



Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc.

March 2014

Vol. 42, No. 7

Goal:
Sharing together,
One God —
One Community

Interfaith News

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

March Dinner Meeting

Tuesday, March 4, 2014

Dinner 6:30pm

Program 7:30pm

Congregation Gates of Heaven

852 Ashmore Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12309

(Corner of Ashmore and Eastern Parkway)

The presenters will be Rabbi Matt Cutler and Paster Albert Manu of Prampram, Ghana. They will speak about their friendship and their partnership to help build up the Bethel school complex for which Paster Manu is the headmaster.

Dinner is \$15. 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 February 28, 2014.

Because the meal is being catered by an outside caterer, there will be no meals available for "walk-ins."

April The April Gathering will be held at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, 1945 Union Street, beginning with dinner at 6:30 pm. The focus for the evening will be on Trafficking of humans. Christine Knowles, of the Hindu Temple, and Sister Carol Davis of the Dominican Retreat Center [both members of the Interfaith Council] are bringing together the program. Watch for a possible event on the same subject at the Retreat Center around the same time.

May The May Gathering will be held at the Dominican Retreat and conference Center on Wednesday, May 7. The program will be provided by a Rabbi from the Capital Region Rabbi Association. Speaker and topic will be announced in the April newsletter.



From our President

I share a story of an actual happening that came to me within a source of illustrations some time ago. It is still valid today. 'On November 18, 1995, Itzhak Perlman, the violinist, came on stage to give a concert at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. If you have ever been to a Perlman concert, you know that, though he does it well, getting on stage is no small achievement for him. He was stricken with polio as a child, and so he has braces on both legs and walks with the aid of two crutches. To see him painstakingly walk across the stage is an awesome sight. He walks slowly, yet majestically, until he reaches his chair. Then he slowly sits down, puts his crutches on the floor, undoes the clasps on his legs, tucks one foot back and extends the other foot forward. Then he bends down and picks up his violin, puts it under his chin, nods to the conductor and proceeds to play.

'By now, the audience is used to this ritual. They sit quietly while he makes his way across the stage to his chair. They remain reverently silent while he undoes the clasps on his legs. They wait until he is ready to play. But this time, something went wrong. Just as he finished the first few bars, one of the strings on his violin broke. You could hear it snap – it went off like gunfire across the room. There was no mistaking what the sound meant. People who were there that night thought to themselves: "He will have to get up, put his clasps back on, pick up his crutches and limp off stage – to either find another violin or else find another string for this one."

'But he didn't. Instead, he waited a few moments, closed his eyes and then signaled the conductor to begin again. The orchestra began, and he played from where he had left off. And he played with such passion and such power and such purity as they had never heard before.

Of course, anyone knows that it is impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. I know that, and you might know that, but Perlman refused to know that. You could see him modulating, changing, re-composing the piece in his head. At one point, it sounded like he was de-tuning the strings to get new sounds from them that they had never made before. When he finished, there was an awesome silence in the room. And then people rose and cheered. There was an extraordinary applause from every corner of the auditorium. We were on our feet, screaming and cheering, doing everything to show how much we appreciated what he had done.

'He smiled, wiped the sweat from his brow, raised his bow to quiet us, and then he said – not boastfully, but in a quiet, pensive, reverent tone – "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can still make with what you have left." What a powerful line that is. [It has stayed in this pastor's mind ever since I have heard it.] Here is a man who has prepared all his life to make music on a violin with four strings, who all of a sudden, finds himself with only three strings; so he makes music with three strings, and the music he made that night with just three strings was as beautiful, as sacred, perhaps even more memorable, than any that he had ever made before when he had all four strings.

'So our task in this shaky, fast changing, bewildering world in which we live is to make music, at first with all we have, and then, when it is no longer possible in the same way, to make sacred and magnificent music with what we have left.'

[Jack Riemer, Houston Chronicle, 02-10-2001]

When everything seems to be changing around us, and much is actually clashing with the deepest values of our faith, do we not still hear from the depths of our faiths the call to continue in trust and confidence to make music-of-life-for-all, with creative integrity, using what is left to us. As we do so, the Source of Life and Love will fulfill the purpose of creation and bring renewing energy, purpose, care and community of grace among us.

