



Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc.

Mar/Apr 2018

Vol. 46, No.3

Goal:
Sharing together,
One God —
One Community

Interfaith News

~ Over Forty-five Years of Interfaith Partnerships ~ Est. 1971 ~



March Dinner Gathering

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

6:30pm Dinner ~ 7:30pm Program

Islamic Center of the Capital District

21 Lansing Road N, Schenectady, NY 12305



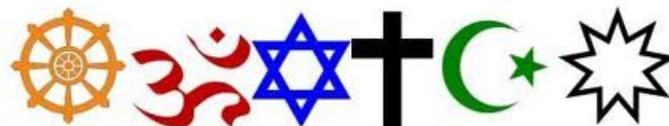
“Undersanding Sharia Law”

Imam Abdur-rahman Yaki, presenter

Dr. Saeed Khan, Interfaith Outreach Chair at ICCD,

will join after the presentation for a time of
questions and answers.

Dinner is \$15 payable at the door. Program only is free. If you require a kosher meal, please let us know at time of reservation. Reservations to the IFC office, schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com or 370-2150 by noon, March 12.





From our President

One of my favorite books of interdenominational and interfaith prayers and reflections is titled: *We Dare to Say, Praying for Justice and Peace* (ISBN 978289507920), published by Novalis and edited by Sylvia Skrepichuk and Michel Cote.

Because April 22, 2018, is designated Earth Day on our calendars, I offer the following credo, written by Elizabeth S. Tapia of the Philippines:

I believe in the sacredness of the earth, the integrity of the whole of creation and dignity of all people and creatures.

I believe in a gracious God who created humankind—male and female and gave them the responsibility to take care of the earth. We need to care.

I believe we human beings have failed God and ourselves. In the name of greed and development we have dominated the earth. The people and creatures destroyed the forest, polluted the air, river and seas and have sacrificed the future of our children. We need to repent.

I believe that when we destroy the earth, we eventually destroy ourselves. We must protect and preserve the earth not only for our survival but for the sake of our mother earth. The time to change is now.

I believe we need to change our ways, values, lifestyle and ways relating with creation. Repent, fast and pray. Consume less, waste not. Work for justice and peace. We should not covet our neighbors' timber butterflies, white sand beaches, nearly extinct animals, nor cheap labor. We should not oppress children, indigenous people, women, the homeless, refugees and victims of war. We need to live in the sense of people and creation.

For I believe in the interwovenness of life. Creator and Creatures. Cosmic and individual. West, North, East, South. Rest and Prayer. Food and Freedom. Theology and Ecology. I therefore commit myself, together with you, to take care of mother earth. To advocate for peace and justice. To choose and celebrate life.

These things I believe. Amen.

I was raised with a healthy respect for my environment and that has stayed with me all my life. I have tried hard to instill those values in my children and grandchildren and in the children I have taught in my capacity as a church educator.

One of my pet peeves is the waste that throw-away containers engender -- especially plastic bottles. For the year 2018 I have committed to the Earth Day Campaign, *A World without Plastic Pollution* because plastics poison and injure marine life, disrupt human hormones and clog our waste streams and landfills. I challenge those who read this newsletter to do their part to recycle and reuse.

In peace, Miranda Rand, President

Future Dates for 2018 Dinner Gatherings

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 6:30pm at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center – Schenectady Clergy Against Hate; Panel Discussion.

June , 6:30pm at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center- A Pilgrimage to Italy, Sr. Carol Davis, OP.





April Dinner Gathering

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

6:30pm Dinner ~ 7:30pm Program

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center

1945 Union Street, Niskayuna, NY 12309

“Why I’m Learning about Muslims and Telling their Stories”

Kate Dudding, presenters

Kate is an award winning author and story teller.



Dinner is \$15 payable at the door. Program only is free. If you require a kosher meal, please let us know at time of reservation. Reservations to the IFC office, schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com or 370-2150 by noon, April 13.

Some Things to Note about the Interfaith Community of Schenectady

- Our purpose is to bring together peoples of differing faiths for dialogue, mutual growth in understanding and outreach together.
- When you make a reservation for a dinner meeting but are unable to attend at the last moment (Monday in the week of the meeting is the cut-off), please note that the IFCS is still financially responsible to the hosting organization for the number of reservations made. Please send a \$15.00 check per person to IFCS, 811 N Brandywine, Schenectady, NY 12308.
- The majority of our meetings are at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, 1945 Union St., Niskayuna. Because many of their guests have allergies to strong perfume, the retreat house is a scent-free environment. When you attend dinner meetings, please be mindful of this and refrain from using perfume, heavily scented deodorant or after shave.
- Membership and participation in IFCS events are open to all individuals and congregations of differing faiths in the area. The various categories for annual dues are as follows:
 - **Patron:** \$100.00 per year, individual or household
 - **Sustaining:** \$60.00 per year for individual, (\$70 per year per household)
 - **Contributing:** \$35.00 per year for individual, (\$45 per year per household)
 - **Supporting:** \$25.00 per year for individual, (\$35 per year per household)

Financial support to IFCS is eligible for matching funds through the General Electric Matching Gifts Program.



