration of Native cultures' histories and languages into curricula, and the arts and cultural expressions of Native peoples. She is Bdewakantunwan Dakota and an enrolled member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota.

Melissa Brickell, a descendant of the Yorta Yorta and Wiradjeri people, resides in Melbourne. Her work and active community involvement over the last eighteen years have focused on cross-cultural awareness and reconciliation among Australians. Brickell received a Reconciliation Award from Maribyrnong City Council for advancing the rights and community life of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. She is also actively involved in the Stolen Generations movement in Victoria and nationally.

A Tale of Two Women: A Multifaith Reading of the Sarah/Hagar Narrative

Rachael Kohn, Moderator

Rebecca Forgasz

Coralie Ling

Rachel Woodlock

Room 202

Panel Discussion

This discussion by three women of the Abrahamic faiths will seek to address the humanity of the other through an exploration of the Biblical narrative of Sarah/Hagar from the viewpoint of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths. The speakers will present their perspectives on the Sarah/Hagar story, explore the themes from a variety of viewpoints and engage in a moderated dialogue led by

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

Rachael Kohn. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity for audience questions and discussion. The program is complementary to the current exhibition 'Women in the Bible: Tricksters, Victors and (M)others' being held by the Jewish Museum of Australia.

Rachael Kohn is producer and presenter of 'The Spirit of Things' on ABC Radio National.

Rebecca Forgasz is educator and curator of the current exhibition 'Women in the Bible: Tricksters, Victors and (M)others' at the Jewish Museum of Australia.

Coralie Ling is a retired minister in the Uniting Church in Australia.

Rachel Woodlock is a Researcher in the Centre for Islam and The Modern World at the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University.

Sacred Envy: Exploring What We Love about Our Own Faith, What We Admire in Others and What Challenges Us in Both

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield

Sr Joan Chittister

Imam Feisal Rauf

Room 204

Panel Discussion

To be possessed of 'sacred envy' means to be envious of the beauty found in the sacred practices and teachings of faiths not our own. This facilitated conversation among Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders will encourage participants to explore what they enjoy most (and least) about their own communities and also what they see as deeply beautiful (and deeply challenging) in others.

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield is an acclaimed interfaith activist described by Newsweek as 'one of America's most influential rabbis'. He is the creator of 'Building Bridges' and 'American Pilgrimage' on Bridges TV, the author of 'You Don't Have To Be Wrong For Me To Be Right: Finding Faith Without Fanaticism', and a columnist for Beliefnet.com and Newsweek/WashingtonPost.com. Hirschfield is the President of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, America's leading Jewish institution for religious pluralism.

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'.

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf is chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, a multi-national, multi-religious project that works to improve relations between the Muslim world and the West. Author of 'What's Right With Islam Is What's Right With America: A New Vision for Muslims and the West', he is also founder of the American Society for Muslim Advancement. Imam Feisal is a graduate of Columbia University, New York and holds a Master's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Aboriginal Reconciliation in Melbourne: Working for Land Justice and Reconciliation

Peter Lewis

Vicki Clark

Melissa Brickell

Room 207

Panel Discussion

Three community leaders will outline how ordinary Australians are working for Land Justice and Reconciliation in Victoria. Peter Lewis, Co-Chairperson of the Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation in Victoria, will discuss how to initiate and develop campaigns to stimulate awareness and create effective change. He will explain how to bring together non-Indigenous Australians to inform, educate, and shift attitudes so that people can play an active role in reconciliation and recognise Indigenous rights. Vicki Walker will discuss the work of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry for the Melbourne Archdiocese, which has actively sought to provide ministry that is participatory, experiential, nurturing, and inclusive, growing out of a deep Aboriginal Catholic spirituality and faith. Two such ministries are Binnap Partners Inc and Catholics for Australian Reconciliation. Melissa Brickell, former Chairperson of the Stolen Generations Victoria Sorry Day Committee, will describe the process behind the apology, illustrating the positive roles played by religious groups.

Peter Lewis is the Manager of Policy, Research and Communication at the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and is the former National Director for Reconciliation Issues in the Uniting Church. He is one of the founding members of the Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation in Victoria and is currently its Chairperson. Lewis has been a member of Reconciliation Victoria, the National Sorry Day Committee and the Victorian Stolen Generations Sorry Day Committee.

Vicki Clark is the coordinator of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne. She was a representative of the affiliated Aboriginal Tribal Groups (Muthi Muthi) in the formation of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Property Plan of Management. Nationally, Walker has been influential in the formation and subsequent operations of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, serving for six years as Secretary, three years as Vice Chair and three years as Chairperson.

Melissa Brickell, a descendant of the Yorta Yorta and Wiradjeri people, resides in Melbourne. Her work and active community involvement over the last eighteen years have focused on cross-cultural awareness and reconciliation among Australians. Brickell received a Reconciliation Award from Maribyrnong City Council for advancing the rights and community life of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. She is also actively involved in the Stolen Generations movement in Victoria and nationally.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

Discoveries from ‘Mapping’ Faith Engagement in the International Development Challenge

Katherine Marshall

Tom Banchoff

Elias Szczytnicki

Quentin Wodon

Room 208

Panel Discussion

Knowledge is key to effective action, but there are huge gaps in understanding the multiple roles that faith plays in development. ‘Mapping’ the ways in which faith leaders, organisations and communities are currently addressing development challenges is a vital place to start. The Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs at Georgetown University brings together different approaches to the question of how religion forms part of the public conversation on human rights, peace and democracy. In collaboration with the World Faiths Development Dialogue, the Berkley Center has explored the work of faith-inspired organisations, transnational, national and local, across different world regions and on major development challenges, including health, governance, agriculture and gender. The session will reflect on underlying questions, on the challenges of using knowledge resources better for social justice action, and on challenges ahead.

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.

Professor Banchoff is director of the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs and Associate Professor in the Government Department and the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Professor Banchoff is editor of ‘Democracy and the New Religious Pluralism’ (Oxford University Press, 2007) and ‘Religious Pluralism, Globalization, and World Politics’ (forthcoming, Oxford University Press). Banchoff was awarded the DAAD Award for Distinguished Scholarship in German studies in 2003.

Elias Szczytnicki is Secretary General and Regional Director, Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean. Before, he was Member, National Executive Committee, Consensus-Building Table on Fight against Poverty of Peru, and Member, Committee on Supervision and Transparency, National Program on Direct Support for the More Poor People Together. Mr Szczytnicki holds a Bachelor’s degree in history from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, and is a graduate from the Program on Jewish Organization Direction of the Leatid Center.

After engineering and business studies, **Quentin Wodon** worked in business. In 1988, he shifted career and joined for five years the ATD Fourth World, a 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.

One Voice, Many Musics: Many Faiths, One Community

Andre de Quadros

Marcel de Quadros

Deepti V Patel

Room 209

Lecture, Film Screening, and Discussion

In August 2008, six choirs from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine and Sweden met for an historic festival in Petra, Jordan. It was the first time that such a large group of Arab choirs had ever performed together. This session will focus on the unifying power of music and its particular importance to an ethnic community that has for so long been separated by international borders. Documentary filmmakers Deepti V. Patel and Marcel de Quadros will talk about their film, ‘Aswatuna’, which tells the story of the creative individuals, women and men of different faiths, who were determined to organise this festival as a process of reconciliation and healing among the Arab community. In Arabic, Aswatuna, means ‘unity through the voice’. Singing in a choir that includes Christians and Muslims expressing faith in humankind, faith in the divine and listening to this through the beauty of the music that they create, without understanding the language in which they sing, is truly a way of hearing each other. Audience members should expect a deeply moving, cathartic experience. A discussion will accompany the film screening.

Andre de Quadros is a professor of music at Boston University, director of the School of Music, and a faculty member in the university’s Institute for the Study of Muslim Societies and Civilizations and its Global Health Initiative. He is a conductor, scholar of non-Western choral traditions, and a music and human rights activist. He co-founded the Arab Choral Festival and is an advisor to the International Federation for Choral Music.

Marcel de Quadros has a background in high-end IT and marketing consultancy. He is also the co-director of BlueION Studios. With offices in Australia and the United Kingdom, BlueION Studios was founded as a platform for documentary filmmakers to experiment with alternative views, positive human stories and new media projects.

Deepti V Patel is a solicitor advocate. She is Arts and Culture Executive at Hindu Council UK, City Hindus Network; Advocacy and Campaigns Lead with South Asia Forum; a trustee for Inter-Faith Youth (Kirsch) Trust; an organiser of the London Week of Peace and the charity Peace Alliance; and a member of St Ethelburgas Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, City of London Inter-Faith Forum. She is a company director of BlueION Studios and producer/writer of ‘Aswatuna’.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

Religious Dual Belonging: The Future of the Dialogue of Experience?

Gwenda Rait, Moderator
Dr Stewart Sharlow
Vicki Clark
Christina Fox
Brni Nivedita Chaitanya
Charlotte Hain-Sharlow
Paul Knitter
Room 210
Panel Discussion

The concept of religious dual belonging has had a long tradition with varying degrees of acceptance. Since the Second Vatican Council, Christians worldwide have engaged with various Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and Jewish spiritual practices. In the 20th century, two key examples of dual belonging were Fathers Bede Griffiths and Abishiktananda, both Catholic Benedictine monks who became sannyasi (Indian Holy Men), while retaining their Christian heritage. Spiritual scholars, such as the great Turkish theologian, Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, spoke about Christian-Muslims in the future. For many, such dialogues of experience are anathema, while for others, experiencing another faith in all its richness can help them discover anew the depths and riches of their primary faith tradition. Gradually, one recognises and experiences the parallels and the differences between faiths without losing one's primary identity. A panel of speakers will explore the significance of this religious experience and what it offers to people in other faith traditions. The panel will address the following questions: Is dual belonging one of the experiences which will herald a new age in cross-cultural and cross-religious relations? Is this a religious path for only a few or will it become a pattern for interfaith dialogue in the future?

Mrs Gwenda Rait is a member of the Melbourne Catholic Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission.

Dr Stewart Sharlow is a member of the Janssen Spirituality Centre (for Interreligious and Cross-cultural Relations) and a follower of a Christian-Sufi path.

Vicki Clark is an Aboriginal elder of the Mutthi Mutthi people of New South Wales and Co-ordinator of the Melbourne Aboriginal Catholic Ministry in Victoria.

Christina Fox is a Christian Spiritual Director and follower of a Christian-Buddhist path.

Brni Nivedita Chaitanya is a Hindu Nun and teacher of Hindu Scriptures at Chinmaya Dhain in Melbourne.

Charlotte Hain-Sharlow is a member of the Melbourne Catholic Interfaith Committee and follower of a Christian-Sufi path.