Aho, Alafā, Shanti, Salaam, Shalom, the peace which passes understanding **Bob Long**



Next program year's dinner meetings

Programs for Fall, 2014 through Spring, 2015 The Council is fixing dates and topics for the next year's programs so that publicity can be shared well ahead of each gathering. If you have suggestions for programs that you wish to be considered, please forward them to the Interfaith Office via email: schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com.

Events at Capital Region Theological Center

Finding Sacred Ground Dr. Yehezkel Landau will offer this course at Congregation Gates of Heaven from March 13-14, from 9 :00 am – 4:00 pm. Christianity, Judaism and Islam all spring from the life and faith of a revered Father Abraham. Explore the tensions and possibilities for cooperation that exist in Christian-Jewish-Muslim relationships. Register at CRTC [518-462-2470]. Cost at this time \$175.

Introduction to Old Testament I: History, Israel's faith and Our Future 2014 Rev. Dr. Johan Bosman leads this course at Christ community Church, Clifton Park, on Thursdays, March 20,27 and April 4, and 10 7-9 pm and also on Saturdays March 22 and 29, from 9am through 2:30 pm. Register at CRTC [518-462-2470].

Welcoming the "Other": Hospitality...Welcome...Inclusion Rev. Maren Tirabassi will provide this course on May 2 and 3, from 9 am – 3 pm at the Presbyterian-New England Congregational Church in Saratoga Springs. Investigate four movements of hospitality: practical caring, the opening of hearts and minds, the potential for advocacy, and compassionate letting-go. Biblical/theological/historical context; an in depth look at common points of church friction – membership, marriage, baptism and ordination. Register at CRTC [518-462-2470].

Interfaith Awards

The IFC Council will be choosing the recipients of our Robert & Dorothy Ludwig Interfaith Award and James Stamper Community Service Award this spring. If you have nominations, please submit them to Rev. Bob Long at 372-1083 or bikealong2@nycap.rr.com.

Human Trafficking Ad receives ADDY Award

The December 2013 issue of US Airways' in-flight magazine contained an unusual but important message that caught the attention of many travelers: a full-page public-service ad on human trafficking placed by US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking (USCSAHT), a national group of which Dominican Sisters of Peace are members. This month, it was announced that the ad, which poignantly acknowledges the reality of human trafficking and provides a phone number for reporting suspicious activity, won a first-place Addy Award from the American Advertising Federation (Nebraska). USCSAHT member Sr. Kathleen Coll, SSJ, had worked with USAirways in developing policies to respond to the reality of human trafficking in the travel industry. When the decision to place an ad was made, Sr. Margaret Nacke, CSJ, contacted the [Bailey Lauerman](#) ad agency, who developed and created the ad at no cost.

"We pray for the day when we will no longer need this kind of ad," shares Dominican Sister of Peace **Sr. Carol Davis, OP**, who represents the congregation at the USCSAHT. "In the meantime, we will continue to work for and end to human slavery as Dominican Sisters and Associates of Peace and as US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking."

The ADDY® Awards is the advertising industry's largest and most representative competition, attracting over 50,000 entries every year in the local ADDY competition. Sr. Carol Davis is Vice-President of the IFC Council.



Providing information about regional ecumenical and interfaith groupings

We continue a look at area faith based agencies that serve everyone by focusing on the City Missions of Albany and Schenectady.

The City Mission of Schenectady exists to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our community. We help people who are **in** poverty, we help people **get out of** poverty and we help people **stay out of** poverty.

Our Mission Statement:

The City Mission of Schenectady, founded in 1906, is dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. The ministries are seeking to comprehensively meet the needs of the poor in a manner that dignifies and strengthens the individual, the family, and the community.

We do this through our three branches of service:

- Community Outreach & Emergency Shelter Services (meals served to the community on a daily basis and emergency shelters for both men and women, as well as women with children)
- Bridges to Freedom (both long and short-term Discipleship & Recovery Programs)
- Transitional Housing and ASPIRE Program which sees people through their transition (after graduating from Bridges to Freedom) and into sustainability.