Congratulations to Home Furnishings Program, inc. who recently celebrated 50 years of service to the Schenectady Community...

Home Furnishings Program, Inc. is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to providing usable donated furniture and household furnishings to families and individuals in transition from emergency situations such as fire, domestic violence, hospital or nursing home discharge, homelessness or disability. They accept "gently used" furniture and home furnishings. Contact them at 518-346-2444 if you would like to donate.

The number 18

In Jewish tradition, the number 18 means "chai." Life, writes Rabbi Rebecca W. Sirbu, Director of Rabbis Without Borders at CLAL – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, an organization that stimulates and supports creativity in religious life.

In thinking about the 18th year of the 21st Century, Rabbi Rebecca wishes for us "the strength and resilience to face all of life's challenges." She wishes us "blessed with the courage to stand up for our convictions and compassion for others" and that we may be "surrounded by love and support from those who are closest to us." (Submitted by Edith Kliman).

Four Chaplains Brotherhood Award and Remembrance Ceremony

The Four Chaplains Award is dedicated to the principles of selfless service to humanity without regard to race, creed, ethnicity, gender, or religious beliefs and was created to honor Four U.S. Army Chaplains who gave up their life jackets and prayed together when their transport ship was torpedoed eighty miles south of Greenland on February 3, 1943. The Chaplains were Catholic, Jewish and Protestant.

On Sunday, February 25, 2018, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA Post 105 recognized Bob Becker with the award. A tireless voice for veterans at state and national legislatures for more than 30 years, Bob was recently successful in ensuring that PTSD was added to the list of illnesses that might be treated with medical marijuana. (Submitted by Erica Berger).

It is fitting that the ceremony was held this year in the Poling Chapel at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady. The chapel is named after the Rev. Clark V. Poling, pastor of the church in the 1940s and one of the chaplains who was killed when the ship was torpedoed. In 2017 our own Humera Khan, secretary of IFCS and member of the Islamic Center of the Capital District was honored with the award.

Five Ways to Celebrate Life Every Day

Start Each Day with a Grateful Heart – Waking up each day being grateful for what you have and the life you lead is the best way to celebrate life and to start the day on the right foot. Take a few minutes to meditate or write down what you are grateful for and allow this gratitude to carry on throughout your day.

Celebrate Small Achievements – Did you finally finish an important project? Celebrate that you have put your all into it. Did you get your kids to school on time with their lunches packed? Celebrate how great a parent you are! You don't have to wait for a huge, outstanding moment to celebrate yourself. You are worthy of celebration in all the little things that you accomplish each day.

Do Something you Love Each Day – Take yourself for a walk, indulge in your favorite treat, take a bubble bath. Taking care of yourself is an awesome way to celebrate yourself and when you've taken care of you, you are better able to fully take care of others. You can't pour from an empty cup!

Dress up for the Day – When we feel our best, we tend to do our best. Wear your favorite dress or tie, put on your favorite shade of lipstick, do something to make yourself feel special and your mood for the day will instantly improve. Every day is a celebration and when we start treating our life this way, it's amazing how our outlook changes.

Compliment Others – Giving someone else a compliment is a simple way to spread gratitude. Complement your coworker's hair or smile but make it genuine. Compliments make others feel great about themselves and in turn makes you feel great about yourself.



March Interfaith Calendar

- 1 Purim * - **Jewish**
St. David of Wales - **Christian**
- 2 - 20 Nineteen Day Fast * - **Baha'I**
- 3 Holi ** - **Hindu**
- 6 Meatfare Sunday - **Orthodox Christian**
- 17 St. Patrick's Day - **Christian**
- 18 New Year ** - **Hindu**
- 18-26 Ramayana ** - **Hindu**
- 19 St. Joseph's Day - **Christian**
- 21 Equinox
Norooz (New Year) - **Persian/Zoroastrian**
Naw-Rúz (New Year) * - **Baha'i**
Ostara - Mabon * - **Wicca/Pagan** Northern and Southern hemispheres
- 25 Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary - **Orthodox Christian**
Palm Sunday - **Christian**
- 26 Ramanavami ** - **Hindu**
- 28 Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zaranthushttra) ** - **Zoroastrian**
- 29 Maundy Thursday - **Christian**
- 30 Good Friday - **Christian**
- 31-April 7 Pesach * - **Jewish**
- 31 Lazarus Saturday - **Orthodox Christian**
Hanuman Jayanti ** - **Hindu**
Lord's Evening Meal - **Jehovah's Witness Christian**
Magha Puja Day ** - **Buddhist**

