



Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc.

Jan 2013

Vol. 41, No. 4

Goal:
Sharing together,
One God —
One Community

Interfaith News

~ Celebrating Forty Years ~ 1971-2011 ~

January Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, January 22, 2013

Dinner 6:30pm

Program 7:30pm

location tba

“The Essential Heart of the Sikh Faith”

Dr. Paul Uppal, Guru Nanak Darbar Congregation, Schenectady

Dr. Paul Uppal is the Executive Secretary of the temple.

He is responsible for all program development and coordination. He is one of the original founders of the temple executive committee. He has been a member of the capital region Sikh community for over 45 years.

Dinner is \$12. Program only is free. If you require a vegetarian or kosher meal, please let us know when you make your reservation.

Reservations due to the IFC office, 370-2150 or schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com,
by January 16.

Mark your calendars now for our February Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, February 19 ~ 6:30pm ~ location tba

Program: "This is the Hindu Faith"

Presenters: Pandit Jai Mizir, Christine Knowles, Hindu Temple, Schenectady



From your president...

At Christmas time...and all the time

And Mary said, "Yes, I see it all new: I am the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say."
[Luke 1:38]

Simple, straightforward words. Spoken with confidence drawn beyond fear by God's Spirit. Offering the gift of self ... in peaceful surrender ... with only a hint as to the outcome ... that God's vision might come alive in her very being.

This is the dynamic heart of Christmas season for Christians. This dynamic is the heart of all faiths. The Eternal One of Life and Love reaching out of the innermost depths of God's caring, serving love for the well-being of all God's people. God calling forth sacrificial, serving love which only God's Spirit is able to summons from within us. It is through us that God chooses to uplift every creature.

Mary's response to God's invitation emerges from her growth in grasping the "way" of God's involvement within life. The Spirit shares. Gives. Reveals. Clarifies. Instructs. The Spirit invites. Attracts. Draws forth. Elicits. Empowers. Sustains. Mary's growth in the Spirit enables her to move beyond resistance to participation.

Often times we wish to convince others of the grace that is revealed from the innermost essence of our faith, whatever that faith may be. We may try either of two paths. We may deliberately seek every occasion to make our faith the topic of our conversations, hoping to persuade family, friends and neighbors of its preciousness for their lives. But the urge to persuade may well flow from an uncertain, insecure spirit within us. Seeking to "make" others believe as we do may actually do a great disservice to our faith by calling forth resistance rather than trust.

I believe that what is true for Mary is also true for us ... and others.

The Spirit of the Source of Love and Life makes itself convincingly clear, not through persuasive talk, but through its fruits. Love. Joy. Peace. Patience. Kindness. Goodness. Trustfulness. Gentleness. And, would you believe, self-control. These fruits convey their own unmistakable message ... and invite others to engage their source.

In this season [as in all seasons] may we ask: "How can I mature in the Spirit of the Eternal? What am I doing daily to enhance that growth? What will make it possible for me to say with Mary, "Yes, I see it now: I am the Lord's servant ... a channel through whom the spirit wishes to express its fruits of reconciliation, renewal and unity. Let it be with me just as you say."

Shalom, Salaam, Santi, the Peace that passes all understanding. *Bob Long*



Membership now January through December

A REMINDER that our Co-ordinating Council voted that the membership dues and the fiscal year of IFC should be the same, namely January through December. ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW PAYABLE IN JANUARY 2013.

For this transition year, the Co-ordinating Council also voted that dues paid in November and December 2012 will be accepted as dues paid for the coming year, 2013. If there are any questions, call our office at 370-2150 or Treasurer Sandy Goble at 374-0819 or sgoble2@verizon.net.

Immigration and the Bible ~

The Albany District of the United Methodist Church is sponsoring a youth weekend on February 21-24, 2013, at First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. The focus will be Immigration and the Bible. The event is open to youth ages 14 and up. The focus will be engaged through films, speakers, music, food, dialogue and will include a local mission outreach experience.

Though created by the District Youth Ministry Team of the United Methodist Church the event is planned to be interfaith oriented. The registration fee is \$20 a person and is due with a registration form. Congregations registering three or more youth must provide a chaperone.

Upon receipt of registration a confirmation and health form will be sent. Send Registration Form to: L. David Suits, 5 Willoughby Dr., Albany, NY 12205. For questions contact: Shirley Readdean at: whirry@earthlink.net.

A registration form is included below.

REGISTRATION (Registration Deadline February 10, 2013):

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____

Emergency Contact Number _____

Congregation _____

Payment Method: _____ Check (Payable to "Youth Seminar")

_____ Cash



Of Faith...

“I believe in the fundamental truth of all great religions of the world. I believe they are all God-given and I believe that they were necessary for the people to whom these religions were revealed. And I believe that if only we could all of us read the scriptures of the differing faiths from the standpoint of the followers of these faiths, we should find that they were at the bottom all one and were all helpful to one another.”
Mahatma Gandhi

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.” Mother Teresa

“Doubt is a pain too lonely to know that faith is his twin brother.” Khalil Gibran

“As your faith is strengthened you will find that there is no longer the need to have a sense of control, that things will flow as they will, and that you will flow with them, to your great delight and benefit.” Emmanuel Teney

“Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe.”
St. Augustine

“Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light.” Helen Keller

“I have not lost faith in God. I have moments of anger and protest. Sometimes I've been closer to him for that reason.” Elie Wiesel

“Faith means belief in something concerning which doubt is theoretically possible.” William James

“The faith that stands on authority is not faith.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Reason is our soul's left hand, faith her right.” John Donne

“It may be a procession of faithful failures that enriches the soil of godly success. Faithful actions are not religious acts. They are not even necessary actions undertaken by people of faith. Faithful actions, whether they are marked by success or they end in failure, are actions that are compelled by goodness.” Desmond Tutu

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Remember! Celebrate! Act! King's Dream for our World!"