Paul Knitter is the Paul Tillich Professor of Theology, World Religions, and Culture at Union Theological Seminary, New York. Previously, he taught theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati. His groundbreaking 1985 book 'No Other Name?' addresses interreligious dialogue, as well as human and ecological well-being. Knitter is on the Board of Trustees for the International, Interreligious Peace Council, which was formed after the 1993 Parliament of the World Religions.

Role of Religion and Spirituality in the Public Discourse

Penny Mulvey, Moderator
Archbishop Philip Freier
Rabbi David Saperstein
Room 211
Panel Discussion

The best way to achieve and maintain societal change for the greatest good is through the art of persuasion. When people of deeply-held convictions and widely-divergent values can engage in honest and fruitful dialogue about what matters most, and find ways to co-exist and cooperate for the common good, the benefits are mutual and transformative. How can religious and spiritual communities insure that the public discourse in their respective societies serves these ends? What are the unique contributions that communities can make to the conversation? What boundaries and limits should inform their participation? This program offers the opportunity to hear seasoned leaders explore the meaning of 'civil discourse,' and identify the urgent conversations to which religious and spiritual communities must add their voices.

Dr Philip Freier became the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne in December 2006, following seven and a half years as Bishop of the Northern Territory. Dr Freier has been working towards engaging the Church with the wider community, particularly through his 'Prayer4Melbourne' quest, in which he has visited a range of public spaces, welfare centres and shopping malls. He is deeply involved in social justice issues affecting Indigenous peoples.

Designated in Newsweek's 2009 list as the most influential rabbi in the United States and described in a Washington Post profile as 'the quintessential religious lobbyist on Capitol Hill', **Rabbi David Saperstein** represents the national Reform Jewish Movement to Congress and the Administration as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Towards the Heart of Humankind: Critical Considerations of Unity, Diversity and a Declaration of Global Spirituality

Dr Christoph Quarch
Abdulaziz Sachedina
Rabbi Michael Lerner
Hue Gioi
Ines Talamantez
Room 212
Open Space Forum

Some contend that humanity is entering a new phase in spiritual evolution; some herald a new consciousness of global responsibility and compassion, growing in response to global crises. Is there an underlying spiritual common ground that might bring people together, that might support dialogue? And if so, how do we honor and attend to the particularities of our differences? A Declaration on Global Spirituality has been designed, proposed by a diverse group of representatives of different spiritual

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

traditions. A January 2009 publication has been circulated among a group of high-level spiritual teachers from all over the world, as well as in a public, worldwide Internet consultation. The authors will present this declaration at the Parliament of the World's Religions for additional review. In this session, critical concerns about the potential and the pitfalls of moves towards universality will be addressed. Participants in this session will join the discussion about this important document.

Dr Christoph Quarch is a philosopher, theologian and journalist. From 2000 to 2006 he was academic director for the German Protestant Kirchentag. From 2006 to 2008, he served as chief-editor of the periodical 'Public Forum'. Since 2001, he has operated a philosophy cafe and a seminar-program on issues of spirituality and philosophy. He is initiator of the Spiritual Summer Academy Hombroich, supporter of the World Spirit Forum Arosa, and ambassador of the World Wisdom Council.

Abdulaziz Sachedina is a professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. He has been visiting professor at Wilfrid Laurier, Waterloo and McGill Universities, Haverford College and the University of Jordan, Amman. He has lectured around the world and is a core member of the Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism Project in the CSIS Preventive Diplomacy program. He is also the author of 'Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism'.

Rabbi Michael Lerner studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City and received mentorship from noted scholar Abraham Joshua Heschel. He received a PhD in Philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley in 1972 and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Wright Institute in 1977. Michael Lerner serves as the rabbi of Beyt Tikkun Synagogue in San Francisco and is the editor of Tikkun Magazine and author of numerous books.

A member of the Mescalero Apache tribe, **Ines M Talamantez** is a professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Talamantez is the author of 'Teaching Religion and Healing' and has contributed articles to 'Native Religions and Cultures of North America: Anthropology of the Sacred', and 'Unspoken Worlds: Women's Religious Lives'. The past president of the Indigenous Studies Group at the American Academy of Religion, she is a pioneering figure among American Indian scholars.

Many Religions, One Community: The Theory and Practice of Living Together in Muslim Spain and India

Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid

Imam Khalid Griggs

Dr Muhammad Shafiq

Room 213

Panel Discussion

This panel will present the Constitution of Medina, the city of the Prophet Muhammad. 1,400 years ago, different tribes contractually agreed upon the constitution to establish a harmonious co-existence between adherents of different religions. The constitution offered full autonomy in religious and civil matters to each of the city's religious groups by declaring all signatories as one Ummah, or one people, with agreement to defend the city-state together. Panellists will also elaborate on the Islamic heritage of co-existence by examining the application of these ideals several hundred years later in Spain and India. This program, bound to inspire discussion about the ideals of the past and realities of today, will highlight the essential Islamic teachings about pluralism and the space of the Other.

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.

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.

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'.

The New Planetary Narrative; Connecting Ecology, Social Justice and Cosmology

Drew Dellinger

Glen Lauder

Sarah Houseman

Tahnee Woolf

Room 214

Interactive Workshop

Environmental movements for social justice are converging, as we recognise the interrelated nature of our problems and the need for creative solutions. At the same time we are beginning to grasp the significance of cosmology in our worldview or 'cultural story' and the role this plays both in creating the current crisis and in inspiring a new direction. A new planetary movement is unfolding at the confluence where ecology, social justice and cosmology meet. At the heart of this emerging global movement is a vision of the world as sacred and connected. Drew Dellinger will identify some core values common to ecology, social justice and cosmology, such as 'personhood', which acknowledges the sacredness of every individual being, and community, which emphasises the primacy of relationship. Dellinger will elucidate the underlying principles connecting ecology, cosmology and justice and describe strategies for change utilising the power of story, dreams and action. As part of this presentation, Be the Change Australia will introduce 'Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium', a process that allows the listener to experience both the depth of their own heart and a profound interconnectedness with others, while examining the interwoven threads of social justice, environmental sustainability and spirituality.

Drew Dellinger is a spoken word poet, teacher, author, activist and founder of Poets for Global Justice. He has inspired minds and hearts at hundreds of events in many countries, performing poetry and keynoting on justice, ecology, cosmology, activism, democracy and compassion. He has spoken and performed at conferences—including Bioneers, the Green Festival and The Dream Reborn—as well as colleges, poetry venues, protests and places of worship.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

Glen Lauder has a PhD in natural systems in transition and he led the development of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. Over the last ten years he has been engaged by institutes, government, research and philanthropic groups in New Zealand, Australia, Japan and the US. Looking at how communities access collective clarity, deep compassion and commitment, he co-leads a cross-system practice-and-research initiative on social emergence called the 'Ecology of Commitment'.

Sarah Houseman is a committed member of the Pachamama Alliance, as well as a trainer and global leader for the 'Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream' initiative. Sarah uses the Symposium as a forum within which the community is able to explore issues that matter deeply such as environmental sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfillment. She is also a practitioner of the respected approach to sustainability, The Natural Step, and works with small business and communities.

Tahnee Woolf is an international speaker, accomplished writer, movement specialist and global visionary. She has a Master's degree in international law from Oxford University. She is also a qualified Feldenkrais practitioner and has created the pioneering online program 'Body Mastery' to empower people around the world to free themselves from pain.

The Impact of Women in Conflict Resolution

Asatu Bah-Kenneth
Naree Charoenpolpiriya
Jacqueline Ogega
Sande Hart
Room 217

Panel Discussion

Women make up one-half of the world's population but they are often marginalised, even devalued. Yet, they frequently engage in world altering activities. This panel will highlight the role of women in resolving and reconciling the parties involved in recent conflicts in several regions around the globe including Africa, the Middle East and North America, among others. The panel will share their stories and showcase the role that women have played and continue to play in building peace with justice around the world.

Asatu Bah-Kenneth serves with the Liberia National Police. She is deputy inspector-general of police for administration, serves on the government's Humanitarian Task Force, and was the first personnel director of the Ministry of Gender and Development. Mrs Bah-Kenneth founded Liberian Muslim Women for Peace and is president of the Liberian Female Law Enforcement Association. She is a life-long peace and justice activist and is featured in the documentary 'Pray the Devil Back to Hell'.

Naree Charoenpolpiriya is a peace advocate who has been working for women victims of violence since 2004. Naree has been a nonviolence trainer for over twenty years. She initiated a healing project for family members of Takbai protest victims in 2004. Also, she was a commissioner to the Thai government-appointed National Reconciliation Commission. She has a strong sense of how conflict resolution methods have changed and developed over the years.

Jacqueline Ogega is the Director of the Women's Program at the World Conference of Religions for Peace. She has served as the African Women's Project Director at Religions for Peace in Africa, where she established the African Women of Faith Network. She has experience and skills in gender, peace building and development programming. She holds a Master's degree as well as a post-graduate diploma in gender and development, both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Sande Hart is the Founder & President of Spiritual And Religious Alliance for Hope (S.A.R.A.H.), a women's interfaith group that developed following the events of 9/11. She is on the Board of Directors for the Interfaith Youth Council and the Institute of Religion & Cultural Competency. Sande is also the author of 'Make a Difference 101 (Community Service: A Practical Step-by-Step Guide for Kids)'.

Faith, Community and Disaster Risk Reduction

Andreana Reale
Ruth Maetala
Chi Kwang Sunim
Deborah Storie
Len Clarke
Hafiz Aziz ur Rehman
Room 218

Panel Discussion

As the Earth is ravaged by cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis, we ask questions such as 'Why did this happen?' and 'What are we to do about it?' This forum will address these questions by bringing together science and religion and will consider how faith communities and leaders can reduce disaster risk. The focus is primarily on the human conditions that make people vulnerable to disaster. The panel discussion will address the following areas: 1) Theology: How do different faith traditions understand disaster? 2) Action: How do faith communities, on a local, national and global scale, prevent and respond to disasters? 3) Advocacy: How are religious leaders speaking out about reducing vulnerability to disaster, and what else can be said? 4) Disaster: How might communities reduce the impact of disasters? This is a topic well covered from a secular perspective but not from a faith perspective. Salvano Briceno, director of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, supports this initiative.

Andreana Reale is a Christian and researcher with a special interest in the link between faith and natural disasters. She is also a community worker with Urban Seed, a Christian organisation that seeks to build relationships and provide support for the homeless and marginalised in Melbourne.

Ruth Maetala is a native of the Solomon Islands and currently an advisor in a process of moving communities due to rising sea levels. She is a pastor's wife, mother of four children, and community worker. She is Head of the Research and Policy Unit of the Ministry of Women Youth and Children (Solomon Islands Government). Her research interest is in land, natural resources management, and gender policy.

Reverend Chi Kwang Sunim has been a Zen Buddhist nun for thirty years. Born in Korea, she now resides in Kinglake, Victoria. She is a seasoned meditation and Buddhist teacher and a founding member of the Buddhist Library in Sydney, Wat Buddha Dharma, and The Seon Centre. She is currently Chair of the Australian Sangha Association and recognised in Buddhist and Interfaith circles in Australia and abroad. She fought and survived the Kinglake fires and is a CRC in 'Remake Kinglake' recovery projects.

Deborah Storie is a PhD Candidate at Melbourne College of Divinity, a member of TEAR Australia's Project Review Committee, and Deputy Chair of the TEAR Board. She worked with a rural community development program in Afghanistan from 1992 to 1998 and later returned to lead a disaster management program from 2001 to 2002. Deborah also facilitates community development training and evaluations, enjoys the Australian bush and occasionally works as a vet at the RSPCA.

Len Clarke is an Indigenous elder of the Baha'i faith, from the Warrnambool area of Victoria. He is the chairperson of the Kirrae Whurrong Native Title Group and co-chair of the Victorian Indigenous Land Justice Group. Through his Kikkabush Aboriginal Pastoral and Advancement Association, Len works to help Indigenous communities reach their full potential. Len is an active educator, lecturing at various institutions and organisations, and has been involved in a number of documentaries regarding Indigenous people and culture.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

11:30am–1:00pm INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION

Hafiz Aziz ur Rehman is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Shariah & Law, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan. He belongs to the part of Kashmir that was hit badly by the 2005 earthquake, and he followed closely the relief and rehabilitation efforts by religious and faith-based NGOs. Aziz is a student of comparative Shariah and Common law and is currently completing his PhD at the Australian National University College of Law.

The Challenge of Islamophobia and the Media: How Innovative Dialogue is Changing the Landscape

Dr Nasya Bahfen, Moderator

Jennifer Maytorena Taylor

Ahmed Rehab

Fiyaz Mughal

Karen L Hernandez-Andrews

Mohammed El-leissy

Room 219

Panel Discussion

Negative media portrayals of Islam and Muslims hamper much-needed efforts to improve relations with the Islamic World and Muslims generally, regardless of where they live. Steps are being taken through the innovative use of various media to combat this issue. The questions must be asked, 'Are these efforts facilitating a change in the socio-religious landscape? If not, why does this perception about Muslims prevail, and what role should Muslims play in helping to define how they are portrayed?' In this session, leading scholars, activists, media professionals and grassroots leaders will discuss these pressing issues of the day.

Dr Nasya Bahfen lectures in the School of Applied Communication at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and works regularly in the newsrooms of ABC Radio Australia and SBS Radio. Her teaching and research interests include radio journalism, Islam and the media, and the use of the internet by young Muslims. Nasya is a committee member of the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria.

Jennifer Maytorena Taylor's films have won awards at festivals around the world and two Emmys. Her credits include the documentaries 'Special Circumstances', 'Ramadan Primetime', 'Paulina', 'Home Front', 'Immigration Calculations', several television series, and many short films. She has held fellowships at the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Knight Center for Specialized Journalism, and the Sundance Institute Documentary Lab.

Ahmed Rehab is an American Muslim activist and writer with a focus on civil rights, media relations, and Islam-West relations. He is the Executive Director of CAIR-Chicago, a Muslim civil rights and advocacy office. Rehab serves on the boards of directors of the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights, the Immigration and Refugee Interfaith Ministries, the Chicago Human Relations Advisory Committee and the Egyptian American Society. He is a member of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' Muslim task force. He has appeared on Fox News, ABC, CBS, NBC, HDTV News, PBS, CNN, CLTV, WGN, C-Span, BBC, MSNBC, WBBM, Chicago Public Radio, Fox News Radio, and Conservative Radio.

Fiyaz Mughal is the Director of Faith Matters, which works on developing platforms for interaction between Muslim, Sikh and Jewish communities across the UK. He is the founder and director of two micro-finance projects in Palestine and Israel and has been appointed as the advisor to Nick Clegg MP on interfaith issues and prevention of extremism. Mughal was awarded the Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Karen holds an MA Theological Research in Christian-Muslim Understanding from Andover Newton Theological School and a BA in Peace and Justice Studies with a concentration in Islam from Wellesley College. She is currently pursuing a Master of Sacred Theology in Religion and Conflict from Boston University School of Theology. Karen teaches and lectures with various organisations in the US about Islam, global Christian-Muslim relations, Al Qaeda, theological responses to terrorism and Islamophobia.

Mohammed El-leissy is a community worker with the Islamic Council of Victoria. He hosts the 'World Peace' program on Melbourne's SYN FM, which deals with issues of cultural and religious identity in Australia. He has served on numerous interfaith panels and recently returned from a tour of Southeast Asia, where he represented Australian Muslims to faith groups in the region.

The Vision of Humanity: The Components of Peace

Steve Killelea

William F Vendley

Room 220

Vision of Humanity is an umbrella enterprise for several interrelated initiatives focused on bringing about global peace. These include the Global Peace Index, which ranks countries by their peacefulness and is the basis for identification of drivers of peace. The Institute for Economics and Peace is a think tank dedicated to research on the interrelationship between business, peace and economic development. In this session, the founder of Vision of Humanity will present some of his peace initiatives, and the Secretary-General of Religions for Peace will present some of that organisation's peace initiatives, including efforts in the Middle East.

Steve Killelea is Chairman and Founder of , Integrated Research Ltd; The Charitable Foundation; Global Peace Index; Institute for Economics and Peace. Steve is an accomplished entrepreneur in high technology business development and at the forefront of philanthropic activities focused on sustainable development and peace.

Dr William F Vendley has served as Secretary General of Religions for Peace since 1994. He has mobilised and equipped religious communities in war-torn regions worldwide. He was a participant in His Majesty King Abdullah's historic interreligious meeting in Madrid, Spain in 2008 and has been requested by the Muslim World League to serve on its Follow-up Committee. Dr Vendley is also an advisor to US President Barack Obama.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

LUNCHTIME PROGRAMMING 1:00–2:30pm

Towards a Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions, Continued

Rabbi David Saperstein
Madhu Khanna
Room 106

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations on December 10, 1948, represents a landmark in the evolution of the moral imagination of humanity. While the period in which it was proclaimed possessed a decidedly secular orientation, the religious background of its drafters played a role in its formulation. Increasingly, religious traditions come to serve as champions of human rights. In 1998 a new initiative was launched to frame a Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the World's Religions. This is an ongoing process in which the text has been examined, revised and modified at various gatherings, including the Parliament of the World's Religions at Barcelona in 2004. This program carries that process forward by inviting representatives of a number of religious traditions to reflect on the current state of the text. This is the continuation of a three hour program.

Designated in Newsweek's 2009 list as the most influential rabbi in the United States and described in a Washington Post profile as 'the quintessential religious lobbyist on Capitol Hill', **Rabbi David Saperstein** represents the national Reform Jewish Movement to Congress and the Administration as the Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Professor Madhu Khanna teaches in the Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations at the Jamia Millia Islamia University in New Delhi. She was the co-convenor of the global congress on World's Religions After September 11: An Asian Perspective, which met in New Delhi from January 17-20, 2009. She specializes in Hindu Shakta Tantra, a field in which she has published extensively, and is the founder trustee of the Tantra Foundation. Her work on Narivada, the Indian word and concept for feminism, has been widely acclaimed, a field in which she is the Honorary Advisor at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

Global Ethics and Religion Forum – What is Peace in a Sustainable and Just World?

Rev Dr David LC Clark, Moderator
Philip Rossi SJ
Pal Alhaulalia
Leif Stenberg
Mutombo Nkulu-N'sengha
George R Wilkes
Colin Honey
Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier
Room 110
Symposium

This is Panel #4 in the 'War and the Role of Religion in a Just and Sustainable World' Symposium.

Rev Dr David LC Clark is Chair at the Von Hugel Institute, St. Edmund's College, Cambridge University, England.

Philip Rossi is a Professor of Theology at Marquette University, USA.

Pal Alhaulalia is Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President of the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, and UNESCO Chair in Transnational Diasporas and Reconciliation Studies at the University of South Australia, Australia.

Leif Stenberg is Director of the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Lund, Sweden.

Mutombo Nkulu-N'sengha is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, USA.

George Wilkes is Director of the Program in Religion and Ethics in War and Peace-Making at St Edmund's College, Cambridge University, England.

Colin Honey is Director of the Lonsdale Centre for Applied Ethics, Melbourne, a member of the Program in Religion and Ethics in War and Peace-Making at St Edmund's College, Cambridge University, England and Australia.

Dr Philip Freier became the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne in December 2006, following seven and a half years as Bishop of the Northern Territory. Dr Freier has been working towards engaging the Church with the wider community, particularly through his 'Prayer4Melbourne' quest, in which he has visited a range of public spaces, welfare centres and shopping malls. He is deeply involved in social justice issues affecting Indigenous peoples.

ENGAGEMENT 2:30–4:00pm

The Necessity of Nuclear Disarmament and Steps Toward its Achievement

Judge C G Weeramantry
Sue Wareham, Respondent
Room 102
Round Table Discussion

'The nuclear bomb is the most anti-democratic, anti-national, anti-human, outright evil thing that man has ever made. If you are religious, then remember that this bomb is Man's challenge to God. It's worded quite simply: We have the power to destroy everything that You have created. If you're not religious, then look at it this way: This world of ours is four thousand, six hundred million

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

years old. It could end in an afternoon'. -Arundhati Roy, Indian Author—Nuclear weapons represent a grave threat to humanity being able to hear one another and heal. They use the threat of violence as a tool for compliance of 'the other', rather than being able to listen to—and tolerate—difference. They also pose a constant threat to our earth, with a small nuclear exchange having the potential to cause a devastating nuclear winter or the destruction of our planet. Religious people have always been significant participants in the quest to abolish nuclear weapons, and this continues today. This panel discussion will provide a comprehensive overview of the legal and philosophical aspects of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, as both a basis for understanding and as firmament for how and why to respond.

Judge Weeramantry has been a lawyer, legal educator, international arbitrator, and domestic and international judge. He has been Chairman of the Nauru Commission of Inquiry and Coordinator of the United Nations University Project on Technology and Human Rights. He is President of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and a Founder Member of the World Future Council. He has written over twenty books and 200 articles on religious, legal, and political topics.

Sue Wareham is the president of the Medical Association for the Prevention of War (MAPW).

The Lost & Endangered Religions Project: Preserving the World's Religious Diversity

Donald Frew

Dr Layne Little

Dr Archana Venkatesan

Room 104

Parliament Assembly Project Update

The Lost & Endangered Religions Project (LERP) works with marginalised religious communities around the world to help preserve religious traditions—including texts, rituals, songs and dances—that are in danger of being lost and helps to restore aspects of these traditions that may have been lost in the community but have been archived. LERP focuses on creating mutually beneficial and cooperative relationships between religious communities and scholars. Historically, there has been considerable tension between academics and small religious communities. LERP works to combat this tension and the perception of academics as 'thieves'. Focusing on traditions that can be physically duplicated or recorded, LERP replaces this old paradigm with a new one stressing community service as its primary goal. Since 1999, LERP has developed ongoing service projects with the Yezidi of southern Turkey, archaeological efforts in southern and eastern Turkey, the performative dance and ritual traditions of the devadasis and of the Araiyaar priests of southern India, and new religious movements in Canada, the United Kingdom, and the United States. This program will use multimedia material to present an overview of LERP's work to date and discuss questions of methodology.

Donald H Frew is a Wiccan Elder and National Interfaith Representative for the Covenant of the Goddess. He has represented Wicca in inter-faith work for over 23 years, serving on the Boards of the Berkeley Area Interfaith Council, the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, and the Global Council of the United Religions Initiative. He is the founder and director of the Lost & Endangered Religions Project.

Dr Layne Little is the regional director of South Asian programs for the Lost & Endangered Religions Project. He teaches courses on South Asian religion at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dr Archana Venkatesan teaches about ritual and performance traditions in Hinduism for the Religious Studies and Comparative Religion departments of the University of California at Davis.

Feeding a Plan of Action for the UN Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace (Session 1)

Gerardo Gonzalez

Stein Villumstad

Serigne Mansour Sy

Room 105

Symposium

This symposium is organised by the Initiative for a UN Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace. This first session will introduce the proposed UN Decade; present successful stories of partnership between faith-based organisations, UN agencies and member states around millennium development goals; and offer interactive sharing with participants, including suggestions for the plan of action of the Decade. A report on presentations and discussions will be made available at the Initiative's website (www.faihtdecadeforpeace.net).

Gerardo Gonzalez holds a doctorate in Social Psychology from Paris University (1969) and worked for nearly 30 years as a UN international officer. Since 1998 he has volunteered in the field of interfaith cooperation for peace, including directing the project toward the creation of a spiritual forum for world peace at the United Nations. Currently, he is coordinator of the Initiative for a UN Decade of Interreligious Cooperation for Peace.

Stein Villumstad has extensive and distinguished experience in international development, conflict transformation, and human rights. He served as regional representative for Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in Eastern Africa, where he oversaw development activities in ten countries and managed five regional sub-offices. Previously, he held the position of assistant general secretary of NCA, managing the Department for Policy and Human Rights.

Serigne Mansour Sy is president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of Senegal and a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition. Since 1997, he has been Caliph General of the Tijaniya order of Senegal.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Sacred Sites, Sacred Solidarity: Teachings of the Traditions

Speakers to be Announced

Room 106

When individuals and communities of a faith outside our own are maligned or attacked, when their revered places of worship and practice are threatened or destroyed, it is our sacred responsibility to stand side-by-side with them to express solidarity and support—to refuse to condone violence and desecration through silence and inaction. Nothing heals the wounds of such an injury more quickly than to be comforted and supported by religious and spiritual communities in the neighbourhood and around the world. In this way, the safeguarding of sacred sites is inextricably linked to the need to actively and concretely express spiritual solidarity with other religious communities. This session of the ‘Sacred Sites, Sacred Solidarity’ Symposium will share and discuss the teachings of several spiritual traditions with respect to standing in solidarity with other communities, and how those teachings relate to the mutual care of sacred sites.

American Outrage

Room 107

Film

On five occasions US federal marshals have confiscated more than a thousand head of livestock owned by Western Shoshone sisters Carrie and Mary Dann charging that the sisters are grazing animals on public land. The Dann sisters claim that this range was recognised as Western Shoshone land by the United States in 1863 and that the real reason for the government’s interest is the treasure hidden beneath the range. This documentary traces the elderly sisters’ fight from the United States Supreme Court, to the Organization of American States, to the United Nations. The film was directed by George and Beth Gage.

Building a Culture of Peace – Development on the ground in El Salvador

Marta Benavides

Room 108

Seminar

El Salvador, the smallest country in central America, whose peoples since colonial times in the 1500s, have suffered massacres, oppression and repression of the indigenous population, violence by slavery, civil war, death squads, disappearances, and free trade agreements, all aspects of the road to impoverishment. Today, in the context of the financial and economic crisis, according to UN – CEPAL (the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) and UNDP (the UN

Development Program), the country is highly indebted, at the verge of desertification, and facing possible collapse due to violence, the economic crisis, and the lack of attention to healing the wounds of war, and the migration of large numbers of the population who are at economic active age. Yet, el Salvador, right now is experiencing a new beginning, with a president committed publicly to the preferential option for the poor. The challenge is to develop a ‘solidarity economy,’ with real development and security, focusing on freedom from want, freedom from fear, and freedom from hunger, as enunciated by the UN. This session will cover practical strategies on the local level, as well as the hope and framework of building for the 23rd century.

Marta Benavides of El Salvador is one of the surviving activists from the original group of human rights and peace advocates who began their work during the 1970s and the rising climate of repression. A leader of an ecumenical revolution focused on bringing peace to her country, the ordained pastor who chose ‘to live and not die for the revolution’ has been bringing people at all levels and from all sectors – politics, the arts, law enforcement, agriculture and food security, environment, religion and labor together to defend human rights and develop a culture of peace.

The Digital Revolution and the Age of Religious Pluralism

Leo Brunnick

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield

Rabbi Irwin Kula

Room 109

The digital revolution and technological innovation including Google, Wikipedia, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and high speed internet networks have changed the way religions and spiritual traditions are communicated and distributed. Not only are changes continuing, but they are continuing to accelerate. How do we make this work for us and for the world? How do we use the new power at our fingertips to make change that really matters? As these new technologies become accessible, every religion’s wisdom and practice become part of a global conversation that crosses boundaries, is independent of central authorities and can be used in any manner by individual spiritual seekers as well as independent groups. What are the implications of this for our personal identities as well as the integrity of our particular religions and religious communities? Most importantly, how can we who are deeply committed to cultivating harmony among the world’s religions and spiritual communities use new technology to help usher in a new age of pluralism? Leo Brunnick will offer a four-part model of how we use the new technology to Communicate, Educate, Elevate, and Activate. The session will be interactive, inviting participants to offer wisdom and practice in globally accessible ways.

Leo Brunnick is a founder and the CEO of Patheos.com, helping shape the vision, mission, strategy and operating principles of the company. In this role, he brings to bear twenty years of executive leadership and management experience. Leo is an expert in bringing cutting-edge web technologies to market. He is the visionary behind the innovative approach to the Patheos libraries and lenses and is passionate about the global conversation on religion and spirituality.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield is an acclaimed interfaith activist described by Newsweek as 'one of America's most influential rabbis'. He is the creator of 'Building Bridges' and 'American Pilgrimage' on Bridges TV, the author of 'You Don't Have To Be Wrong For Me To Be Right: Finding Faith Without Fanaticism', and a columnist for Beliefnet.com and Newsweek/WashingtonPost.com. Hirschfield is a President of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, America's leading Jewish institution for religious pluralism.

Rabbi Irwin Kula, also a President of Clal – received the 2008 Walter Cronkite Faith and Freedom Award for his work 'toward equality, liberty and a truly inter-religious community'. Fast Company magazine and 'Religion and Ethics Newsweekly' (PBS) both named him one of the leaders shaping the American spiritual landscape. He is the author of *Yearnings: Embracing the Sacred Messiness of Life*, and is currently developing the Clinton Global Initiative commitment, Disruptive Spiritual Innovation.

Reality, Religion and Responsibilities: Individual Commitments

Tim Fischer

Rev James Haire

Room 110

Lecture

This is a major session of the Parliament with vastly experienced presenters. Most people entering politics are guided by their ethical and/or religious frameworks. Most people committing themselves to a religious tradition wish to make a better and more spiritual world. In this session, a well-known former politician and a well-known former church leader both of whom have moved into new roles, one as Australian Ambassador to the Vatican, and the other as the director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture in Canberra, will speak about their current commitments and their thoughts on the role of religion and interreligious activity in Australian society and internationally. Tim Fischer, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, will deliver an address, 'To see from the Holy See: Hearing, Helping and Happiness' and Rev James Haire, Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, will speak from his varied and extensive experiences, firstly from his childhood in Northern Ireland, his experience in church union and leading the third largest religious group in Australia (the Uniting Church in Australia – a union of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian churches) and from his ecumenical and interfaith activities over the years.

H E The Honourable Timothy Andrew Fischer AC is the Australian Ambassador to the Vatican. He served as an officer in the infantry in Australia and Vietnam, followed by service in the New South Wales Parliament and the Australian Federal Parliament, where he held the titles of Leader of the National Party, Minister for Trade, and Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Fischer has a range of agricultural, export and transport business interests.

Rev James Haire, Former Moderator General of the Uniting Church of Australia, is Executive Director of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. Professor Haire is also a Professor of Theology at Charles Sturt University and of the Public and Contextual Theology Strategic Research Centre. Professor Haire has sought cooperation between the various denominations and was Co-chair of the National Dialogue between the Uniting Church and Catholic Church in Australia from 1992 to 2004

In Search of Sustainable Pathways

Joseph Gelfer

Michael York

Joni Stimson

Samuel Alexander

Room 111

Panel Discussion

Promising strategies for achieving a sustainable world can be found in the world's many faiths. This panel will present the following themes: (1) Planetary survival requires exploring alternative ways to live, and one promising way entails simplifying our lives by consuming less and living more; (2) Pagan polytheism's central focus is on ecology and healing the earth; (3) God's law can help humanity develop guidelines for environmental sustainability; (4) Gaia Consciousness is manifested as the environmental movement, earth-based spirituality, and a trend towards seeking unity within diversity; and (5) The future of peace requires the mobilisation of men of all faiths who reclaim what is naturally peaceful about being a religious man. (This talk is about religion, men and masculinity.) Panellists proceed from the shared assumption that a better world depends on healing within each faith, between different faiths and with those who choose no faith.

Joseph Gelfer has a PhD in religious studies from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He is an Honorary Research Associate at the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University, Australia. Joseph is founding editor of *Journal of Men, Masculinities and Spirituality*. His book, 'Numen, Old Men: Contemporary Masculine Spiritualities and the Problem of Patriarchy', is published by Equinox Publishers (London, 2009).

At the Cherry Hill Seminary, **Michael York** focuses his teaching on comparative religions. He is Co-Chair of the American Academy of Religions' Contemporary Pagan Studies Group and has authored 'Pagan Theology: Paganism as a World Religion'.

Joni Stimson earned a Bachelor of Social Work (Hons) from the University of Queensland in 1985. Her undergraduate work focused on community development, with an emphasis on social planning. Her independent Postgraduate Study at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, led her to examine the philosophical underpinnings of the communities that formed the kibbutzim and how they have changed over time. For her Master of Social Work from the University of Sydney (1999), she focused her thesis, 'LEVITICUS Ecological Reading', on the creation of sustainable communities.

Samuel Alexander is a part-time lecturer and doctoral student at Melbourne Law School and the editor of 'Voluntary Simplicity: The Poetic Alternative to Consumer Culture' (2009). He is also the founder of the Life Poets Simplicity Collective, a grass-roots environmental organisation dedicated to the promotion and celebration of sustainable culture. Living simply and happily in a small hut that he built himself using mostly abandoned materials, he spends his time quietly planning, with youthful ambition, the non-violent erasure of consumer culture.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Hindu Spirituality in Dance: Odissi Performance

Dr Chandrabhanu
Jambudvipa Ensemble
Room 201
Artistic Performance

Odissi dance is an art full of grace, poise and magic. It is the traditional dance of Orissa and has its origins in ancient temple worship. In ancient times, Odissi was seen as a religious rite performed only by devadasis. Odissi is primarily the enactment of love between Lord Krishna and Radha. The movements of the dance are largely based on the concept of 'Tribhangi', which divides the body into three parts: the head, bust and torso. Much of the dance's magic comes from mudras, or movements of the hands. Dr Chandrabhanu will perform along with sixteen dancers from his world-renowned Jambudvipa Ensemble (Dance Academy).

Dr Chandrabhanu was born in Kangar, the capital of the Malaysian province of Perlis. He has choreographed almost fifty major choreographic works, productions and performances in Bharata Natyam, Odissi, and contemporary dance styles, including Bharata Natyam solo recitals. Chandrabhanu is currently artistic director and principal of Chandrabhanu Bharatalaya Academy of Indian Classical Dance and Music, Melbourne.

Islam 101 Series: War and Peace in Al-Islam: The Prophet's Struggle

Dr Tariq Ramadan
Dr William F Vendley
Rabbi Michael Melchior
Room 202
Panel Discussion

The concerted struggle for peace consumed the life of Prophet Muhammad. However, there is the perception that war was a dominant factor during the formative years of Islam and that Muslims are consequently predisposed to violence and war. During this session, internationally respected Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan will discuss the Prophet's life in regards to war and peace, how misinformation about these issues affects current prospects for peace, and what lessons about peace can be gleaned from the Prophet's example as we move forward. This session will also include an interfaith panel of respondents who are leaders in peace building among the faith traditions. This program is one of six sessions in the Islam 101 Series designed to highlight critically important issues regarding Islamic beliefs, practice, and history that are all too commonly misunderstood.

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.

Dr William F Vendley has served as Secretary General of Religions for Peace since 1994 and has mobilised and equipped religious communities in war-torn regions worldwide. He was a participant in His Majesty King Abdullah's historic interreligious meeting in Madrid, Spain in 2008 and has been requested by the Muslim World League to serve on its Follow-up Committee. Dr Vendley is also an advisor to US President Barack Obama.

Rabbi Michael Melchior hails from Denmark, where his family members have served as Chief Rabbis for seven generations. In 1999, he was elected to the Knesset, where he became one of Israel's leading legislators. He helped to enact legislative reforms in the areas of education, children's rights, the environment and social justice. Today, Rabbi Melchior leads a variety of civil society movements, including a forum that promotes dialogue and understanding among different strands of Israeli society.

Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding: The Case of Israel-West Bank-Gaza

Eliyahu McLean
Deacon Jiries Mansour
Ibtisam Mahamid
Sheikh Hussein Abu Rukkun
Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari
Room 203

The Israeli, West Bank, and Gaza areas are some of the most volatile in the world. Interreligious and interethnic conflicts have plagued these areas for decades. Land disputes and human rights violations have been a significant source of conflict. As the Holy Land for numerous faiths, there have been regular clashes over access to sacred sites. Because of this, tensions between ethnic and religious communities are high, characterised by a lack of trust and discrimination. The Jerusalem Peacemakers and the Abrahamic Reunion, a network and family of religious leaders, women and grassroots peacemakers, seek to rebuild trust between Israelis and Palestinians, especially after the recent war in Gaza. The peacemakers in the Holy Land work together to help loosen rigid beliefs, bridge the gulf between peoples, and to help people recognise that they are in this together and that polarisation and violence do not work. Representatives of Jewish, Christian, Druze, and Muslim faiths will share stories of peacemaking and hope from Israel and Palestine.

Eliyahu McLean is the co-director of Jerusalem Peacemakers, a network of religious leaders and grassroots peacebuilders in the Holy Land. He is also a leader in Israeli-Palestinian bridge building projects. Mr McLean was initiated as a 'Rodef Shalom' (Peace Pursuer) by Reb Zalman Schachter Shalomi. His work with Palestinian Sufis is described in 'At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden: A Jew's Search for God with the Christians and Muslims in the Holy Land'.

Jiries Mansour is Deacon of the Greek Catholic Church in Kfar Rame, an Arab village in Galilee. He is founder and principal of the Saint Anthony Latin School, which is recognised for its superior academic training for Druze, Christian and Muslim students. Jiries is a leader in peace and interfaith initiatives in the Holy Land and has initiated numerous school exchanges between Arab and Jewish youth. Jiries is a founding member of the Abrahamic Reunion.

Ibtisam Mahamid's primary focus is on improving relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel, and she also works to improve the status of women in both Arab and Jewish society. She is on the board of Middleway,

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

an NGO for the promotion of compassion and nonviolence, and she helped found the Women's Interfaith Encounter, a program of the Interfaith Encounter Association. In April 2009, the Dalai Lama presented Ibtisam with the 'Unsung Heroes of Compassion' award in recognition of her work to bring peace and to improve the status of women in the Holy Land.

Sheikh Hussein Abu Rukkun, an elder and recognised spokesperson for the Mowahhidoon (Druze) faith, has travelled widely in efforts to build bridges with other religions. He embodies the essence of the Druze tradition, embracing the principles and the Holy Books of the three more widely known Abrahamic religions, while also integrating the Druze belief in reincarnation.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bukhari, a Sheikh of the Naqshabandian Religious Method (Sufi) and head of the Uzbek Community in Jerusalem, is an Uzbek. He is a leading Muslim voice for peace and reconciliation in Jerusalem. He also hosts the Uzbek Cultural Centre of the Holy Land in his home.

UN Millennium Development Goals, Challenges and Opportunities for Global Stability

Almaz Negash

Bruce Duncan

Room 204

Seminar

In September 2000 the international community under the leadership of the United Nations agreed to adopt the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to foster sustainable development in poverty stricken countries. The MDGs are people-centric and measurable, and are intended to transform communities from the bottom up. They range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS to providing universal primary education by the target date of 2015. These goals are backed by a consensus of governments throughout the world. This session will discuss the MDGs, the progress that has been made toward achieving them, and the challenges that remain. The aim is to assist the participant in understanding the nature of the systems that have sustained the status quo and the nature of the systems that will be required to support systemic change. The presentation will call for bringing together new forms of public/private partnerships to preserve the best of both, providing a stronger support network for emerging regions and their people, and leveraging infrastructure, education, financial, and trade support so as to enable individuals, local governments, and small businesses within these emerging economies to grow more stably and with higher value-added components to their enterprises.

Almaz Negash is managing director at Entwine Global. At the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University, she worked to facilitate dialogue between world leaders on a 'Global Ethic' and the need for global moral leadership. As director of the Silicon Valley Center for International Trade Development, she facilitated the awarding of over \$200 million in contracts to her clientele. She co-authored *Awakening Social Responsibility, A Call to Action*.

Bruce Duncan has his doctorate in political science from the University of Sydney. Since 1987 he has lectured in history and social ethics at Yarra Theological Union in Melbourne. He is the author of *Crusade or Conspiracy? Catholics and the anti-communist Struggle in Australia* (2001) and *Church Social Teaching* (1991).

Hear the Voices of the Indigenous Elders

Asayo Horibe, USA: Buddhist, Moderator

Chief Oren Lyons, USA: Onondaga

Tsugio Kuzuno, Japan: Ainu elder

Clarence Jackson, USA: Tlingit

Room 208

Panel Discussion

Indigenous cultures have honoured their elders and seek to gain wisdom from their voices. Their stories continue to enrich and help to restore the sacred practices and identity of the community.

Asayo Horibe is the President of the Buddhist Council of the Midwest, an organisation for all Buddhist groups in Chicago and the Midwest region. In 1989, she also became the first President of the Heartland Sangha in Evanston, Illinois. She serves as a secretary for the Asian Advisory Council for the Illinois Secretary of State, Jesse White. She is a lay minister and has also worked as a registered nurse for over 45 years.

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'.

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.

Clarence Jackson is a Tlingit Clan Elder from the village of Kake, Alaska. He is of the Ch'aak' (Eagle) moiety, Tsaagweidi (Killer Whale) Clan. He is on the board of directors for Sealaska Corporation, a regional, Native for-profit corporation founded by the US Congress for the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian people. He also serves on the board of trustees for Sealaska Heritage Institute and its Council of Traditional Scholars.

Striving to Live in a Livable World (Session 2)

Lucy Mulenkei, Kenya: Maasai, Moderator

Baba Wande Abimbola, Nigeria: Yoruba

Norma Kassi, Canada: Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation

Room 209

Panel Discussion

Environmental safety and the sustainability of a healthy environment is a problem for many Indigenous communities across the globe. Maintaining a healthy environment is an increasingly difficult challenge as Indigenous communities struggle to protect their land and 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. Maasai, Yoruba and First Nation panellists will discuss the challenges and the spiritual significance of their environments.

Lucy Mulenkei is a Maasai from Kenya. She is the Executive Director of the Indigenous Information Network (IIN) in Kenya and works with the African Indigenous Women's Organization in the East African Region. She has coordinated training and capacity building on environment and sustainable development for Indigenous rural, nomadic pastoralists and hunter gatherers. Her main focus is on biodiversity conservation and traditional knowledge.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

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.

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.

Removal: The Indigenous Reality – Daily Youth Workshop

Mathew Luke Crane
Darlene St Clair
Visopiano Sanyu
Melissa Brickell
Room 210

This interactive workshop will build on a panel session featuring stories of removal from Native American, Aboriginal Australian and Naga perspectives. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of the session presenters and engage in discussion about the impact of removal.

Mathew Crane is an Aboriginal man from South Australia; Currently completing a Bachelor of Arts in Literature and Theology at Australian Catholic University; Administrative Assistant to Jim-baa-yer Indigenous Unit, Centre for Indigenous Education and Research, Australian Catholic University; Member of the Anglican Church of Australia and parishioner at St. Peter's Eastern Hill; Verger at St. Paul's Cathedral; Committee Chair of Critical Mass - a group that seeks to connect progressive young Anglicans in the Diocese of Melbourne.

Iyekiyapiwin (Darlene St Clair) is an assistant professor of American Indian Studies at St Cloud State University and the director of the Multicultural Resource Center. Her career has focused on the education of Native peoples from early childhood to college, the integration of Native cultures' histories and languages into curricula, and the arts and cultural expressions of Native peoples. She is Bdewakantunwan Dakota and an enrolled member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota.

Visopiano Sanyu is Indigenous to Nagaland.

Melissa Brickell, a descendant of the Yorta Yorta and Wiradjeri people, resides in Melbourne. Her work and active community involvement over the last eighteen years have focused on cross-cultural awareness and reconciliation among Australians. Brickell received a Reconciliation Award from Maribyrnong City Council for advancing the rights and community life of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. She is also actively involved in the Stolen Generations movement in Victoria and nationally.

Religious and Spiritual Responses to Disasters

Laura Crochet
Amjad Mohammed-Saleem
Additional speakers to be determined
Room 211

Religious and spiritual communities were often the first responders to human and ecological disasters long before world class relief organizations such as the International Red Cross or the United Nations Refugee Relief Agency. For centuries, come drought, floods, hurricanes, fires, social and political upheaval, or war, these communities tirelessly rose to the occasion. Today, religious and spiritual communities work side-by-side with outstanding local, national and interreligious relief organizations to provide humanitarian aid to millions worldwide who are often in life or death situations. In this session, panellists with first hand experience of these collaborative efforts will share their stunning experiences and best practices. They will also provide practical insight into how this vital work can be supported.

Laura Crochet, an organizational management specialist in New Orleans, Louisiana, for a statewide association, has focused on capacity building for nonprofits, since June 2006. Her specialty areas include grant writing, mission development, and planning. Ms. Crochet grew up in southern Louisiana, and received a Master's Degree in Education Administration and Supervision. She has contributed her knowledge through webinars, trainings and conferences. Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, she worked in Long Term Community Recovery with FEMA.

Amjad Mohammed-Saleem is the head of media and public relations for The Cordoba Foundation. He was the architect of a global partnership between Muslim Aid and the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which was hailed by the British Prime Minister as a landmark example of Muslims collaborating with Christians during times of conflict in South Asia. After losing several family members in the 2004 Tsunami, he joined the humanitarian and development field including overseeing tsunami reconstruction work in Sri Lanka.

Accommodating Indigenous Spirituality in the Contemporary World: Valuing and Respecting the Importance of Indigenous Spirituality

Joseph Henry Suina, USA: Cochiti Pueblo, Moderator
Tsugio Kuzuno, Japan: Ainu
Nana Osei Boakyewa Apeadu Yiadom II, Akan/Ghana: Apeadu
Room 214
Panel Discussion

Many Indigenous peoples in different regions of the world live in communities where there is an ongoing interfaith tension, sometimes cloaked in political rivalry. Three panellists representing different ethno-religious backgrounds will discuss instances of both accommodation and conflict that either strengthen or weaken Indigenous spirituality.

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

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

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.

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.

Religious Identity Formation: The Templars in Australia

Dr Irene Bouzo

Dr Rolf Beilharz

Room 215

Interactive Workshop

A community that cannot articulate its identity risks losing its group cohesion. A group that defines its identification process in an unsatisfactory way is in danger of an identity crisis. This session explores the sustainability of religious groups through collective identity formation and community living. Dr Irene Bouzo will first present a practical, three-step framework for religious identity formation. The context is the changing nature of communities in the 21st century and how a faith group lives in an urban village. This presentation is informed by research into the multiple migrations across five continents of the Temple Society Australia and its adaptation in Melbourne. Dr Rolf Beilharz, President of the Temple Society Australia, will then provide a snapshot of the Society's spiritual aspirations and how it is overcoming geographic displacement. Freedom of personal belief is one of the basic tenets. The Temple Society identifies as an independent Christian community in the sense that it is not affiliated or aligned with any denomination. Following a thirty-minute presentation, participants will take part in an interactive workshop exploring the three steps in identity formation in relation to their experiences in faith groups.

Irene Bouzo is completing a PhD on the migration and identity formation of the German-speaking Templars. She is a trained teacher and has also worked as a policy advisor in adult migrant education and the ethnic aged care sector in Victoria, Australia. She has contributed fifteen years of volunteer work to the Temple Society and is one of its lay elders.

Rolf Beilharz is President and past Regional Head of the Temple Society Australia. He is a religious and spiritual elder and has spent twenty years overseeing spiritual, heritage, social and welfare support programs in the Templar community. He was Dean of the Faculty of Forestry and Agriculture, University of Melbourne and is a Humboldt Fellow. Dr Beilharz has a PhD in Genetics and Animal Breeding from Iowa State University.

The Women's Interfaith Initiative and Grassroots Movement

Sande Hart

Kay Lindahl

Room 216

Interactive Workshop

This workshop explores models of organisation for women's grassroots and interfaith initiatives. It will also discuss how such organisations are affecting the shape of the interfaith movement today. Participants will discuss how to identify a community's needs and how to mobilise women into action, dialogue, conflict resolution, reconciliation and collaboration. This workshop will present a proven, successful model of organisation for a women's grassroots and interfaith group. The workshop will enable individual exploration so that the participant can develop a group that suits the specific needs of her community. Opportunities will be provided to develop relationships and to continue networking. This workshop's objective is to empower and activate the highest common values of diverse faith traditions: service, gathering, sharing and healing our world for future generations.

Sande Hart is the Founder & President of Spiritual And Religious Alliance for Hope (S.A.R.A.H.), a women's interfaith group that developed following the events of 9/11. She is on the Board of Directors for the Interfaith Youth Council and the Institute of Religion & Cultural Competency. Sande is also the author of 'Make a Difference 101 (Community Service: A Practical Step-by-Step Guide for Kids)'.

Kay Lindahl is a teacher who offers presentations on the power of listening for diverse groups around the world. She serves on the Board of Directors for the North American Interfaith Network and the Immortal Chaplains Foundation. She is a past trustee for the United Religions Initiative. She is also the author of 'The Sacred Art of Listening', 'Practicing the Sacred Art of Listening', and the children's book 'How Does God Listen?'

Indigenous Land Rights: Struggles and Survival (Session 2)

Aqqaluk Lynge, Greenland: Kalaallit, Moderator

Francois Paulette, Canada: Dene

Chief Megaron Txukarramae, Brazil: Kayapo

Room 217

Panel Discussion

The participants on this second 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 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.

Aqqaluk Lynge 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 Lynge 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.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

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.

Chief Megaron Txukarramae is grand chief of the Kayapo 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 Kayapo represent the single largest tract of protected tropical forest in the world and Chief Megaron works toward the preservation of his people's lands, culture and identity, and the promotion of their economic and political autonomy.

Knowing Home: A Presentation of Indigenous Spirituality

Vicki Clark

Room 218

Interactive Workshop

Vicki Clarke, a Muthi Muthi woman living in urban Melbourne, is inextricably linked to her country of Mungo National Park, located in southwestern New South Wales. By sharing part of her journey, she invites program attendees to enter into her personal world in a way that is a rare gift. Vicki will show a DVD and give a presentation that discusses the issues of identity, belonging, spirituality and the need for healing among Indigenous peoples. She will create an emotive and extremely effective tool that promotes understanding of Australian Indigenous spirituality and raises issues of social justice for Indigenous peoples in Australian society.

Vicki Clark is the coordinator of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne. She was a representative of the affiliated Aboriginal Tribal Groups (Muthi Muthi) in the formation of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Property Plan of Management. Nationally, Vicki has been influential in the formation and subsequent operations of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council, serving for six years as Secretary, three years as Vice Chair and three years as Chairperson.

Our Interreligious Future – Part Two

Marcus Braybrooke, Moderator

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick

Rabbi David Rosen

And Others to Be Announced

Room 219

Panel Discussion

The interreligious movement is barely a century old, yet it is clear that it will play an increasingly important role in the years ahead. Where is it all going? Will the religions play a larger role in the issues challenging the human community? Is there a potential for greater common action among the world's religious and spiritual communities? What are the next steps in the journey, what is motivating the movement and what are the obstacles to realising its visions? These and other topics will be addressed by religious leaders and the audience.moderator

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'.

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, 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.

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.

Breaking Barriers: Global Women of Faith Network, Religions for Peace

Patricia Blundell

Lilian Sison

Ravinder Kaur Nijjar

Jacqueline Ogega

Room 220

Panel discussion and interactive Workshop

Religions for Peace, through its Global Women of Faith Network, mobilises women of faith to harness the largely untapped power of multireligious cooperation to build peace, advocate for justice, end poverty and protect the earth. This interactive workshop by a panel of international speakers will share experiences of women of faith as agents of peace and security, grounded in the spiritual values of different faiths. The second half of this workshop will encourage the forming of partnerships, by providing an opportunity for women of faith to interact with one another and with other non-sectoral partners. The panel will recommend ways to strengthen and mainstream the leadership of women of faith in building peace across the world.

Dr Patricia Blundell RSM is Co-Chair, Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network, Religions for Peace, and President of the Tertiary Campus Ministry Association (Australia), the professional association of Australian University Chaplains. She is Secretary of the International Association of Chaplains in Higher Education and is Co-ordinating Chaplain at Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia. Her doctoral dissertation is on interreligious dialogue and the public university.

Dr Lilian Sison is Chair, Asia Pacific Women of Faith Network, Religions for Peace; Member, IWCC Global Women of Faith Network; and Dean of the Graduate School, University of San Tomas, Philippines.

Ravinder Kaur Nijjar is Co-Chair of Religions for Peace European Women of Faith Network and a member of RfP International Women's Coordinating Committee. She serves on the Executive Committees of the UK Interfaith Network, Scottish Inter Faith Council, Patron of Alma Royalton Kisch Inter Faith Youth Trust (London) and is GNNSJ Scotland Coordinator (a Sikh organisation). She is experienced in the field of education and holds a BEd (Hons) degree (London).

