



Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc.

March 2012

Vol. 40, No. 5

Goal:
Sharing together,
One God —
One Community

Interfaith News

~ Celebrating Forty Years ~ 1971-2011 ~

March Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

Church of the Immaculate Conception
400 Saratoga Road (Route 50), Glenville, NY

Dinner 6:30 pm
Program 7:30 pm

Program: "Jesus as Viewed by the Three Abrahamic Faiths"

Guest presenters are Rabbi Beverly Magidson, Rev. James Kane and Imam Djafer Sebkhawui

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 March 9.





From your co-president...

The 2012 Union College Focus is Religion and Spirituality

Each year Union College focuses on some significant intersection of education with an aspect of human wholeness and wellbeing. This year's focus is Religion and Spirituality. Through the dedicated engagement of Chaplain Viki Brooks, Union College became one of 200 U. S. colleges and universities to be chosen as a President's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge recipient. The college has committed to a year of interfaith and community service programming on campus. Since his inauguration, President Obama has emphasized interfaith cooperation and community service – "interfaith service" for short – as an important way to build understanding between different communities and contribute to the common good. Interfaith service involves people from different religious and non-religious backgrounds tackling community challenges together

There have already been two speakers addressing a positive vision and objectives for engaging in interfaith relationships. Two additional significant speakers are as follows:

April 17th -- Union will be hosting Diana Eck. Her talk, which is free and open to the public, is currently scheduled for 5:30 pm in the Nott Memorial. The topic is yet to be announced. If you know you will be bringing a group, please let us know. We may be able to move to a larger venue, but as yet would prefer to have this in the Nott.

April 24th -- Union will be hosting Eboo Patel. Eboo Patel, is the Founder and President of the Interfaith Youth Corp. His core belief is that religion is a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division. He's inspired to build this bridge by his faith as a Muslim, his Indian heritage, and his American citizenship. His talk, which is also free and open to the public, is scheduled for Memorial Chapel also at 5:30. He defines the focus of his talk in this way:

Acts of Faith: Interfaith Leadership in a Time of Global Religious Crisis. A leader defines reality. In a world too often convinced of the inevitable clash of civilizations, how do we lead our communities of faith to work with people from different religious and philosophical backgrounds and serve the common good? From Martin Luther King, Jr. to Mahatma Gandhi, Dorothy Day to Abraham Joshua Heschel, the answer was clear: interfaith leadership.

There will be two other speakers, less well known and speaking to specific to faith traditions, that will take place in May. Watch for details.

Mark your calendars and plan to be present. This is interfaith engagement at its best, and it is a wonderful time to understand how youth view interfaith engagement as well.

Shalom, Salaam, the peace which passes understanding. *Bob Long*



From your co-president...

Dear Friends,

Our condolences to Bob Long on the death of his wonderful 105-year old mother, Geneva. Along with other members of IFC, I was able to attend the inspirational memorial service that celebrated her life of dedication to family, church and community. She was also a lady full of stamina and courage. How many of us would even consider pursuing an undergraduate degree at age 95? Bob's ministerial life is certainly a tribute to his mother's ideals.

To all of you who responded to our recent fund letter, please accept our deepest appreciation. We will be able to make it through the year, thankfully. On March 11, I have been invited by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Scotia to accept a donation (\$400) during their Sunday service in remembrance of their parishioner and long-time IFC member, the late Marilyn Berrigan. This gift will help us to continue providing a chaplain at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Center.

There are three excellent dinner/dialogue programs coming up.

Be sure to check the schedule and plan on coming. In April and May we will be giving our annual Community Service and Ecumenical Awards.

Also, there are numerous other interfaith and ecumenical events being held elsewhere that might be of interest.

This is also the time of year when we seek help in filling board positions for the coming year. Please think about it. If you are interested in serving, please give me a call at 399-5121. Simply put – to continue existing, WE NEED YOU.

Happy Almost Spring.

Audrey Hughes

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!! SPRING IFC DINNER MEETINGS:

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Faith United Methodist Church, 811 N. Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, NY

Dinner 6:30pm; Program, 7:30 pm

“Wisdom Tales”

Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City Area, presenters

Mussarat Chaudhry will receive IFC's Ecumenical Award

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Dominican Retreat and Conference Center

1945 Union Street, Niskayuna, NY

Dinner 6:30pm; Program, 7:30 pm

Joanne Tobiason , discussing the Working Group on Girls, patterned after the United Nations

IFC's Annual Report will be given. IFC's Community Service Award to be presented.

Upcoming events of interest

"The Archaic Prophets Still Speak" - presented by the Jewish-Catholic Dialogue Congregation's Lunch and Learn Program. Father Romaeus (Carmelite priest) of St. Joseph's, Troy will speak on Wednesday, March 21, 12-1:30pm at Beth Emeth, 100 Academy Road, Albany. Bring your lunch; beverage and dessert is provided.

"From Amsterdam to Westerbrook to Bergen Belsen to America: A Childhood Interrupted" - presented by the Holocaust Survivors and Friends Education Center. Steven Hess will speak on Tuesday, March 27 at 7:30pm at the Jewish Federation Community Services Building, The Golub Center, 184 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany. This event is free and open to the public.

"Interfaith Story Circle Annual Youth Circle" presented by Children at the Well on Sunday, April 1, 2pm at the Jewish Community Center, 2565 Balltown Road, Niskayuna. This will be followed by a vegetarian potluck supper.