The City Mission does not receive any government funds. We depend entirely on the contributions of concerned individuals, churches and businesses. All contributions are tax-deductible as permitted by law.

The City Mission of Schenectady operates at 425 Hamilton Street, Schenectady, 12305. You can reach them at 518-346-2275, or at www.CityMission.org.

Capital City Rescue Mission The Capital City Rescue Mission is dedicated to proclaiming the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ to the homeless and needy of the capital region. Providing for the whole person - body, mind and spirit - that they will return to society maturing in Christ as productive citizens. The Rescue Mission is a 501(c)(3), privately funded, non-profit organization...it does not accept any city, state, or federal funds.

CCRM serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily, 365 days a year without cost to the homeless and struggling residents of the community. Our chef's expertise and his heart of compassion strengthen men, women and children. Volunteers help prepare, serve and clean up.

Emergency shelter for men is provided for 30 consecutive nights in a 60-man dorm, 24-man dorm and overflow mats and chairs. Men and women who participate in our addiction recovery programs are sheltered for 9 months to a year as part of their program.

Clean, usable clothing supplied by generous donors is given away free of charge at our clothing distribution center, *Blessingdale's*. Faithful volunteers accomplish the large task of sorting and hanging clothing.

The Capital City Rescue Mission operates at 259 South Pearl Street, Albany, New York 12202. Call at (518) 462-0459 .

Share your news with Interfaith Community

CONGRATULATIONS to Bishop-elect Edward B. Scharfenberger who will take over leadership of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany this coming April.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rev. Jonathan Walter recently appointed as part-time local pastor at Stanford United Methodist Church on Albany Street..

CONGRATULATIONS to the JCC! Selected from the Top 10 finalists, a Natural Outdoor Play Space at the Schenectady Jewish Community Center (SJCC) was named the grand prize winner of MVP Project Go. The project will be awarded a \$2,500 grant and the opportunity to host a fundraiser with Olympic Gold Medalist and U.S. Soccer Star Abby Wambach.

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 February

Individual membership renewals: Sally Knutson, Paul & Barbara Dworkin, Josephine Cristy, Patricia Bum-barger, Gert Johnson, Gerry & Eleanor Pierce, Rev. Erik & Jane Smith

Institutional memberships: Bellevue Reformed Church
Thank you for your support!

Coming at Dominican Retreat and Conference Center

Celtic Day of Reflection—Thursday, March 13, 9:45am

Celtic Soul: Seeing the Divine in the Ordinary—During this day we will explore how the ancient Celts viewed the world and what beliefs have been preserved through Celtic Spirituality. Through reflection, story, poetry, music, we will deepen our connection with their spiritual wisdom and the natural world.

Presenter: Mary Ellen Curtin, CSJ, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, has been doing retreats and spiritual direction for over 20 years. Mary Ellen considers herself a student of Earth's wisdom and evolutionary consciousness. She loves music, dance and poetry.

INFORMATION: \$30.00 per person; Registration at 9:15 AM; Program begins at 9:45 AM and concludes at 3:00 PM and includes lunch. Reservations are requested.

Evening of Reflection for Men—Tuesday, March 18, 2014 @ 6:20 PM

"Everything I Have Is Yours": Returning to Live in the Presence - The challenge of the busy-ness of daily living is remaining grounded in who we are as sons of a Loving Father. During our evening together, we will reflect on the opportunity Lent provides us to become more mindful of that identity and what difference that makes as we continue our spiritual journeys as men living in the Presence. This evening falls between the feasts of Patrick and Joseph, models of that very journey.

Presenter: Fr. Dan Nelson, O.F.M. is a member of the Franciscan order and a native of Oneida, NY. He is a graduate of Siena College in New York and has a Ph.D. in Psychological Counseling. He teaches in the psychology department at Siena. He is also a teaching member on the International Society of Sandplay Therapy. His interests include opera, theatre, Greek and Roman art and antiquities, and collecting vintage American pottery.

INFORMATION: \$25.00 per person; Registration at 6:00 PM; Program begins at 6:20 and includes dinner, conference, and celebration of Eucharist; Program ends at 9:15 PM; Reservations are requested.