Jacqueline Ogega is the Director of the Women's Program at the World Conference of Religions for Peace. She has served as the African Women's Project Director at Religions for Peace in Africa, where she established the African Women of Faith Network. She has experience

Sunday, December 6, 2009

4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE

and skills in gender, peace building and development programming. She holds a Master's degree as well as a post-graduate diploma in gender and development, both from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Footy Training Clinic – Offsite Youth Workshop

Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico

Nick Hatzoglou

Offsite

Offsite Program

This is your chance to venture on to the training ground of one of Melbourne's Australian Football League (AFL) teams, tour the facilities and learn the basic skills of Aussie Rules Football with current players. This event is facilitated by Multicultural Development Officers from the AFL.

Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico is a National AusKick Ambassador and former professional Australian Rules footballer. In 1986 he received the Brownlow Medal and he was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2007. He coached the Israeli-Palestinian Peres Team for Peace in the 2008 Australian Football International Cup.

Nick Hatzoglou is the Multicultural Project Coordinator for the Australian Football League. Nick's key role with the Australian Football League is to bring Australian Football opportunities closer to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

OPENSOURCE 4:30–6:00pm

The Sufism of Hazrat Inayat Khan: Universal Sufism

Nuria Daly

Shaikha Safa Hull

Room 102

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The Sufi Movement in Australia represents the Sufi Message of spiritual liberty as brought to the West by Hazrat Inayat Khan in the early years of the 20th century. It is a message that is both profound and simple. This session is an opportunity to experience some of the concepts and teaching methods used on this path: gently tuning and refining our personalities, our interaction with others and the world that sustains us, and discovering a worldview that rests on and is constantly refined by love, harmony and beauty. The practices we are offering will include music, story, meditation, chanting (wazifa) and remembrance (zikr). There will also be an open forum for questions. All are most welcome to drop in and share this offering with us.

Nuria Irene Daly is a Shaikha in the Sufi Movement and is the National Representative of the International Sufi Movement in Australia. The Sufi Movement follows the teachings of Hazrat Inayat Khan, who brought to the West the concept of Universal Sufism. Nuria has led a Sufi group in Melbourne for many years and has led retreats and meditations in Australia.

Shaikha Safa Hull is Co-National Representative of the Sufi Movement in New Zealand, and has been leading Sufi groups and spiritual retreats for over 20 years. She is an active member of the International Sufi Movement and has presented a number of public talks on Sufism both in Australia and New Zealand. Safa is also a senior clergy member, or Siraja, of the religious activity of the International Sufi Movement, known as Universal Worship.

Edmonton's Experience of Reconciliation with Indigenous People

Lewis Cardinal

Rick Chapman

James Scott

Alvin Dixon

Room 103

Panel Discussion

Restitution does not automatically guarantee reconciliation, nor does it assure redemption. However, restored relationships with Indigenous People will never occur without the intentional efforts of those who seek the peace and welfare of all. The Interchurch Interfaith Committee of Edmonton Presbytery, United Church of Canada, will share stories of our current ecumenical efforts in Edmonton, Canada to pursue reconciliation and right relationships with Indigenous Peoples through programs of study, reflection and celebration with Aboriginal (Indigenous) spiritual leaders. Specific details and outcomes of events will be presented for both information and critique in the hope that we will encourage and learn from similar experiences worldwide. Related to our presentation will be accounts of the national United Church of Canada's efforts to 'explore, develop and nurture just and respectful relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people across our church'; and also reports regarding the founding and progress of the Canadian government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Lewis Cardinal is an Aboriginal educator and community leader in Edmonton.

Rick Chapman has been working with Aboriginal people in the inner city of Edmonton for the last three years at the Inner City Pastoral Ministry.

Reverend James Scott was ordained by the United Church of Canada. His career has focused on social justice, peacemaking and conflict resolution. He directed the Coalition Against the Return of the Death Penalty and animated educational programs for the Church Council on Justice and Corrections. Currently James brings his healing and reconciliation experience to his role as a United Church national staff member for Indian Residential Schools.

Alvin Dixon is an Indigenous leader in the United Church of Canada and has been deeply involved with the Residential School settlement process.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE

An Islamic Conscience: the Aga Khan and the Ismailis

Shamir Allibhai, Producer/Director

Room 107

Film and Discussion

The Aga Khan has been the spiritual leader of 15 million Ismaili Muslims for the past five decades. Born into wealth and privilege, he has devoted his life to eliminating poverty and inequality. At a time when Islam is at odds within itself and with the West, this film presents the Aga Khan as a voice of moderation, speaking out for pluralism, and promoting dialogue between civilisations. The film was directed by Jane Chablani, Bill Cran, and Shamir Allibhai.

Shamir Allibhai is the Producer of 'An Islamic Conscience'. He was previously the Commercial Director and part of the founding team of the Channel 4 British Documentary Film Foundation. The Documentary Film Foundation is a nonprofit organisation that funds documentary filmmakers and runs BRITDOC, the UK's first documentary feature film festival, which Shamir was instrumental in launching. Shamir is a candidate for a Master's of Theological Studies in Islamic Studies from the Harvard Divinity School.

Knit Together in Love: Communities Enriched by Altruistic Handicrafting

Alison Hood

Room 108

Academic Paper and Interactive Workshop

When you make a handmade object, you reconnect to the process of creation. You transform raw materials into a finished product, rather than simply buying a mass-produced item. You experience fellowship and connectedness with other craftspeople, as well as with those for whom the object is intended. This research-based workshop will highlight individuals and small groups that employ their handicrafting skills to make unique textile objects, created for the sole purpose of giving them to those in need, often complete strangers. Knitters and crocheters are welcome to bring their crafts with them to work on as we discuss how, through engaging in this process, individuals build relationships with themselves, each other, and the community at large. This session will focus in particular on how knitters and crocheters respond to the needs of the community, as well as their empowering role as stewards of knowledge, skills, and resources. These creative processes are explored using the theoretical framework of 'lived religion', which examines how religion and spirituality function in the creative process of handicraft, as well as how they are manifested within the daily lives of people who participate in them.

Alison Hood is Chair of Religious Studies at Huntington University. She teaches courses pertaining to the contemporary issues of technology, spirituality, and ritual and their effects on life experiences. Alison is a member of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion and is currently pursuing her Doctorate at the University of Queensland, researching altruistic handicrafting as 'lived religion'. She holds a BA from Laurentian University and an MA from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Education for Successful Societies

Elias Szczytnicki

Simon Xavier Guerrand-Hermes

Katherine Marshall

Stephen Hanmer

Room 109

Education is sacred to many religious traditions, and faith communities are leaders in both thinking about education and running educational institutions, from preschools through advanced studies. The role faith communities play turns out not only on service delivery but also on the question: 'Education for what?' a question that signifies how important the issue of values is to the enterprise of education. 'Education, education, education' is a common response to the question of what area deserves highest priority in building successful societies. This session will reflect on religion's roles in education worldwide, highlighting the experience of Jesuit education, the Aga Khan Development Network, and the Gulen movement. The presenters will explore the debates about whether and how basic knowledge about different faith traditions should be a core component of curricula.

Elias Szczytnicki is Secretary General and Regional Director, Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean. Before, he was Member, National Executive Committee, Consensus-Building Table on Fight against Poverty of Peru, and Member, Committee on Supervision and Transparency, National Program on Direct Support for the More Poor People Together. Mr Szczytnicki holds a Bachelor's degree in history from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, and is a graduate from the Program on Jewish Organization Direction of the Leatid Center.

Simon Xavier Guerrand-Hermes is the Chairman of the GHFP board, Vice Chairman of Hermes of Paris, and board member of Hermes International. He is also Chairman of Eden Development and Treasurer of Religions for Peace. He is a Honorary Fellow of Oxford University.

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.

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

Religious Leadership in a Global Perspective

Rabbi Dr Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Moderator

Dharma Master Hsin Tao

Jinwol Lee

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick

Imam Feisal

Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh

Rabbi David Rosen

H H Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

H H Swami Amarananda

H H Dadi Janki

Sr Joan Chittister

Room 203

Recently religious leaders affiliated with the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders gathered in the Holy Land to discuss

Sunday, December 6, 2009

4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE

the question of 'The Future of Religious Leadership'. Those discussions were informed by an international survey, prepared by the Elijah Interfaith Institute, on the theme of religious leadership. The survey measured satisfaction, expectation and trust that different communities worldwide have in their religious leaders. It contrasted how local religious leaders are doing in relation to international leaders and heads of large organizations. It sought to identify the qualities that people feel are most important to the vocation of a religious leader and it suggested what it is that the faithful of different religions are expecting of their leaders. The present panel will feature religious leaders reflecting upon the findings of this survey. It will include religious leaders of those traditions surveyed. What have leaders learned from the survey? How have they been challenged? What practical conclusions and consequences might they implement in light of this survey? Join us in order to receive the answers to such questions from these renowned religious leaders.

Alon Goshen-Gottstein has been director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute and lecturer and director of the Center for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Beit Morasha College, both in Jerusalem, since 1997. Ordained a rabbi in 1977, he holds a PhD and BA from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. His nearly three dozen articles have appeared in edited collections and in such scholarly journals as *Harvard Theological Review*, *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, and *Studies in Interreligious Dialog*.

Dharma Master Hsin Tao was born in Burma in 1948 and came to Taiwan at age 13. He became a monk at age 25 and established the Wusheng Monastery on Ling-jiou mountain in 1983. He founded the Museum of World Religions and is president of the Global Family of Love and Peace. The series of Buddhist-Muslim dialogues he initiated in 2001 has been conducted in ten countries, including the UNESCO Paris and UN in New York.

Venerable Professor Jinwol Lee is a Buddhist monk and Seon (Zen) Master of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism. He received a PhD in Buddhist Studies from UC Berkeley and now teaches at Dongguk University in Korea. He is a Steering Committee Member of the Coalition for the UN Decade for Peace, an Executive Committee Member of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, and a Global Council Member of the United Religions Initiative.

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.

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf is chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, a multi-national, multireligious project that works to improve relations between the Muslim world and the West. Author of 'What's Right With Islam Is What's Right With America: A New Vision for Muslims and the West', he is also founder of the American Society for Muslim Advancement. Imam Feisal is a graduate of Columbia University, New York and holds a Master's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Bhai Sahib Dr Mohinder Singh comes from a line of spiritual leaders, and is Chairman of Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha. He is a retired civil and structural engineer, with two honorary Doctorates for work in faith, community and education. Bhai Sahib is also a recipient of the Juliet Hollister Award from the Temple of Understanding.

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 organizations. 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 organizations representing world Jewry to other religions.

H H Puja Swami Chidanand Saraswati is the president and spiritual head of Parmarth Niketan, one of the largest spiritual institutions in India. He is also the founder and chairman of the India Heritage Research Foundation (IHRF), sponsoring a wide range of humanitarian and educational programs. Swami Saraswati has been a long-time participant in international interfaith conferences. In 1991, he received the 'Hindu of the Year' award.