"Children at the Well Intern Performance" - presented Sunday, April 22, 2 pm at Steamer No. 10 Theatre, 500 Western Avenue, Albany

"The Continuing Challenge of Dr. Martin Luther King's Vision for Today's World" - presented by the Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King Lecture Series. Bishop Howard J. Hubbard will speak on Thursday, April 12 at 7pm in the Alumni Recreation Center at Siena College, Route 9, Loudonville. This is a free event.

"Meaningful Prayer: Linguistic Beauty of Prayer" - presented by the Islamic Center of the Capital District, 21 Lansing Road N., Schenectady. AbdulNasir Jangda will present a weekend seminar Friday, May 4, 7-10pm; Saturday, May 5, 10am-6pm and Sunday, May 6, 10am-6pm. Cost is \$85 for the weekend. Visit www.iccdny.org for more information.

"Travelers to the Heavenly Jerusalem: The Healing Power of Art and Beauty" - presented by the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, 1945 Union Street, Niskayuna on Wednesday, May 9 from 7-9pm and repeated on Thursday, May 10 from 10am-12pm. Join artist and author Bro. Mickey McGrath as he shares his paintings and the stories behind them—stories of healing and reconciliation. Cost is \$15. Reservations may be made at 393-4169.

**Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's
ignorance.**

Confucius

Share your news with Interfaith Community...

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Congratulation to Rev. Phil Grigsby upon being awarded the Ed Bloch Voices That Challenge Award by the Interfaith Alliance of NYS. Rev. Phil is the Executive Director of Schenectady Inner City Ministry.

Congratulations to Mary Lu Bowen upon her retirement as Executive Director of the New York State Council of Churches.

Our love and support to Larry Barnet upon the death of his mother, Mary. Mary was instrumental in advancing Jewish-Christian relations. Larry was the 2010 recipient of IFC's Ecumenical Award.

Our love and support to Rev. Bob Long upon the death of his mother, Geneva.

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 January/February

Individual membership renewals: Jessica Many, William & Ruth Haase, Paul Tocker, Audrey Hughes, Barby & Stan Harris

Institutional membership renewals: Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, First United Methodist Church, Marilyn Soffer, Jewish Federation

New membership: Marcia Vinick

Response to Winter appeal: Gerry & Eleanor Pierce, Rev. James Kane, Marv Garfinkel, Phyllis Boyd, Rev. Viki Brooks, Helga Schroeter, Paulyn Cox, Ralph & Catherine Boyd, Bruce & Delores Benson, Rev. Bob Long and Audrey Hughes

Memorials: Dorothy Meyer in memory of Ceil Garfinkel; Rev. James Kane in memory of Geneva Long

"Special thanks to all those who answered our winter appeal."

The IFC Coordinating Council

Interfaith Calendar for March 2012

- 1 Saint David of Wales – **Christian** --Celtic Christian saint known for his wisdom and missionary work.
- 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.
- 4 Orthodox Sunday -- **Orthodox Christian** -- Orthodox Christian first Sunday of Lent. Restoration of icons to the church is celebrated.
- 8 Purim -- **Judaism** -- 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.
- Magha Puja Day -- **Buddhist** -- Celebration of the presentation of teachings by Lord Buddha to an assembly of holy men.
- Holi -- **Hindu** -- Hindu spring festival dedicated to the god of pleasure. It is observed in a colorful and boisterous manner. People shower each other with colored water and smear red and green powder on each other.
- 9 Hola Mohalla – **Sikh** -- A Sikh day when mock battles are fought and martial arts are displayed.
- 13 L Ron Hubbard birthday -- **Scientology** – Founder of Scientology.
- 17 St Patrick's Day – **Christian** -- Celebration of Patrick who brought Christianity to Ireland in early days of the faith.
- 19 Saint Joseph's Day – **Christian** -- Remembrance of Joseph, husband of Mary the mother of Jesus.
- 20 Equinox -- **Many faiths** -- 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.
- Ostara -- **Wicca/Pagan northern hemisphere** -- Wicca welcoming of spring and the goddess-as maiden.
- Mabon -- **Wicca/Pagan southern hemisphere** -- Wicca observance of the autumnal equinox. A harvest festival time.
- 21 Naw Ruz (New Year) - - **Baha'i** -- Observance of the vernal equinox symbolizing spiritual growth and renewal.
- Norouz (New Year) -- **Persian/Zoroastrian** -- Zoroastrian New Year.
- 23 New Year – **Hindu** -- The birth of a New Year is a whole new beginning and marks the time when the world awakens from it's wintry slumber. Time of joy, excitement and celebration.
- 23-April 1 Ramayana -- **Hindu** -- Celebration of the birth of Lord Rama, hero of the religious epic poem, The Ramayana. The day involves telling of stories and going to the temple.
- 25 Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – **Christian** -- Celebration of Gabriel announcing to the Virgin Mary the coming birth of Jesus as the Incarnation of Creator God.
- 28 Khordad Sal -- **Zoroastrian** -- Remembrance of the birth of Prophet Zarathushtra.





IFC OF SCHENECTADY

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Office hours:
M, W, Th.—3:30-4:30pm
Fri.—12:30-3 pm

Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com

Mailed March 5



Coordinating Council Meetings

March 9

April 13

May 11

All meetings are held at Faith United Methodist Church, 811 Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, and begin at 11:00 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 Audrey Hughes or Bob Long 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!