Reservations/Information: Call (518) 393-4169 Monday through Friday, 8:30-4:30 PM or email dslcny@nycap.rr.com

Interfaith Calendar for March 2014

- 1 Saint David of Wales -- **Christian** – Celtic Christian saint known for his wisdom and missionary work.
 - 2 Transfiguration Sunday -- **Christian** – Commemoration of the experience on Mt Tabor when Jesus' physical appearance became brilliant as his connection with traditional Jewish holy figures became evident to the disciples.
Meatfare Sunday -- **Orthodox Christian** – Observance, two weeks before the start of the Great Lent, preparing the faithful for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ. This is the last day for eating of meat before the Great Lent.
 - 2 – 20 Nineteen Day Fast -- **Baha'i** – Fast to be observed by adult Baha'is in good health – sunrise to sun-down - no food or drink.
 - 3 Clean Monday - Lent begins -- **Orthodox Christian** – Orthodox Christian first day of Lent.
 - 4 Shrove Tuesday -- **Christian** – Carnival day on the eve of Ash Wednesday which begins Lent, a time of fasting and devotions. Pancakes are often served. It is also known as Fat Tuesday in some places.
 - 5 Ash Wednesday - Lent begins -- **Christian** – Observance to begin the 40 day season of Lent. Ashes are marked on worshipers as a sign of penitence.
 - 9 Orthodox Sunday -- **Orthodox Christian** – First Sunday of Lent. Restoration of icons to the church is celebrated.
 - 16 Magha Puja Day -- **Buddhist** – Celebration of the presentation of teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.
Purim -- starts on eve of March 15 -- **Jewish** – Celebration of the deliverance of the Jewish minority in Persia from genocide. Charity to the poor, sharing food with friends, and vigorous merrymaking mark the observance.
 - 17 St Patrick's Day -- **Christian** – Celebration of Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland in early days of the faith.
Holi -- **Hindu** – Spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. It's observed in a colorful and boisterous manner. People shower each other with colored water & smear red & green powder on each other.
Hola Mohalla -- **Sikh** – Day when mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed.
 - 19 Saint Joseph's Day -- **Christian** – Remembrance of Joseph, husband of Mary the mother of Jesus.
 - 20 Equinox -- Ostara -- Pagan northern hemisphere – Mabon -- Pagan southern hemisphere The time when the sun is directly above a point on the equator. The equinox will be either Vernal or Autumnal depending on the hemisphere.
 - 21 Naw Ruz (New Year) -- **Baha'i** – Observance of the vernal equinox symbolizing spiritual growth and renewal.
Norouz (New Year) -- **Persian/Zoroastrian** – New Years observance.
 - 25 Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary -- **Christian** – Roman Catholic Christian observance commemorating the belief that the Blessed Virgin Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven at the end of her earthly life.
 - 28 Khordad Sal (Birth of Prophet Zaranhushttra) -- **Zoroastrian** – Remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathushtra.
 - 31 Hindu New Year -- **Hindu** -- Hindu New Year celebration.
- 31-April 8 Ramayana -- **Hindu** – The *ramayana* is one of the two great epics of Hinduism, the other being the *Mahabharata*.] It depicts the duties of relationships, portraying ideal characters like the ideal father, ideal servant, the ideal brother, the ideal wife and the ideal king. Rama, the hero of the *Ramayana*, is one of most popular deities worshiped in the Hindu religion. Each year, many devout pilgrims trace their journey through India and Nepal, halting at each of the holy sites along the way. The poem is ... serves as an integral part of Hinduism and is ... believed by Hindus to free them from sin and bless the reader or listener.



IFC OF SCHENECTADY

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Schenectady, NY 12308

Phone: 518-370-2150

E-mail:
schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com

office hours:
Tuesday 6-7pm
Fridays 7:30-8:30am
Others as needed
Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com



Coordinating Council Meetings

The Council will meet on the second *Thursday* at 9:30 am at Faith United Methodist Church, 811 North Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, 12308 on the following dates: **March 13, April 10 and May 8**. On occasion these may have to be changed.

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)

Check us out at
Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com