H H Swami Amarananda is the senior monk of the Ramakrishna Order and president of the Centre Vedantique in Geneva. He is a former residential school headmaster and expert on disaster management. He has participated in numerous multireligious programs, including the World Faiths Development Dialogue, meetings of the Community of Santo Egidio, the Interreligious Platform in Geneva and the World Council of Churches.

Come into the Presence of God! A Celebration of the Divine in Words, Music and Silence

Rev Dr Stephanie Dowrick
Dr Kim Cunio
Robin Ramsay
Room 201
Artistic Performance

Various musicians and spiritual leaders will contribute to this multi-art form program. In celebration of the Divine and the human relationship to the Divine, we will move from the meditative to the ecstatic through poetry, scripture, music and guided and silent meditation. We will emphasise the universal teachings from East and West, especially those that lead us to appreciate love as the centre of our lives, the source of our wellbeing, a unifying and healing force for humanity, and the most profound expression of the numinous and Eternal. We will highlight short, inspirational passages from the major scriptures both in English and in their original languages, sometimes accompanied by music. Poetry selections will range from Rumi to Thich Nhat Hanh, from Rilke to Mary Oliver, and from Owl Woman to Miguel Hernandez. A range of fine musicians will represent Islamic, Jewish, Christian, Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Rev Dr Stephanie Dowrick will devise and moderate the text for the program. Dr Kim Cunio will provide musical direction, and Robin Ramsey will provide artistic direction.

Rev Stephanie Dowrick, PhD, is an ordained Interfaith Minister and Australia's best-known writer in the areas of personal, social and spiritual development. She is in demand both nationally and internationally as a workshop and retreat leader and has been writing the 'Inner Life' column for *Good Weekend Magazine* (Sydney Morning Herald and The Age) since 2001. Since 2003, Stephanie has given regular interfaith services at Pitt Street Uniting Church in Sydney.

Dr Kim Cunio is Australia's leading composer and interpreter of sacred traditional music. He has been commissioned to investigate the music of many sacred traditions by organisations around the world and in Australia. His most recent commissions have included *The Sacred Fire: The Music of Hildegard of Bingen*, the Temple Project (music in the time of Jesus), and *The Thread of Life*, a reuniting of Arabic and Jewish musicians.

Robin Ramsay is an inspirational figure in Australia's theatre history and has performed in theatre, television and film for over forty years. A long-time meditator and spiritual scholar, Robin recently completed his debut feature film as director, *Tao of the Traveller*, a mystical exploration of the journeys of the human soul. The film won Best Film in its category at the South African International Film Festival and is an Official Selection at the Thailand International Film Festival.

Sunday, December 6, 2009

4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE

The Science and Spirituality of Climate Change

Johan Rockström

Room 202

Panel Discussion

Former US Vice-President Al Gore has defined the critical factor in addressing climate change in spiritual terms, as '...the moral courage to rise and successfully resolve a crisis that so many said was impossible to solve...' Dr Rajendra Pachauri, Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change at the UN, has said that the current crisis has '... raised the threat of dramatic population migration, conflict, and war over water and other resources, as well as a realignment of power among nations.' In the public debate about climate change, the perspectives of scientific research and spirituality often seem confused, or at cross-purposes. These two Nobel Laureates, awarded for their work on environmental concerns, bring clarity and synergy to these twin perspectives that are crucial in addressing the most challenging crisis of our time.

Johan Rockström is Executive Director of Stockholm Resilience Centre. He is also Professor in natural resources management at Stockholm University and executive director of Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). He is coordinator of several national and regional research and development projects linked to the Global Water Partnership, the Global Dialogue on Water for Food and Environmental Security, and the Resilience Alliance.

Thirst (Premier Film Series Selection)

Room 210

Film

'Thirst' tells the story of communities in Bolivia, India and the United States that are asking fundamental questions about water. Q & A to follow.

The Legacy of the Melbourne Parliament (Part 1)

Room 211

This session, on the legacy of the 2009 Parliament, will be a conversation with members of different religious, cultural, and interreligious Melbourne-based groups. Participants will strategise how to further utilise the energy of the Parliament for the future of Melbourne, the role of the Parliament in developing social cohesion between residents, and making a world of difference.

Exploring the Future of Religion and Spirituality

Andrew Cohen

Room 213

Andrew Cohen is a spiritual teacher and founder of EnlightenNext magazine (formerly What Is Enlightenment?). A visionary thinker, Cohen is widely recognised for his original contribution to the emerging field of evolutionary spirituality. Through his talks, retreats, publications, and

ongoing dialogues with leading philosophers, mystics, and activists, he is becoming a defining voice in an international alliance of individuals and organisations that are committed to the transformation of human consciousness and culture.

Offerings for Barong Pa-Hayu Buwana / World Peace Barong

Yayasan Dharma Samuan Tiga

Room 214

Interactive Exhibit

A barong is an animal figure that makes a dancing pilgrimage for peace. Barong Pa-Hayu Buwana / World Peace Barong was conceived 26 March 2003 and blessed 26 March 2004 during 'Sharing Art & Religiosity' in Bedulu, Bali, facing the Samuan Tiga Temple, where, in the year 1011, three faiths met in reconciliation. This barong is a new creation made of coral, stones, tree bark and roots, feathers, fabric, bells and other materials initially gifted by 56 individuals and societies from 23 nations of the world. Parliament presenters and visitors are invited to send materials from your culture to Yayasan Dharma Samuan Tiga 1 Jalan Pura Samuan Tiga Bedulu, Bali 80551 Indonesia to beautify the Barong Pa-Hayu Buwana / World Peace Barong so that it may be more complete for 'Sharing Art & Religiosity' in the year 2011 and dedicated to the 1000th anniversary of Pasamuan Tiga. Artist delegates of Yayasan Dharma Samuan Tiga will host discussions on the process of creating the World Peace Barong from 4:30 to 6:00 pm daily during Open Space.

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.

Role of Youth

Chisato Morita

Shumei Youth Group

Room 216

Musical

The Shumei Youth Group strongly believes in the Parliament's missions of healing the Earth and listening to each other. But what can young people contribute? How can they work to address the issues that stand in the way of achieving these goals? As young people from all religions and spiritual groups are working towards a more comfortable and fair world for everyone, the Shumei Youth Group is dedicated to taking an active role in this change. Via the exchange of ideas with one another and by working together with similar goals in mind, today's youth can maintain a 'yes, we can!' attitude. The Shumei Youth Group's work is based on these words of its founder, Mokichi Okada: 'We recognise all religions as our colleagues and will link hands with them in mutual amity as we go onward.' As part of their presentation, the group will suggest a new way of life based on their three pillars: spiritual healing, natural agriculture and appreciation of

Sunday, December 6, 2009

4:30–6:00pm
OPEN SPACE

art, all of which have proven effective in enriching the lives of people worldwide.

Chisato Morita is a staff member of Shinji Shumeikai.

The Shumei Youth Group is using the ideas of Japanese philosopher Mokichi Okada to work to help all the different people of the world to live in happiness and harmony with nature. They aim to work towards developing ambitious leaders in today's generation to sustain our world. The essence of their practice is feeling the beauty of our world. The group works for the happiness of others, appreciates precious art and music, and enjoys growing vegetables.

Spiritual Progressives: Networking Towards a New Bottom Line

Rabbi Michael Lerner

Room 217

Seminar

Spiritual progressives are all those (including 'spiritual-but-not-religious' people) who seek a New Bottom Line. Institutions, corporations, laws and government policies, educational, legal and health systems, and even our personal lives should be defined as 'productive', 'efficient' or 'rational' not only to the extent that they maximise money or power (the Old Bottom Line), but also to the extent that they maximise the human capacity to be loving, caring, kind, generous, ethically and ecologically sensitive, aware of the sacred in other sentient beings, and capable of responding with awe, wonder and radical amazement at the grandeur and mystery of Creation. Rabbi Michael Lerner invites participants to a meeting to discuss how to build a network of spiritual progressives within their own denominations, religious communities, academic communities or local places of worship or work.

Rabbi Michael Lerner studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City and was mentored by noted scholar Abraham Joshua Heschel. He received a PhD in Philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley in 1972 and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the Wright Institute in 1977. Michael Lerner serves as the rabbi of Beyt Tikun Synagogue in San Francisco and is the editor of Tikun Magazine and author of numerous books.

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: Resources for and Obstacles to Multi-Religious Education in One's Own Tradition

North American Theological School Students
Room 219

Panel Discussion

Faculty and students will try to explore, both intra-religiously within their own traditions and inter-religiously in conversation with members of other traditions, the problems and the possibilities they face in trying to promote within their own community a greater awareness of and interaction with other communities. We will try to face problems honestly but sensitively, for the 'religious other' often appears as a threat to one's own religious identity and as a denial of certain beliefs about uniqueness or superiority that have been part of one's own tradition. Such problems must be embraced carefully, creatively and patiently. This session will stress the positive resources that can be found in each tradition—resources that call members of each tradition to humility about one's own claims, openness to the beliefs and practices of others, and love and compassion towards all, no matter how different they may be. We also want to examine how the 'critical issues' in our suffering and threatened world can also provide resources for greater cooperation as these issues provide new possibilities for religions to collaborate practically even when they may differ doctrinally. Each school will bring some particular texts or statements from their own tradition that can serve as assuring and creative resources for an open engagement with others.

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.

Religions for Peace Gathering

Stein Villumstad

Room 220

Participants in the Parliament who are or want to be affiliated with Religions for Peace (RfP) are invited to an informal forum in which we will share current developments. This gathering will discuss strategic priorities for the organisation; updates from the RfP network; global advocacy agendas and campaigns; and visual identity and development of e-advocacy capacities. The objective of this gathering is to strengthen the sense of identification

Sunday, December 6, 2009

9:00–10:30pm
EVENING PROGRAMMING

with and ownership of the network among the RfP-affiliated participants.

Stein Villumstad has extensive and distinguished experience in international development, conflict transformation, and human rights. He served as regional representative for Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in Eastern Africa, where he oversaw development activities in ten countries and managed five regional sub-offices. Previously, he held the position of assistant general secretary of NCA, managing the Department for Policy and Human Rights.

EVENING PROGRAMMING 9:00–10:30pm

Burma VJ

Room 107

Film

In Burma's police state, video journalists (VJs) risk their lives to make the world aware of events inside their nation. Equipped with small cameras, the VJs project the struggle of the Burmese people on TV screens worldwide. This 90-minute film tells the story of 'Joshua', a 27-year-old VJ thrust into the role of tactical leader of a group of reporters when monks lead a massive, peaceful uprising against the regime. The film was directed by Anders Ostergaard.