Sunday, January 20

2:00pm Community Rally

Assemble at Veteran's Park (across from First UMC, 603 State Street, Schenectady)

2:30pm Program at First UMC

Speaker: Dr. Leonard A. Slade, Professor of Africana Studies, State University of NY at Albany

Also featuring the King Choir with singers from throughout Schenectady County.

Share your news with Interfaith Community...

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Congratulations to Neil and Jane Golub who recently received the 2012 ADL Americanism Award in Chicago.

Congratulations to Schenectady Inner City Ministry upon receiving a 2012 Service Award from Better Neighborhoods, Inc..

Congratulations to Rev. Daniel Gregory upon his appointment to Emmanuel Friedens Church as interim pastor.

Share Your News with Interfaith Individuals, congregations and community groups are asked to share their news with Interfaith: notices and articles, awards, birthdates, special anniversaries, deaths, hospitalizations or illness. It is wonderful to share good, as well as sad, news – especially because it opens the way for the healing love among us to flow like refreshing streams.

Received in December

Individual membership renewals: Raymond & June Benenson, Jessica Many, Erica & Len Berger, Gerald & Beatrice Hahn, Charles & Sharon Maneri, Linda Woodward-Stein, Neil & Jane Golub, Norma Hudson, Marilyn Soffer

Institutional membership renewals: First Reformed Church—Schenectady

Thank you for your support!

Events of interest

Story Circle at Proctors is donating \$2 of every ticket sold to their Word Plays to the SICM Summer Lunch program. The Summer Lunch program serves over 35,000 free lunches to the children in Schenectady County each summer. Tickets are \$16 and performances are in The Gallery at Proctors. Shows include "Staying Alive" on January 13, "From Heartbreak to Rapture" on February 3 and "Unforgettable" on March 3.

CDPHP Free Noontime Organ Concert Series at Proctors on their Main Stage on January 15, February 19, March, 19, April 23, May 21 and June 11.

Dominican Retreat and Conference Center 1945 Union Street, Niskayuna, will host Chicken Soup for the Soul and Body on Wednesday, January 30 at 6:30pm. The evening begins with homemade hot chicken soup and warm crusty bread followed by a presentation nurturing your relationship with God and concluding with evening prayer in the spirit of Taize. The program is \$20. Contact the Retreat Center for reservations or more information at 393-4169 or dslcny@nycap.rr.com

Capital Region Theological Center is offering "Social Media for Congregations: The Why and How". On Saturday, April 13 from 9am-3pm (Capital District location tba). Does social media ever seem like a different world? Why does your congregation need Facebook, Pinterest, texting and Twitter to communicate in today's digital age? Beginner and advanced level learning of the how and why. Fee is \$75 by March 15 to CRTC, 160 Central Avenue, 462-2470 or www.crtc.org

Interfaith Calendar for January 2013

- 1 Mary, Mother of God - **Catholic Christian**
 Feast of St Basil - **Orthodox Christian**
 Gantan-sai (New Years) - **Shinto**—New Year festival observed with prayers for inner renewal, prosperity and health.
 Holy Name of Jesus - **Orthodox Christian**
- 5 Twelfth Night - **Christian**
 Guru Gobindh Singh birthday - **Sikh**—honoring of the birth of the founder of the Khalsa who lived from 1469 -1539 c.e.
- 6 Epiphany - **Christian**—commemoration of the manifestations of the divine nature of Jesus Christ. The homage of the magi to the infant Jesus is honored by some. For others the Baptism of Jesus is the remembered event. A season of the Christian year from the close of Christmas to the beginning of Lent.
 Feast of the Theophany - **Orthodox Christian**
 Dia de los Reyes - **Christian**
 Nativity of Christ - **Armenian Orthodox**
- 7 Nativity of Christ - **Orthodox Christian**
- 13 Baptism of the Lord Jesus - **Christian**
 Maghi - **Sikh**—commemoration of a battle in which forty Sikhs died for Guru Gobindh Singh Ji.
- 15 World Religion Day - **Baha'I**
- 17 Blessing of the Animals - **Hispanic Catholic Christian**
- 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - **Christian**
- 19 Timkat- **Ethiopian Orthodox Christian**—Epiphany celebration of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River.
- 20 World Religion Day - **Baha'I**
- 24 Mawlid an Nabi - **Islam**—commemoration of the birthday of Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam, in about 570 c.e. Not universally observed. The prophet's teachings are read and religious meetings are held. Shia and Sunni on separate days.
- 25 Conversion of Saint Paul - **Christian**
- 26 Tu BiShvat - **Jewish** -celebration of the coming of spring by preparation of foods native to Israel. It is also known as "New Year for Trees" - a method for determining the age of trees for tithing purposes.
- 27-30 Mahayana New Year - **Buddhist**



IFC OF SCHENECTADY

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E-mail:
schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com

office hours:
Tuesday 3-4 pm
Fridays 12:30-2 pm
Others as needed
Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com



Coordinating Council Meetings

Friday, January 11, 2013
Friday, February 8, 2013
Friday, March 8, 2013

Friday, April 12, 2013
Friday, May 10, 2013
Friday, June 14, 2013

All meetings are held at Faith United Methodist Church, 811 Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, and begin at 9:30 am.

You may attend Council Meetings if you are interested. Members and friends are invited to attend any Council Meeting to observe. If there is an interest that you would like considered, please contact Rev. Bob Long, 372-1083, at least two weeks ahead. Thank you.

Do we have your email????

**Please send your email address
to us at
[schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com!](mailto:schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com)**

We're on the web!

**Check us out at
Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com**

Event info!

Membership info!