April Interfaith Calendar

- 1 Easter - **Christian**
Palm Sunday - **Orthodox Christian**
- 3 Mahavir Jayanti ** - **Jain**
- 6 Holy Friday - **Orthodox Christian**
- 8 Pascha - Easter- **Orthodox Christian**
- 12 Yom HaShoah * - **Jewish**
- 13 Lailat al Miraj * - **Islam**
- 14 Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) - **Sikh**
- 19 Yom Ha'Atzmaut * - **Jewish**
- 21 First Day of Ridvan * - **Baha'I**
- 23 St. George's Day - **Christian**
- 29 Ninth Day of Ridvan - **Baha'i**
Visakha Puja - Buddha Day ** - **Buddhist**
- 30 St. James the Great Day - **Orthodox Christian**
- 30-May 2 Theravadin New Year - **Buddhist**



Community events

Christian Perspectives on the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict: March 15. 5:30-7:30

1st Reformed Church of Scotia, 224 N Ballston Ave, Scotia – free pizza and beverage

Call: 518-370-4751 to register

What are the implications of recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel?

What are the available biblical positions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

What are the key moments in the history of the conflict?

What is the role of the United States in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Presenters:

Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, Executive Director of Churches for Middle East Peace. Dr. Cannon is the author of several publications about the conflict.

Rev. Dr. Josh Vis, Church Engagement Facilitator for Israel and Palestine in the Reformed Church of America. Dr. Vis heads up the work of the RCA in Israel and Palestine, his work includes taking groups on tours of the two countries.

Seed of Abraham Passover Seder: March 30 6:00 \$33.00 adult, \$16.00 12 & under

Glen Sanders Mansion, 1 Glen Avenue, Scotia

Pre-paid Reservations *only* (cash, check or credit card) must be paid by March 26 to Seed of Abraham 436 Franklin Street, Schenectady, NY 12305. Menu choices: Chicken Marsala, Butternut Squash Ravioli, Breadless Burger Child's Meal

Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace with Justice 16th Annual National Gathering in Washington, D.C. April 20-23: "A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees and Displaced Persons."

April 23 is designated Congressional Advocacy Day, calling on Congress to:

Implement just and compassionate immigration policies

Confront root causes of forced displacement in the light of U.S. policy.

If you can't go to Washington, call your congressional representative to discuss legislation for the world's uprooted peoples.

CROP Walk 2018 – May 6

Gather a team and walk. Promotional literature is available at Emmanuel Friedens Church, 218 Nott Terrace, Schenectady, or through your religious organization's recruiter. Across the nation community members raise money and walk, giving and showing support for nutrition programs around the world and at home. 25% of funds raised stays in the community.

The Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc. was established on November 17, 1971. It is the first organization in New York State to encourage membership of diverse religious institutions and organizations. Its goal has been to foster dialogue and create better understanding between groups of different faiths.

INTERFAITH OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018

- Miranda Rand, President.....518-393-5047
Colette Odell, Vice-President..... 518-371-0634
Humera Khan, Secretary.....518-312-2014
Edith Kliman, Treasurer.....518-346-0025

COORDINATING COUNCIL: Erica Berger, Karen Bond, Zarina Chaudry, Sr. Carol Davis, OP, Scott Ebeling, Rev. Joselle Gagliano, Audrey Hughes, Rev. Bob Long, Gerry Pierce

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS: Rev. Bob Long & Sr. Carol Davis, OP

Participation in the Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc, 811 Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308, is open to all congregations of all faiths, to individuals and to institutions.

Contribution Information

I (We) hereby subscribe to the following category of contribution:

- LIFE \$600.00 per year per person, which may be given in five annual payments.
PATRON: \$100.00 per year
SUSTAINING: \$60.00 per year for individuals; \$70.00 per year per household
CONTRIBUTING: \$35.00 per year per individual; \$45.00 per year pr household
SUPPORTING: \$25.00 per year, individual; \$35.00 a year per household

My check is eligible to the GE Foundation for matching funds and has been reported.

Name(s)

Address:

City State Zip Code

Phone Email

Contribution: New ; Renewal Amount: \$

Please provide the name of the congregation or religious organization to which you belong:



IFC OF SCHENECTADY

811 N. Brandywine Ave
Schenectady, NY 12308

Phone: 518-370-2150

E-mail:
schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com

office hours:
Tuesday 4-5pm
Fridays 7:30-8:30am
Others as needed
Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com



Coordinating Council Meetings

Council Meetings Visioning and planning are accomplished at the monthly Council Meetings.

March 22 April 5 May 3

Council Meetings are generally held at Faith United Methodist Church, 811 Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308, and begin at 9:30 am. Members and participants may attend.

Do we have your email????

**Please send your email address
to us at**

[schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com!](mailto:schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com)

Check us out at

Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com



Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook!