

Monday, December 7, 2009

8:00–9:00am
MORNING OBSERVANCES

The Power of Spiritual Experience

Charles Hogg**Christine Westbury**

Room 101

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Some say that knowing is easy, believing is easy, but experience is hard. The aim of this session is to transform our knowing and believing into spiritual experiences and feelings. At the heart of each one of us is the aim to have deep, rich, spiritual experiences and feelings. Whether it is of the eternal self, love for God, the power of Truth, or something else, experience is a sustaining factor in our spiritual journey. The session will begin with a brief discussion of the process, and will then be conducted in silence accompanied by soft music with occasional commentary to guide the participants gently into various meditative exercises. The exercise aims to create a very powerful spiritual atmosphere of belonging. This observance will guide the individual to their point of stillness—a stillness that totally refreshes the mind and allows the self to be in a position to listen, observe and reflect. In this place of inner stillness, one is taken to another level of listening where one may more effectively hear others from a position of compassion, understanding, respect and tolerance.

Charlie Hogg has practiced meditation daily for the past 30 years. He first learned meditation in 1975 at the Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Meditation Centre in London. He trained as a teacher and returned to Australia in 1977 to open a Brahma Kumaris Centre in Melbourne. In 1980 he became the Director of the Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centre in Australia, where there are now 30 such Centres.

Christine Westbury has been studying and teaching B K Raja Yoga meditation for the past 12 years. She currently coordinates their Fitzroy branch and oversees many of their Melbourne activities. She is on the advisory board for a Parliament of the World's Religions and has worked closely with interfaith groups, hosting numerous events. She works as a medical research nurse at Royal Children's hospital. Christine coordinated 'just-a-minute' in Melbourne.

Seon (Zen) Meditation Practise

Jinwol Lee

Room 102

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Seon is a method of Korean Buddhist meditation similar to Chan in China and Zen in Japan. It is a way of purifying one's mind through concentration and contemplation. Through the Seon practice, one can discover enlightenment, wisdom and compassion. All are welcome to join this session and practise this simple and peaceful form of meditation, which can help to uncover one's original nature of perfection.

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.

Orthodox Jewish Morning Observance – Monday

Rabbi Ralph Genende

Room 103

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Rabbi Ralph Genende will lead this prayer service. If there is a minyan (quorum for prayer) we will daven (pray) the full service albeit without Torah reading. If there is no minyan we will still daven together. Bring a siddur (prayer book) if possible. There will be a few spare siddurim.

Rabbi Ralph Genende is senior rabbi at Caulfield Hebrew Congregation, which is undergoing an energetic renewal. Rabbi Ralph has a Master's degree in Counselling and is Senior Rabbi to the Australian Defence Force. He previously served as College Rabbi at Mount Scopus College. He is an Executive Member of the Rabbinical Council of Victoria, the Council for Christians and Jews, a member of the Victorian Premier's Multi-faith Advisory Group, and heads a Jewish pre-marriage education group.

Living Ahimsa Meditation: The Power of Harmony in our Thoughts, Speech and Action

Sri Swami Mayatitananda Saraswati (Mother Maya)

Room 109

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The ancient Vedic culture developed meditation as a tool for exploring, developing and expanding the mind's inner pathways to personal awareness. The Sanskrit word for meditation, dhyanam, means, 'to discern, measure, ponder, contemplate'. In other words, the act of meditation reveals the mind. Our senses cannot lead us into this inner universe. We must ultimately move beyond the workings of our minds and sense perceptions into the realm of pure consciousness or satchitananda. The goal of Living Ahimsa is to discover who we are as instruments of harmony, learning how to harvest ahimsa, or the 'absence of the desire to hurt others'. The Living Ahimsa Meditation can help conscientious practitioners cultivate harmony in their everyday thoughts, speech and actions. Through Living Ahimsa Meditation we develop an awareness of our individual purpose, removing obstacles and illusions that impede wellness and inner harmony. Living Ahimsa Meditation is more than an exercise of the mind or willpower—it is an essential tool for developing personal awareness in every moment of our daily lives. During this session Mother Maya will lead a Living Ahimsa Meditation.

Founder of the Wise Earth School of Ayurveda, **Mother Maya** is a healer, educator, and author. She is an exponent of ahimsa (nonviolence) and its ecological importance and is one of the few women to be ordained as a sannyasini (renunciant) by her Guru, H H Swami Dayananda Saraswati.

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Catholic Mass, Ukrainian Rite

Fr Robert Stickland

Ukrainian Catholic Choir

Room 110

Religious or Spiritual Observance

This observance will be a Ukrainian Catholic Byzantine Liturgy (Mass) celebrated according to the rubrics of the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom. The Ukrainian Catholic choir will participate in this Eastern-rite liturgy. The Mass will be explained for those not acquainted with a Eucharist celebrated in this manner.

Fr Robert Stickland, celebrant, is a priest of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania, assistant priest at St Peter and Paul Cathedral in North Melbourne. He will be assisted by Fr Deacon Edward Kostraby also of the Cathedral, North Melbourne.

Ukrainian Catholic Choir Members: Juliana Hassett, Kristin Slota, Nadia Juzva, Alexandra Chubaty, Maya Muthuswamy, Daniella Fedyszyn, Kate Muthuswamy, Oleg Levkut, Daniel Magalas, Symon Kohut

Uniting Church Prayer Service

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson

Room 111

Religious or Spiritual Observance

The Uniting Church in Australia was formed in 1977 from the union of the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches. The Church comes from the reformed and evangelical traditions, and its worship has focused around the Service of the Word. Singing is important, and prayers have been traditionally informal. The Church is Australian, enriched by Indigenous relationships and members from many cultures, and has a strong commitment to social justice.

Ms Isabel Thomas Dobson is the Moderator of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. She has been Presbytery Minister for Loddon Campaspe presbytery and Presbytery Minister (Pastoral Care) for the Presbytery of Loddon Mallee. She has been an Elder in four congregations, Secretary of the Presbytery of Mallee, involved with committees ranging from children's ministry to aged care, and a member of the last five Assemblies. She is a current member of the Assembly Standing Committee and has been a member of three previous Standing Committees.

Living in Peace Not Pieces: How to Find and Remain Anchored in Joy, Peace, and Bliss Amidst the Waves and Storms of Daily Life

H H Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati

Room 203

Religious or Spiritual Observance

We are all searching for that elusive yet essential inner peace which enables us to stay calm, focused, centred, joyful and blissful amidst the trials and tribulations of life. But how do we find it? Join one of India's most revered spiritual masters on a journey to that unshakeable place of peace, stillness, joy and divine light within each of us. During this observance, His Holiness Swami Chidanand

Saraswati will give each participant not only the knowledge of peace, but also the deep and lasting experience of peace. This observance will include meditation, universal chanting/prayer and explanations of what causes us to lose our peace, and how to avoid these pitfalls. In his talk—filled with deep, profound insight as well as humour—Saraswati will share practical techniques to bring and maintain peace in your life. There will also be a question and answer session, where participants will have the opportunity to receive answers to any questions, dilemmas or obstacles they are facing. Come be taught, touched and transformed!

H H Pujya 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 (IHF), 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.

Criteria for Deciding the Eternal Truths

Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji

Room 204

Religious or Spiritual Observance

Is it physical? Is it perception? Is it inference? Or is it a message? Limitations in the physical world, limitations to perception, limitations to inference, and the limitations of the message have to be understood when deciding the eternal truths. Are these sources able to take us to the end result? If so, how? If not, what then?

Sri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji was educated in the ancient Vedic tradition. Dedicated to the principle of service to all beings as service to God, the mission of Sri Jeeyar Swamiji is involved in numerous charitable enterprises in a wide variety of fields including health services, education, disaster relief and veterinary medicine. He is involved in the cause of world peace and has given special attention to the youth of the world.

So That You May Know One Another: The Call for Social Cohesion in the Qur'an

Imam Afroz Ali

Room 207

Religious or Spiritual Observance

In this session, Imam Afroz Ali, Founder and President of the Al-Ghazzali Centre for Islamic Sciences and Human Development, will highlight how the Qur'an approaches social cohesion as a blessed learning opportunity for humankind. This session is one of six in a series of Muslim observances on the Qur'an scheduled across six days of the Parliament. It is designed to include beautiful Qur'anic recitation, clear translation, and illuminating exegesis around a different Parliament subtheme each day. It will also show how the subthemes of the Melbourne Parliament are all issues of shared concern to Muslims and are at the heart of Islam's social conscience.

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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 Rightly Guided Islamic Scholars of our time. He has initiated philanthropic as well as sustainable environment projects in Australia and abroad and continues to advocate peace, acceptance, justice, and interpersonal rights. He is also a recipient of the International Ambassador for Peace award.

Five Pillars of Spiritual Life

Dada J P Vaswani

Room 212

Religious or Spiritual Observance

It has been said that when the 20th century began God was displaced from the central position He occupied in man's existence. Several reasons for this have been proposed, such as disbelief and cynicism created by Darwin's Theory of Evolution, the quantum progress of science and technology, and man's increasingly materialistic way of life. Has God lost the prominence He was accorded centuries ago? How can the Omnipotent lose prominence and power? External forms of worship may have changed, church-going, rites and rituals may have been reduced, but man's need for God is greater than ever. But in the secret recesses of the heart the questions arise: where is God? How may I find Him? To be able to find God and to behold Him face to face, we need to take note of, among others, five important things: the five principles of spiritual life.

Dada J P Vaswani is the spiritual head of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission. Acclaimed as a humanitarian, philosopher, educator, writer, orator and spiritual leader, Dada J P Vaswani's books have been translated into several languages. The Sadhu Vaswani Mission is a non-sectarian institution which believes in the unity of all religions and reveres the Great Ones of all faiths. The mission serves all sections of society with no attention to caste, creed or race.

Self-Enquiry Meditation

Gopal Puri

Room 214

Training Session

Self-Enquiry Meditation is an important tool in self-investigation for self-knowledge. It is a step-by-step contemplative and reflective meditation technique. In this meditation practice we come into contact with our sub-conscious, the source of our wants, desires, complexes, behavioural patterns and prejudices. This practice guides us in becoming acquainted with our inherent nature: who we are and why we are so. Daily practice of this meditation technique enables us to overcome negative qualities and habits, and helps us to better manage life's problems. It brings us to self-acceptance and eventually to self-realisation.

Swami Gopal Puri is a 'Train the Trainer' Senior instructor for Yoga in Daily Life. Born in Hungary, he holds a degree in Physics and brings a unique perspective on Yoga. He is co-director of the Yoga in Daily Life Centre in Richmond, Melbourne where he conducts classes for a wide range of students, from preschool age to seniors. Many will have seen his popular weekly yoga segments on Melbourne community television Channel 31.

Purifying the Heart and Soul through Remembrance of Allah: Dhikr As An Islamic Devotional Act for Inner Peace

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf

Room 216

Religious or Spiritual Observance

In Islam it is said that everything in creation praises God through reflection and remembrance. Muslims believe that in addition to formal obligatory prayers and supplication, Allah (God) has provided other ways to grow nearer to Him as the Creator of mankind, as well as opportunities to expiate sinful deeds. In this Observance, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, Chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, will explain what dhikr is, its path to purification of oneself and to remembrance of the Creator. He will also lead a dhikr session welcoming all to participate. The observance will be followed by a discussion.

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.

Daily Puja: The Daily Jain Ritual of a Shwetambar Jain Idol Worshiper

Nitin Doshi

Param Shah

Ekta Doshi

Kirit C Daftary

Room 217

Religious or Spiritual Observance

In Jainism, there are two predominant sects: Digambar and Shwetambar. Shwetambar is divided into two sub-sects: those practitioners who worship idols in temples, known as the Murtipujak ('idol-worshipping') or Mandirmargi ('temple-going') and those who do not, the reformist sub-sects of the Sthanakvasis and the Terapanthis. In this session, we will offer a brief demonstration of the activities of a Shwetambar idol worshiper while a narrator explains the meaning of the worshiper's activities. The worshiper goes to the temple in the morning and performs Puja (worship of an idol). As he recites Bhavana and does Chaitya Vandan, there will be background music of Dholak (drums) and morning Shenhai (flute).

Nitin Doshi is President of Melbourne Shwetambar Jain Sangh, which conducts various Jain religious activities in Melbourne, Victoria.

Param Shah is an active member of Melbourne Shwetambar Jain Sangh, teaching various rituals to members. Param is a student from India and has just completed his ME (Electronics) and ME (Telecommunication) education in Australia.

Ekta Doshi is an active member of Melbourne Shwetambar Jain Sangh and has done this Puja on various occasions. She is a university student about to complete her Bachelor's degree in Commerce and Law.

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Kirit C Daftary is President of Anuvibha of North America and past President of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America, which represents 67 Jain Centres and over 150,000 Jains in North America. He is the alternative representative to the United Nations of Anuvrat Global Organization. Mr Daftary regularly lectures on Jainism and Hinduism at several universities and participates in many interreligious dialogues. He is a member of Melbourne Shwetambar Jain Sangh and will be the narrator for this program.

The Torah through Paintings and Poetry

Victor Majzner

Helen Light

Deborah Masel

Rosemary Crumlin

Room 218

Artistic Performance and Panel Discussion

For the first time in the history of art, all of the 54 parshot (weekly readings) of the Torah have been depicted visually from a specifically Jewish perspective. Victor Majzner accomplished this feat with his exhibit at the Australian Jewish Museum in Melbourne in July 2008. This illustrated lecture on Majzner's work will be divided into three parts. First, Majzner will discuss a number of paintings from this series and illuminate their 'Jewish' content. He will also discuss some comparisons between his Jewish imagery and Christian images of similar subject matter. Second, poet Deborah Masel will read poems she has written based on the same sections of the Torah. Masel has recently published a book entitled 'In the Cleft of the Rock'. The third part will be devoted to a panel discussion with Victor Majzner, Deborah Masel, Rosemary Crumlin and Helen Light focusing on the visual depiction of the Torah.

Dr Victor Majzner is an artist with more than fifty solo exhibitions in Australia and New Zealand. He was the Head of Painting at Victoria College (Prahran Campus) and The Victorian College For The Arts. Macmillan published a major book about his artwork titled 'Earth to Sky, the art of Victor Majzner' (2002). His original artwork is inspired by a personal commitment to developing a Jewish Art that is relevant to a contemporary context.

Dr Helen Light, AM, has worked at the Jewish Museum of Australia since 1983 and has been Director/Curator since 1991. She has curated and overseen over 120 exhibitions as well as the four permanent exhibitions at the museum. Helen is a Churchill Fellow, a recipient of a Centenary of Federation Medal, a Museum Achiever of the Year Award, an Honorary Associate at Museum Victoria, and Adjunct Associate of the Centre for Jewish History at Monash University.

Deborah Masel is an author and teacher with a special interest in Jewish mysticism. She lectures regularly for Jewish and interfaith groups and organisations and writes on aspects of Jewish mystical tradition for various publications. Her most recent book, 'In the Cleft of the Rock: Writings on the Five Books of Moses', is a compilation of prose poems and essays based on her teachings.

Dr Rosemary Crumlin RSM, OAM, is an art curator and historian with a special interest in modern art and spirituality. She is a member of the Art Committee of the new cathedral in Parramatta and has recently published a small book on Klaus Zimmer's windows in the cathedral, and another on Phil Cooper's carved Stations of the Cross. Dr Crumlin has been awarded honorary doctorates from the Melbourne College of Divinity and the Australian Catholic University.

Gurbani Kirtan: Sikh Sacred Classical Music

Kultar Singh

Bhai Sawarn Singh

Bhai Manmohan Singh

Room 220

Artistic Performance

Music has the unique power to take us to different emotional elevations, just as a word of wisdom from a true teacher also has power to take us to different spiritual elevations. Over 500 years ago, Guru Nanak combined these two 'super-powers' to create a unification of spiritual wisdom with the emotional values of mankind. This type of sacred music sought to eliminate 'emotions without wisdom', which will always result in an incomplete human being. The entire Bani (Word of Wisdom) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh Sacred Book) was initially sung to the various Raagas (musical measures) by the Gurus and compiled later, in the current form, by the fifth Guru. It also contains the Bani of Bhagats (Saints) from different religions. Gurbani Kirtan (also known as Gurmat Sangeet) is the music of Sri Guru Granth Sahib sung to the musical measures originally introduced by the Gurus. This performance will take the form of the kirtan, a style which was sung by the Gurus and composed some 400 years ago.

Kultar Singh is the son of Bhai Avtar Singh Ragi, an 11th generation kirtaniaa. His musical training began under the guidance of his father, who merged with infinity in 2006 and passed the torch to this living treasure. He carries on the tradition of about 500 original Gurbani Kirtan compositions from the time of the 5th Guru, which have been preserved by the kirtaniaasa (performers of Sikh sacred music) for the last 400 years.

Bhai Sawarn Singh is a percussionist who plays jorree, a set of 2 drums, originally designed by the 5th Guru. He commenced his training at the age of 9 years, under the guidance of Bhai Jwala Singh Ragi (of Thhatta Tibba, Kapurthala, Punjab). Today, at 73, he is the only musician to have played jorree for the last 62 years.

Bhai Manmohan Singh is a professionally trained vocalist who joined the group a few years ago. He now serves as an accompanist and plays harmonium.

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9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

INTRARELIGIOUS 9:30–11:00am

Gender and Equality and the Sikh Faith**Amrit Kaur Versha, Moderator****Harpreet Kaur****Inderjeet Singh Pahwa****Gurbux Kaur Kahlon****Dr Anahat Kaur Sandhu****Bibiji Inderjit Kaur Khalsa**

Room 101

Panel Discussion

The Sikh faith, like most other world religions, empowers women and men as equals. During the time of the Sikh Gurus, several Sikh women were in positions of authority. This session presents a historical overview of gender equality in the faith and its current global context. Issues relating to intergenerational approaches will be discussed. Sikh female perspectives from South Asia, North America and Australia will be shared.

Amrit Versha has a background in sociology, education and business administration and is a PhD student in Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). She has managed many NGOs and has also worked in government. Versha is instrumental in setting up community consultation structures to facilitate access for marginalised groups. She works in TAFE community services, as a research associate with UNSW, and as a consultant and volunteer.

Harpreet Kaur graduated from Pennsylvania State University as a Communications major in 1999. She started off her career working as a news reporter for a news channel in the metropolitan Washington, DC area. Her personal pursuit is creating documentaries, short films and movies that bring minority issues into the mainstream media. Kaur has taken the lead role in Sach Productions, a media organisation that has become the outlet through which she can fulfill her goals.

Inderjeet Singh Pahwa represents the Sikh youth community and is a member of the Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria and the Youth committee for the Parliament of the World's Religions. She believes that more interfaith activities and dialogue will help people bridge gaps and understand each other, allow us to live in harmony, and address issues that concern us all and make this world a better place.

Gurbux Kaur Kahlon is an energy economist with California's Public Utilities Commission. Born and raised in Punjab, India, she immigrated to the US in 1977. Based on her experience in India and the US, she will share her unique perspectives on gender equality and women's intergenerational issues. She is active in the San Francisco Bay area interfaith community and participates in promoting interreligious understanding and harmony via the Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco.

Dr Anahat Kaur Sandhu is the President of the Sikh Educational and Religious Foundation. She is former Secretary General of the World Sikh Council, America Region and has served as a member of the Executive Council of Religions for Peace, USA.

Bibiji Inderjit Kaur Khalsa, PhD, holds the distinguished position of Bhai Sahiba or Chief Religious Minister of Sikh Dharma. Bibiji serves as the head of the 3HO delegation to the Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) body of the United Nations. She is Founder and Program Director of Create Inner Peace, a program to manage critical incident stress for first responders, utilizing yoga and meditation technology.

A Baha'i Perspective on the Right to Development**Brian Lepard****AK Merchant**

Room 102

Interactive Workshop

Historically, the fields of international human rights law and social and economic development have evolved independently of one another. While international human rights norms are having an increasing impact on development issues, it is imperative to simultaneously shape the future development of international human rights law so that it is supportive of sustainable development and the needs of the most destitute in our global society. This workshop examines the concept of a human right to development from a Baha'i perspective, and draws insights from the Baha'i Writings. It will focus on the Baha'i teaching of the unity of the human family, which allows us to perceive the existence of a global community and to take appropriate social, economic, and legal measures to serve the needs of this interdependent community. The workshop also explores the critical importance, from a Baha'i perspective, of a spiritual motivation for development efforts and measures to ensure a human right to development. Only through this spiritual motivation can these reforms be successful and long-lasting and result in a profound transformation of the hearts and minds of those who arise to serve their fellow human beings.

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'.

Dr Ali K Merchant has studied in India and abroad and holds degrees in Education, English literature and World Order studies. He works in the arena of Values/Ethics Education as Senior Faculty at Sai International Centre for Human Values, New Delhi and as visiting faculty for Centre for Cultural Resources & Training, a Government of India institution. Additionally, he runs the global interfaith organisation The Temple of Understanding (India) of which he is the honorary General Secretary.

Global and Interreligious Education through Peer-to-Peer and Online Learning in Australian and US Schools**Richard Prideaux****Rev Ed Hubbard**

Room 103

Interactive Workshop

With the advent of the Internet and other new technologies, new forms of teaching and learning have become possible, thus broadening access to education and deepening human knowledge. Online education allows students to move beyond the confines of the physical school building. Peer-to-peer learning involves the sharing of knowledge among a diverse group of people. When teamed up, these two approaches can yield beneficial re-

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sults in all fields, but particularly in interfaith and cross-cultural education. This interactive workshop will introduce electronic solutions to pressing educational needs, with participants receiving a free software package at the end of the session. The session will include an example of online learning from Year 8 students from Beaconhills College in Melbourne, who have taken an online course in world religions, looking especially at Aboriginal religions, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Richard Prideaux is a teacher at Beaconhills College, Berwick, Melbourne, Australia.

Rev Ed Hubbard is a clergy member of the Correllian Nativist tradition and a public religious educator.

Poverty, Health and Religion in Australia

Governor David de Kretser

Jacinta Collins

Margaret Bell

Room 105 & 106

Panel Discussion

The links between poverty and health are well documented. In Australia, religious organisations play an increasingly key role in the alleviation of poverty and in the provision of health care. This panel session will explore the issues, analysing the current links between religion and government, and suggesting future directions, regarding not just health and welfare care but also health promotion and poverty reduction for the Australian people, including minority groups. Governor de Kretser will focus especially on the issue of men's health.

Born in Sri Lanka, **Professor David de Kretser** is currently the Governor of Victoria and chief patron of this Parliament of the World's Religions. He studied medicine at the University of Melbourne before pursuing a research and academic career. He has subsequently served on many national and international health boards and committees. He has specialised particularly in men's health issues. Before becoming Governor, he was Professor of Medicine at Monash University.

Jacinta Collins, a senator for Victoria and spokesperson on family and children's issues, was born and educated in Melbourne. She worked in the trade union movement before being elected as a senator in 1995. She has served on a range of parliamentary committees in such areas as public administration, workplace relations and education as well as in the shadow portfolio for children and youth.

Margaret Bell is an educational psychologist and the founding President of the Chain Reaction Foundation. In recent years, she has prioritised working in collaboration with Aboriginal community leaders to broaden public awareness and understanding of the value of traditional and contemporary Aboriginal knowledge. Margaret has been recognised by the United Nations as an eminent world leader in volunteering and community service and is a member of the Order of Australia.

Journey into America

Room 107

Film

This film explores how Muslims fit into contemporary American society. Have the American ideals of pluralism and openness been sustained in the post-9/11 American society? Ambassador Akbar Ahmed, Islamic scholar and author, with a group of young Americans, journeys across the country to explore America and American identity after September 11. The film was directed by Craig Considine.

Sikh Panel on Principles and Articles of Faith

Dr Ranbir Singh Sandhu, Moderator

Kuldeep Singh

Giani Gurbax Singh Gulshan

Mejindarpal Kaur

Room 108

Panel Discussion

This session will share and discuss the basic principles of the Sikh faith. The session will include an overview of a Sikh, as per Sikh scripture, and a presentation on the development of the Sikh Code of Conduct. The articles of the faith and their relevance to our times will be discussed. The efforts of various Sikh organisations to secure the right of Sikhs to practise their faith across the world will also be presented.

Dr Ranbir Singh Sandhu is Professor Emeritus at The Ohio State University. He has served as President of the Interfaith Association of Central Ohio and as the founding Secretary General of the World Sikh Council - America Region. He is the author of the authoritative book 'Struggle for Justice: Speeches and Conversations of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale'.

Kuldeep Singh is the President of the Sikh Youth of America. He has been the Secretary of the World Sikh Council, Americas, among other positions held in the global Sikh community. He also has over 30 years of experience in working with youth, holding camps and retreats, inspiring Sikh values, and infusing the spirit of human oneness in them. Graduates of his camps have gone into the world and opened several nonprofit endeavors to help humanity.

Giani Gurbax Singh Gulshan was born in India in 1951 and travelled to London in 1981 as a preacher. Gulshan continues to preach in diwans, seminars and conferences worldwide. He can interpret Gurbani, Sikh history and Maryada comprehensively, and in 2005 wrote a commentary on Maryada (Sikh Code of Conduct & Conventions). He has been in charge of the European chapter of Vishav Sikh Parchark Sanstha Amritsar since 1995.

Mejindarpal Kaur is legal director and chair of the UK chapter of United Sikhs, a registered charity, which serves minority and underprivileged communities globally through programs of civil and human rights advocacy, human development and humanitarian relief. She leads the legal team that is fighting for the right to wear the Sikh articles of faith in Europe, particularly in France.

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9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION**Transforming Compassion in Science and Religion (Session 2)**

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 second 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. This second session features a panel of representatives from different religious backgrounds (Muslim, Hindu and Christian) offering reflections on how various spiritual traditions help us to understand and foster compassion. The panel will be followed by group exercises in which audience members discuss initial reactions and implications. The session will conclude with interaction among participants from the fields of both science and religion as we explore practical ways to further the conversation and promote compassion.

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.

**Islam 101 Series:
Applying Islamic Principles for
a Just and Sustainable World**

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf
Ayisha Ali
Ahmed Rehab
Amjad-Mohammed Saleem

Hamid Hai

Fakhreddin Saberi

Room 110

Panel Discussion

This presentation will focus on Islamic principles and how their application is geared to facilitate a just and sustainable world. It will cover topics such as Zakat, or Islamic almsgiving, and how it reduces poverty. Principles that promote peacemaking, social cohesion, and reconciliation will also be discussed. Panellists will also discuss how these principles and their application have spiritual as well as social significance. They will also highlight examples of specific projects, agendas, issues and ideas about how to apply Islamic principles for a just and sustainable world. This panel 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.

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.

Ayisha Ali is an Islamic Studies Lecturer at Dar Al-Hekma College, a premier women's college in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. She holds a BA in The Book (Holy Qur'an) and Sunna (The Prophets Traditions) and a Master's degree in Islamic Law & Its Origin from Umm Al Qura University, Makkah, Saudi Arabia. She is also an active member at the Islamic Education Foundation.

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.

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.

Hamid Hai is a cardiologist by profession and a long time participant and leader in interfaith dialogue. He was the host of the Muslim group at the 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions. Currently he serves as the President of the World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations.

Mr Fakhreddin Saberi is the Head of the Qur'anic Museum of the Organization of Cultural Heritage of Iran. He holds a Master's degree in Islamic Theology, a Bachelor's degree in philosophy and is a research scholar on the Glorious Qur'an and Islamic History. He has several books to his credit including 'Biography of Imam Khomeini' and '30 Lessons from the Holy Quran and Holy Imams' and has participated in domestic and international conferences on different Islamic issues.

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9:30–11:00am
INTRARELIGIOUS SESSION

Returning to Right Relations between Christians and Indigenous Peoples in North America: A Powerful Source of Learning

James Scott
Alvin Dixon
Barbara Pemberton
Michael Lowe
Caleb Oladipo
Leo Lefebure
Room 111
Panel Discussion

Christian individuals and institutions learn profoundly about their own spiritual values, identities and roles when they undertake to rebuild right relations with Indigenous and Aboriginal peoples of their areas. This panel presents four powerful stories from North America about those committing to these apologetic and listening processes.

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.

Barbara Pemberton is an associate professor at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, US. She received her PhD in world religions from Baylor University. Ms Pemberton's research is focused on comparative religious texts, world religions, Native American religions, Islam and new religious movements. She splits her time between the US and Saudi Arabia.

Professor Caleb O Oladipo, originally from Nigeria, is the Duke K McCall Professor of Mission and World Christianity at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Virginia. He directs the school's study abroad program and has given lectures in many parts of the world on the character of Christianity in Africa.

Professor Leo D Lefebure is a Catholic Priest and the Matteo Ricci Chair in the Theology Department at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. He has written extensively on interreligious dialogue. His primary research interest is the relationship between Buddhism and Christianity.

An Exploration of Gurmat Sangeet – Sikh Musical Heritage

Kulbir Malhotra
Australian Sikh Youth
Room 201
Artistic Performance

This program consists of an instrumental and vocal performance by a choir formed from Sydney's Sikh youth, featuring performers from the ages of 10 to 25 years old. The content will be hymns from the holy Sikh scripture, Sri Guru Granth Sahib, which will be sung in the original musical metres and melodic modes prescribed by the

scriptures themselves. This style has become increasingly uncommon over the years, and its preservation by today's youth is symbolic of the continuing respect they hold for their eternal heritage.

Sacred Earth for Inner Peace Music

Prem and Jethro Williams
Room 201
Artistic Performance

Sacred Earth's music for inner peace is Australia's best-selling world devotional music. Vocalist Prem Williams performs with her husband, Jethro Williams, who plays flutes from India, Japan, and Ireland as well as acoustic guitar. The duo performs Sanskrit mantra from the Hindu tradition, Hebrew songs of peace, ancient songs from the Native Aboriginals of Australia, and modern day songs of devotion in English. The music is awe-inspiring and uplifting, taking the listener on a deep inner journey. Sacred Earth is leading the way for sacred music within Australia and is among the industry's foremost sacred music artists.

Based in Australia, Sacred Earth is the creation of **Jethro and Prem Williams**. Jethro and Prem have been travelling the world for six years performing live the music of Sacred Earth. Prem shares with us her heartfelt devotion for Spirit and our precious Mother Earth through mantra and songs from the heart. Prem is supported by multi instrumentalist Jethro Williams, who plays Shakuhachi (Japanese flute), Indian Bansuri flute, Irish Tin and Low whistles, and acoustic guitar.

A New Ethical Manifesto for the Global Economy

Hans Küng
Dipak Jain
Room 202
Panel Discussion

Renowned Swiss-German theologian Dr Hans Küng, President of the Global Ethic Foundation, will discuss the newly launched manifesto titled 'Global Economic Ethic – Consequences for Global Businesses.' Coming in the aftermath of the worst global financial crisis in seventy years, the manifesto aims at laying out a 'common fundamental vision of what is legitimate, just and fair' in economic activities. First signatories include former President of Ireland and former U.N. Human Rights Commissioner Mary Robinson; Jonathan Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University; and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu, Anglican Archbishop emeritus of Cape Town, South Africa. Building on the 1993 Parliament of World Religions' 'Declaration Towards a Global Ethic,' the manifesto outlines five universally acceptable principles and values: the principle of humanity; non-violence and respect for life; justice and solidarity; honesty and tolerance; and mutual esteem and partnership.

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Dr Hans Küng is an internationally known Christian theologian and president of the Global Ethic Foundation of Tübingen University. He has published over fifty titles, including *The Beginning of All Things – Science and Religion*, *Islam: Past, Present and Future* and a manifesto; *Global Economic Ethic – Consequences for Global Businesses*. Dr Küng lives and teaches in Tübingen, Germany.

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.

Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement – Grassroots Development, Conflict Resolution and Education

A T Ariyaratne

Room 203

Seminar

How can sustainable empowerment for people be supported, so that local solutions can be made to the world's largest problems? A T Ariyaratne will speak about his work in Sri Lanka, where Sarvodaya has reached over half the villages and supported over 11,000 villagers in helping themselves. Dealing with the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, shepherding local development projects including inspiring people to build schools, promoting biodiversity and sustainability measures, and digging wells, are some of the ways Sarvodaya helps communities meet their needs through principles of nonviolence and cooperation. Young people and their communities all around the world already engage in poverty reduction and human development. In these times of climate change and economic hardship, how can this local work be fostered and strengthened to play an ever larger part of the solutions? How can spiritual principles support this transformation to collaboration and to peaceful resolution of conflict? What is the role of education in this transformative work? And how can creative engagement be fostered, to reclaim local resources and local wisdom to meet urgent needs?

Ahangamage Tudor Ariyaratne is the founder and president of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement. He was the recipient of the 1996 Gandhi Peace Prize, the Niwano Peace Prize, the King Beaudoin Award and many other international honours for his work in peacemaking and village development.

The Role of Media in Conflict Resolution – Panel

Ahmed Rehab

Dr Paul Wee

Leymah Gbowee

Karen Hernandez-Andrews

Room 204

Panel Discussion

The international media, with its global reach and powerful influence, can fan flames of conflict and misunderstanding, or it can help to quench them and bring illumination. This panel will discuss possible strategies for utilising broadcast, print and Internet media outlets to promote and facilitate interfaith and intergroup understanding and dialogue; participants will include journalists, educators, producers and activists.

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.

Paul Wee is presently adjunct professor at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, DC. He served as program officer for the United States Institute of Peace where he worked primarily on interfaith conflict resolution in Nigeria and Colombia. He received his BA from Harvard University. Paul has a Masters of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary and a PhD, magna cum laude, in Philosophy and Social Science from the University of Berlin.

Leymah Gbowee was very involved in the film 'Pray the Devil Back to Hell' and was one of the primary members of the Liberia Mass Action for Peace group. She is one of the founders of Wippen Africa, an all-female human rights organisation that seeks to professionalise and institutionalise women in peace and security in Africa.

Karen Hernandez-Andrews holds an MA in 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's of Sacred Theology in Religion and Conflict from Boston University School of Theology. Karen teaches at educational institutions, churches and other organisations about Islam, global Christian-Muslim relations, Al Qaeda, and theological responses to terrorism and Islamophobia.

The Many Faces of Peace

Dr Homi Dhalla

Room 207

Audiovisual Presentation and Discussion

The twentieth century has been the bloodiest in the history of mankind. Although the tentacles of violence have spread far and wide, there has been an increasing awareness of the need to work for a culture of peace. It is perhaps time to stop focusing on the wounds and work towards healing. This presentation wishes to draw attention to the constructive steps being taken by artists, educators, musicians, religious leaders, athletes and statesmen who are all contributing to the culture of peace. The presentation will show about 130 slides depicting various aspects of peace.

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Homi Dhalla holds an MA from Harvard and a PhD from Mumbai University. He has represented the Parsi community at various international conferences, focusing on issues of peace, ecology, human rights and interreligious dialogue. He was awarded the Mother Teresa National Award for Interfaith Harmony in 2007. As the Founder-President of the World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation, Homi has initiated various cultural projects for the Parsi community.

Jaina Doctrine of Ahimsa and Sustainable Living

Dr Raksha Shah
Munishree Lokesh
Kirit C Daftary
Room 208
Panel Discussion

The Jaina doctrine of Ahimsa is gradually attracting the attention of the people of the world in the wake of the current environmental and ecological crises. Ahimsa—the Jaina concept of nonviolence—stresses not only abstinence from all forms of physical violence but also expects an individual to avoid disharmony or discomfort that would cause pain and misery to any creature on earth. This presentation will explain the Jaina doctrine of Ahimsa as a broad concept of nonviolence that encompasses thought, action, and word, and whose perspective considers more than the immediate consequences of one's actions. The presenters will show how Ahimsa forms a single foundation for various concepts such as human rights and environmental sustainability.

Dr Raksha Shah is a visiting lecturer at the University of Mumbai, where she was recently awarded a PhD. She is a Jain scholar who represented India at the Parliament of World's Religions in Barcelona in 2004 and at the Monterrey Mexico Conference in 2007. She is a naturopath and freelance journalist who has received three 'Best Journalist' awards. She is the editor of the Jain Newsletter, 'Jain Prakash', and a committee member of JAINA Shri Virchand Raghavji Gandhi Memorial Committee.

His Holiness Munishree Lokesh, a world-renowned poet, teacher, diplomat and spiritual leader, was born in Pachpadra Nagar, India. At the age of 22, he renounced the world and received Diksha from Late Acharya Shri Tulsi. He has studied texts of Jainism, Buddhism and Vedanta and is proficient in several languages, including Prakrit, Sanskrit, Hindi, Gujarati and English. He has written more than twelve popular books of poems and essays, describing his doctrines of peace and harmony.

Kirit C Daftary is President of Anuvibha of North America and past President of the Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA), which represents 67 Jain Centres and over 150,000 Jains in North America. He is also the alternative representative to the United Nations of Anuvrat Global Organization (ANUVIBHA). Mr Daftary regularly lectures on Jainism and Hinduism at several universities and also participates in many interreligious dialogues.

Sustainable Way of Life Through Shumei Natural Agriculture

Shumei Youth Members
Kohei Tsukuta
Yoshinori Yokoi
Haruka Koide
Masanori Kaneko
Kanako Fukushima
Room 209
Seminar

Shinji Shumeikai, informally known as Shumei, is a spiritual organisation dedicated to elevating the quality of life of all people. Shumei is committed to the creation of an ideal state of health, happiness and harmony in the world through the application of the wisdom and insights of the spiritual leader, Mokichi Okada. He taught that a world free of sickness, poverty and discord is possible through the spiritual exercise that we call Jyorei, the appreciation of art and beauty, and the practice of natural agriculture. In this presentation, we will focus on Shumei Natural Agriculture, which is not just an alternate method of growing healthy food, but also a way of growing spiritually by rebuilding our relationship with nature. In this age of ever-increasing material development, many people are beginning to feel that something vital is lacking in their lives. By sharing what we have learned through practising Shumei Natural Agriculture, we hope to generate ideas about what this way of life can do to help people restore harmony with nature and to keep their minds calm and balanced.

Shumei has been farming not only in Japan but also in other parts of the world. During this seminar, representatives of Japanese youth members from Shumei will present the essence of Shumei Natural Agriculture based on their personal experiences of farming in their own local areas.

Convening Education Session: Schooling, Young People and Social Inclusion

Bronwyn Pike
Genevieve Peterson
Maria Minto-Cahill
Helen Butler
Room 210
Panel Discussion

Serving the educational and other needs of students from disadvantaged communities requires sophisticated policy responses from both government and non-government schools. The Salvation Army has experience with students who must deal with homelessness, addiction, unemployment, incarceration, single parenthood and sustained poverty. In this seminar, they will connect with the program response of Melbourne's Catholic Education Office and the Australian Catholic University, who have collaboratively developed a postgraduate course focusing on Student Wellbeing in Inclusive Schooling. Leaders and

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a graduate of this program will give an account of their efforts to address the underlying poverty and justice issues.

The Honourable Bronwyn Pike is Minister for Education in Victoria, Australia's second most populous state. Victoria's government education system includes half a million students enrolled in almost 1600 schools, with more than 40,000 teaching staff. Prior to entering Parliament, Ms Pike worked as a secondary and tertiary teacher, a community services manager, and the Director of the Unit of Justice and Social Responsibility in the Uniting Church. She is also former Board Director of Greenpeace Australia.

Captain Genevieve Peterson is a social policy consultant and officer in the Salvation Army. She spent six years in a socioeconomically disadvantaged area of Melbourne assisting young people who were experiencing various levels and forms of social exclusion. It was here that she developed a passion for understanding the structures of systemic poverty and, more importantly, a passion for releasing ensnared young people. She completed a Master of Social Policy degree at the University of Melbourne in 2008.

Maria Minto-Cahill has a background as a teacher and principal in Catholic primary schools in Victoria, Australia. She is currently a member of the Student Wellbeing Unit in the Catholic Education Office, Melbourne. Her work encompasses areas such as professional learning and school improvement, community engagement, social and emotional learning, restorative justice, and student engagement.

With a background in teaching, student welfare and community health promotion, **Helen Butler** worked for over a decade at the Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Children's Hospital. She held key leadership roles in the Gatehouse Project, the Adolescent Health and Social Environments Program, and the Festival for Healthy Living. Her work focuses on promoting wellbeing through social justice and inclusive schools and communities. She is currently a senior lecturer in Wellbeing in Inclusive Schooling at the Australian Catholic University.

Religion, Spirituality & Life Threatening Illness

Ian Gawler

Room 211

Interactive Workshop

The great traditions all have a long history of healing. Miraculous healing is a foundation stone of the Christian story. The Hindus have yogis who have defied modern medical expectations of mind control. Buddhism has an abundance of techniques that have underpinned modern psychology and mind-body medicine. However, in an increasingly secular world, many people have an aversion to formalised religion. Life-threatening illness commonly challenges patients, families, friends and health care workers to reassess the roles of miracles and medical techniques in the healing process and to think about what might best lead to peace of mind, a deeper sense of meaning and a clearer sense of purpose. This presentation will draw upon Dr Gawler's personal experience with recovering from a life-threatening cancer. The presentation will be a deep exploration of Christian, Hindu, and especially Tibetan Buddhist healing practices. Dr Gawler will also talk about what he has learned during thirty years of working with thousands of people affected by cancer and multiple sclerosis. He will then discuss the possibility that the great spiritual traditions offer a level of experience, authenticity and stability that more secular spiritualism often lacks.

Dr Ian Gawler, OAM, Founder of The Gawler Foundation, is a pioneer in the therapeutic application of mind/body medicine and meditation. A long-term cancer survivor, Ian established Australia's first lifestyle-based cancer self-help group over 25 years ago. He works intensively with cancer and MS patients and conducts meditation retreats and wellness programs. He is an author and a student of Sogyal Rinpoche. Initially trained in Veterinary Science, Dr Gawler holds a Master's in Counselling.

Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding: the Case of Colombia

Fr Leonel Narvaez

Joanne Blaney

Jane Wells

Room 212

Panel Discussion

As a part of the Religion, Conflict, and Peacebuilding series, this session will focus on the efforts of the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation (SRF). SRF has five centres of reconciliation in Bogota and operates in twelve additional Latin American cities. Overall, SRF has placed programs in 47 schools. Colombia is experiencing an increase in criminality, domestic and school violence, generalised anarchy, organised crime, dramatic poverty, and the harmful influence of drug trafficking. SRF increases education as a long-term solution and has created a school curriculum, Pedagogy of Caring and Reconciliation, to provide training in the promotion of peace and education on the local level, and work with former combatants towards reconciliation. It seeks to help victims of violence transform negative memories, generate new narratives, and get free of the past in order to project their lives into the future. UNESCO recognised SRF for its work in peace education in 2006 and 2007.

Father Leonel Narvaez is a Catholic missionary. He initially worked with the nomadic tribes in Eastern Africa and currently works in the forest of the South Amazon area of Colombia. In 2000, he established the Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation (ESPERE is the Spanish acronym). He was a key figure in the Goldin Institute's 2007 global gathering on the topic of reintegration of former child soldiers.

Joanne Blaney is a Maryknoll Lay Missioner who has spent the last 12 years working in Brazil with urban grassroots groups on the themes of violence, conflict resolution and mediation. Since 2005, Joanne is a facilitator of the ESPERE course (Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation). Using a popular education model, she works with a variety of restorative justice practices including restorative circles, emotional literacy and assertive communication. She holds a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Maryland.

Jane Wells is an American Quaker. She and her husband, Tom Sadtler, are the founders of the recently launched Forgiveness International, a branch of Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation that serves the US, Canada and Africa, with the key mission of creating a global learning network in forgiveness. Jane is a human resources professional with expertise in individual and organisational effectiveness. She has a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a MBA from Boston University.

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Jain Heritage and Education for Peace and Harmony

Priyadarshana Rakhecha
H H Amrender Muniji
Samani Mangal Prajna Ji
 Room 213
 Panel Discussion

Jainism has always had a deep ecological awareness. This consciousness extends even to the microscopic creatures of the earth and water. Jains have always held that only if the ecological balance is protected will humanity continue to thrive. This presentation of Jain heritage has captivated young and old, Indians and foreigners, whose minds have been opened to this ancient eco-socio-spiritual philosophy.

Priyadarshana Rakhecha holds a BA in Hindi Literature, History and Culture and an MA, MPhil, and PhD in Jainism. He is a lecturer in the Department of Jainology at the University of Madras. Rakhecha has translated two books on Jainism and authored two other books. He serves as the resource person for St Olaf Global College students who travel to India to study Indian religions.

Amrender Muniji is one of the few Jain monks who travel outside of India to preach nonviolence. He was initiated at the age of fourteen and has a Master's degree in Philosophy and Sanskrit. He is a scholar of Hindu, Jain and Buddhist scriptures and is a learned practitioner and teacher of Hatha Yoga and Kundalini Yoga.

Samani Mangal Prajna Ji is a Jain nun and a disciple of His Holiness Acharya Mahaprajna. She holds a PhD in Jain Religion and serves as vice-chancellor of Jain Vishwa Bharati University in India. Initiated in 1984 at the age of 22, she became a member of the Saman order after six years. She knows many ancient languages, including Sanskrit, Prakrit and Pali as well as the modern languages of English, Hindi and Gujarati.

Living Mindfully For A Peaceful And Sustainable Future

Carey Rohrlach
 Various followers of H H the 17th Karmapa Trinlay
 Thaye Dorje
 Room 214
 Lecture

The session will describe the Three Ways to make ourselves and the environment more peaceful, joyful and sustainable for all. Monk and lay practitioners will give their interpretations of how to play better with others in our playground. This session will discuss past, present and future issues like war, equality for women, sex and sexuality and developing-world issues such as accessible birth control. When we think of terms like 'me' or 'us', and 'you' or 'them', it is easy to see 'enemies', and there is distance between 'us' and 'them'. If we adopt the view that we are all friends with a shared goal, we have more friends than when we started and now we have work to do together. This presentation will seek to address where we are right now and what is useful to do in order to reach the goal of a harmonious and sustainable future.

Carey Rohrlach is a yogic meditator.

Over 648 Buddhist centres and monasteries of the Karma Kagyu lineage in 51 countries follow **H H the 17th Karmapa Trinlay Thaye Dorje**. The co-presenters will be drawn from this pool and will include both monk and lay practitioners.

JCMA: A Working Model of Interfaith In Action

Philip Newman
Di Hirsh
Mark Pedersen
Paul Tonson
Khaled Khalafalla
Janette Witt
 Room 215
 Interactive Workshop

This program will introduce participants to the Jewish-Christian-Muslim Association of Australia. JCMA has developed into a multifaceted organisation since its first Melbourne conference in 2004. This was initiated by Rabbi Jonathan Keren-Black, based on the pattern of a well-established conference in Germany. Such conferences have since been run annually and now an annual Women's Conference is also held. JCMA conducts programs in primary and secondary schools to tackle prejudice and promote harmony through educating children about the Abrahamic Faiths. Other opportunities for interfaith dialogue occur through Sunday afternoon seminars and the recently launched group, GreenFaith, which encourages members to actively address environmental problems. The JCMA Session is divided into two parts. The first part is an introduction to JCMA, its history, principles and practices, and activities. The second part will present the Schools programs, Primary and Secondary, which have proved enormously popular among thousands of students and their teachers across private and state schools in Victoria during the last four years.

Archdeacon Philip Newman, OAM is Archdeacon for Christian Unity and Relations with the World's Religions, he is Chair of Shelford Girls' Grammar Board, and Locum Priest, St Andrew's Corio, Melbourne. Philip is Secretary of JCMA and has helped organise the last four Winter Conferences. He has been given responsibility by his Diocese for relations with other faiths, and is on the member of 2009 Parliament Board of Management.

Di Hirsh is an Interfaith and Intercultural Chair of the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia. In this capacity she has organised, among other activities, interfaith celebrations of the Jewish festivals, with traditional food served, the rituals explained and traditional songs and music included. Di has been involved in organising community dinners with the Catholic and Anglican communities, as well as helping to organise and encourage Jewish women to participate in Muslim women's interfaith dinners. She also convened the first two JCMA (Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia) Women's Conferences and is helping to organise the third conference in March 2010. Di is on the Community Relations Committee of the 2009 Parliament.

Mark Pedersen is an Australian-born Muslim and has been active in interfaith dialogue over the past fifteen years. He represents the Islamic Council of Victoria in the Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia and works with the Islamic Centre of Education and Development on various community projects, including the annual Melbourne Muslim Music Festival and related arts projects.

Rev Dr Paul Tonson of the Uniting Church was one of the first members of JCMA, following several years on the executive of the Council of Christians and Jews (Vic). He brings his scholarly work in Hebrew Bible studies to undergird cooperative endeavours between adherents of differ-

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ent faiths and to support an affirmative understanding of the plurality of religions in contemporary Australia.

Khaled Khalafalla is a journalist intern for The Age after completing studies at Monash University. He has an Egyptian Muslim background and is currently a JCMA presenter to primary and secondary school groups. Khaled is the host of a breakfast radio show on SYN FM and does occasional stand-up comedy gigs.

Janette Witt is the Jewish Christian Muslim Association Schools Program Coordinator. She has successfully managed primary and secondary programs since their inception in 2006, having reached 13,500 students across Victoria.

The Tree of Humanity and the One God of All Religions: The Brahma Kumaris

Gopi Elton

Dr Nirmala Kajaria

Room 216

Seminar

This program is organised by Australian members of the Brahma Kumaris. Through lecture and open discussion, this presentation will explore the interconnectedness of all humanity and the oneness of God. Our variety brings beauty to the whole; all human beings are similar in their eternal link with God. The most common experience of God is as Light. Knowledge of our potential to connect with God, the Most Beautiful One, brings hope and healing. This presentation encourages individuals to seek to deepen and develop their own understanding of connectedness with other human beings and with God, in the form of Light emanating from within. In this active experience of practical spirituality, life can become more liveable, bearable, tolerable and even more enjoyable with oneself and with others.

Gopi Elton has practiced and taught Raja Yoga meditation for the past 25 years in several states of Australia. She is an educator and facilitator delivering health professional education in the government sector in Victoria and has spent thirty years working as a registered nurse in mental health treatment areas. She is involved in co-ordinating the 'Values in Healthcare: A Spiritual Approach' program in Australia, as well as running a Brahma Kumaris meditation centre.

Dr Kajaria has taught Raja Yoga meditation for 45 years and is the Director of sixty meditation centres throughout Australasia and Southeast Asia. She lives in and co-ordinates a large international retreat centre in Northern India at the head office of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University. She is also a world-wide practitioner and lecturer on stress relief, self management techniques and enhancement of mind processes.

Australian Pagans Speak: A Community Forum

Fabienne Morgana

Glenys Livingstone

She' D'Montford

Gede Parma

Linda Ward

Anthorr Nomchong

Room 217

Panel Discussion

Paganism is alive and well in Australia! Join Pagan representatives from around the country in a conversation

about the variety of traditions and groups present here and the community they create together. The discussion will touch on topics of specific relevance to Australian Paganism such as religious tolerance, legal rights, intra-faith and interfaith connections, and will include a look at the ways that Pagans in Australia are engaging in public outreach through education, service and electronic and print communications.

Fabienne S Morgana is a Solitary Eclectic Pagan with an ongoing commitment to her spiritual path and journey as well as those of others. Previously an entertainment professional with a Bachelor of Creative Arts, she is an authorised civil celebrant who facilitates across all life events. Fabienne is in the process of completing a Graduate Diploma in Psychology and a Justice of the Peace. She originates from Western Queensland and now lives in Melbourne.

Glenys Livingstone, PhD (Social Ecology), has Australian country roots, teacher training and an MA in Theology and Philosophy from the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, CA, USA. She has been academically and culturally involved in the resurgence of female imagery for the Sacred for over thirty years. She is a celebrant of the annual seasonal rituals and author of 'PaGaian Cosmology'. Glenys lives in the Blue Mountains with her partner Taffy Seaborne.

She' D'Montford is a teacher, healer, author, promoter and activist. She is the founding editor of Spellcraft magazine, Australia's premier periodical for the occult and esoteric. Dr D'Montford is the head of the Australian Shambhalla Awareness Centre Pagan Church and holds an honorary degree in philosophy, specialising in Tibetan and Hindu Shamanism. Her paranormal abilities have been featured on the ground-breaking psychic reality TV show 'The One'.

Gede Parma has been an active member of his local Australian Pagan community for years. He is the co-founder of Coven of the WildWood and has contributed Pagan articles to books and e-zines geared toward Pagan young adults. Among his books are 'Llewellyn's 2010 Witches' Companion: An Almanac for Everyday Living' and 'Spirited: Taking Paganism Beyond the Circle'.

Linda Ward has been a practising Pagan for over forty years, working mainly as a solitary. She has been actively involved in the Pagan community for over ten years, helping to organise a series of weekend events promoting the celebration of Pagan diversity. She has a Master's degree in Religious Studies from Queensland University (2003) and is a graduate of Griffith University's MultiFaith Centre In-Service Development Training Program in Interfaith Dialogue and Understanding.

Islam 101 Series: Women's Rights as Human Rights in Islam

Dr Saleha Abedin

Dr Siti Musdah Mulia

American Speaker to be Determined

Room 219

Panel Discussion

This panel, made up of leading Muslim women, will focus on women's rights in the general context of the Islamic concept of human rights, which is constructed on the principles of justice and equity. Panellists will highlight the Islamic concept of the human rights of women that renders full justice to their social, cultural and biological roles in total recognition of their humanity and spirituality. They will also address how Muslim women and their rights have long been subjected to a vast array of

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misconceptions put forth by Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Through this discussion, the panellists aim to help correct the public's image of Islam's stance on women's rights and begin the process of greater understanding and healing. This panel 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.

Dr Saleha M Abedin is chief editor of the Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs and co-chair of the Global Peace Initiative of Women Religious & Spiritual Leaders. She has also served on the International Advisory Board for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. She is currently the Vice Dean of Institutional Advancement at Dar Al-Hekma College, a premier women's college in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Siti Musdah Mulia has been a research professor of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences since 2003. She is also a lecturer on Islamic Political Thought at the School of Graduate Studies of Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta. Since 2007, Mulia has been the Chairperson of the Indonesian Conference on Religion for Peace, an NGO actively promoting interfaith dialogue, pluralism and democracy for peace. She has published several books on Islam and gender issues.

Islamic Finance: The Compassionate Approach to Market and Money

Dr Amal Ali El-Tigani
Dr Nasya Bahfen
Dr Abdul Rahim Ghouse
Dr Constant Mews
Room 220
Panel Discussion

This panel will focus on Islamic finance and microfinance and how they can be utilised to alleviate poverty. It will first describe what Islamic finance is and how it is different from conventional finance. It will provide the audience with an understanding of the Islamic concepts that govern financial transactions, how these concepts have been translated into modern day finance and banking techniques, and how these techniques can be applied to the problem of poverty. Furthermore, the panel will explore briefly the impact of the global economic crisis on Islamic financial markets and institutions, as well as principles of financial ethics common to Christianity and Islam. The talk will also address how Islamic finance can contribute to a more just society within both an Australian and an international context.

Dr Amal Ali El-Tigani is an Assistant Professor in the School of Business at Dar Al-Hekma College, a premier women's college in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where she teaches courses in finance, investment and accounting. Dr El-Tigani holds a DBA in International Business Finance and Investments from the George Washington University, Washington DC. She is also the Vice Dean for Finance and Administration at Dar Al-Hekma College.

Dr Nasya Bahfen lectures in the School of Applied Communication at RMIT and works regularly in the newsrooms of ABC Radio Australia and SBS Radio. Nasya is a committee member of the Islamic Women's Welfare Council of Victoria. Among her published works is her article titled, 'A Lack of Interest in a Global Growth Industry: Australian Media and Islamic Finance', published in the Journal of Globalisation for the Common Good.

Dr Abdul Rahim Ghouse is the CEO of Kuwait Finance House's Australian operations (KFHA). Previously he was at Muslim Community

Cooperative Australia (MCCA). Dr Ghouse continues on the path of developing partnerships with both higher educational institutions and interfaith organisations. He was formerly the Deputy Dean, Research Centre International Islamic University Malaysia and holds a PhD in Sociology, in addition to dual Masters degrees and other professional qualifications.

Dr Constant J Mews is Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Theology, Monash University. A specialist in medieval Christian thought, he has strong interests in the history of interreligious dialogue and common ground between Christian and Islamic traditions of financial ethics.

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ABC 'Compass' Live Recording

Major International Speakers from a Variety of Religious Traditions
Plenary Hall
TV Show Filming

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Religion and Ethics program, 'Compass', will be part of the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions. Presenter Geraldine Doogue will moderate a panel discussion onsite with five Parliament speakers who will convene to respond to questions submitted by 'Compass' viewers, with a focus on the theme 'Creating Social Cohesion in Village and City'. Panellists will be compelling speakers from a variety of religious traditions and from around the world. The program is scheduled to air on ABC TV on Sunday, 13 December. After the broadcast, Australian residents will be able to watch online at www.abc.net.au/compass. Those outside of Australia will be able to read a transcript of the discussion.

Compassionate Eating for the YouTube Generation

Heng Sure
Room 101
Lecture

Each day, humans make our most personal connection with the planet through the food that we put in our mouth. This lecture, featuring live performances as well as selections of video clips and data from the Internet, will explore the wisdom of this assertion for the YouTube generation. A variety of faith-based efforts to promote compassionate eating already exist in the digital domain. Although much of this material is religious in origin and in perspective, the message of YouTube videos such as the Jewish Vegetarians of North America's 'A Sacred Duty', folk songs such as Rev Heng Sure's 'American Beef Cow', and animated shorts such as Free Range Video's 'The Meatrix', can inspire a worldwide audience—regardless of faith or creed—to align their food choices more closely to their hopes for a healthier, more compassionate world.

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Rev Heng Sure is the Director of the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery and a former Global Councilor of the United Religions Initiative. He has been a Buddhist monk for 33 years, and holds a PhD from the Graduate Theological Union, in Berkeley, California (USA) and an MA from the University of California, Berkeley. An author and musician, Rev Sure recently released the CD 'Paramita: American Buddhist Folk Songs'.

African Religions in Latin America

Stanley Krippner
Rose Sackey-Milligan
Room 102
Lecture

It has been said that, 'Brazil is the heart of the world and the spiritistic religions are the heart of Brazil'. These spiritistic religions, with their emphasis on mediumship (benevolent spirit possession) and reincarnation (the belief in past lives), date back to the arrival of enslaved Africans in the Portuguese colony. Over the years, a syncretic process took place as the African religions took on aspects of Roman Catholicism as well as Native American rituals and iconic figures. This lecture will trace the historical development of the African religions of Brazil with special emphasis on how social class and geography have influenced their development. It will describe how they honour Nature, eg, conceptualising their deities as 'forces of Nature', and how they promote healing of the mind, body, spirit, and community. Finally, the lecture will illustrate how religious syncretism lives on in the 21st century. It will cover the humanism and liberatory perspectives of these faiths: how they promote freedom and liberation, good character and progressive human values; the concept of the immortality of the soul and good living; fidelity in human relationships; the sacredness of life; the principles of devotion, family and community; death and reincarnation and a host of other life-affirming principles.

Stanley Krippner, PhD, is a professor of psychology at Saybrook Graduate School in San Francisco, USA. He is a Fellow in the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. His research articles on the African-Brazilian religions have won him honorary membership in the Brazilian Federation of Umbanda and Candomble. In 2005, he received the Quincentennial Medal from the Masonic Lodges of Eastern Brazil for his promulgation of Brazilian culture.

Rose Sackey-Milligan, PhD, is an award-winning anthropologist with eighteen years study and practice of the Lukumi and Yoruba faiths. In 1997 she received full ordination into the Lukumi priesthood. She served as a social change philanthropist and lectured on the global economy and the US environmental justice movement. She is a Senior Program Associate at the Center for Contemplative Mind in Society, Northampton, MA. She holds a BA in Social Science, and MA and PhD in Anthropology.

Sharing Wisdom in Search of Inner and Outer Peace

Shantilal Somaiya
Kala Acharya
Terence Lovat
K Sankarnarayan
Homi Dhalla
Geeta Mehta
Gerard Hall
Marika Vicziany
Room 103
Panel Discussion

Despite the human aspiration for peace, conflict and warfare continue to persist and endanger human life. However, the wisdom reflected in the scriptures of the world religions offers rays of hope. Hindus believe that peace in the human heart and peace on earth are inter-dependent. Prayers for appeasing external discord and internal unrest provide keys for peace. For Mahatma Gandhi, true Ahimsa is a life of nonviolence, love, strength and peace. Zarathushtra, the Prophet of ancient Iran, has inspired men and women about the need for inner peace in his teachings, termed as the Gathas. Buddhism, in its message of wisdom and compassion, preaches non-injury as the foremost practice. Jesus Christ preaches, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God' (Mt 5:9). Islam preaches peace through its doctrine of Divine Fatherhood and Human brotherhood. This session, led by a leading world Hindu and interfaith centre in Mumbai, will draw on the different traditions in offering guidelines for inner and outer peace.

Dr S K Somaiya is Vice President of Somaiya Vidyavihar, an educational trust in Mumbai running 37 institutes with 27,000 students. He received the prestigious Luminosa award in July 2002 in New York from the Focolare Movement. He also led the Hindu Delegation to the Interreligious Congress organised at Astana, Kazakhstan in 2003 and 2006. Dr Somaiya participated in the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders in New York in 2000.

Dr Mrs Kala Acharya is the director of K J Somaiya Bharatiya Sanskriti Peetham, a cultural and research institute. She has authored two books and edited several books, and she has organised interfaith dialogue seminars in India and abroad. She is the working group member of the Congress of World's and Traditional Religions, Kazakhstan.

Professor Terence Lovat is an experienced researcher who has managed research projects concerning Values Education, Religion and Spirituality. He has published several scholarly texts and more than eighty refereed articles in scholarly journals and books. Professor Lovat is a regular keynote presenter at national and international conferences, most recently in the areas of religion, values and Islam at government-sponsored conferences in Russia and Ukraine.

Mrs K Sankarnarayan is the Director of K J Somaiya Centre for Buddhist Studies. She received the Japan Foundation Fellowship under Scholars and Researchers and worked on two research projects with Prof Dr Ichijo Ogawa, President, Otani University, Kyoto, Japan. She was invited as a Visiting Professor under the Japan Mubhosho Fellowship by the International Research Centre for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, Japan and was recognised as a Research Guide by the Mumbai University Member of Academic Council.

Homi Dhalla holds an MA from Harvard and a PhD from Mumbai University. He was Assistant Professor at the Asia Institute, Shiraz University, Iran for two years. Dhalla has represented the Parsi com-

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munity at various international conferences, focusing on issues of peace, ecology, human rights, and interreligious dialogue. He was awarded the Mother Teresa National Award for Interfaith Harmony in 2007. As the Founder-President of the World Zarathushti Cultural Foundation, Dhalla has initiated various cultural projects for the Parsi community.

Dr Geeta Mehta received a doctorate in Gandhian Philosophy from Bombay University. She is well-published internationally and is actively associated with Acharya Vinoba Bhave. She has presented at national and international Philosophical Conferences, thrice at the World Congress of Philosophy. She is the former Head of the Department of Philosophy at Maharshi Dayanand College. Currently she is the Director of the K J Somaiya Centre for Studies in Jainism and President of the Indian Women Philosophers' Association.

Talking Faiths: Your Story, My Story and Our Story, across Schools and the World Wide Web

Tim McCowan
Catherine Devine
Jan Molloy
Room 104

This interactive workshop will showcase two successful experiential programs of interfaith and intercultural dialogue occurring in secondary schools across Melbourne: Building Bridges through Interfaith Dialogue in Schools and Intercultural Cluster Socratic Circles. We will show how, with the support of the Immigration Museum, interfaith dialogue can be promoted into the wider community through the Museum's Talking Faiths exhibit and website. Both programs operate in independent, Catholic and government schools. During this workshop, participants will experience a multimedia presentation and web resources outlining each program; learn about the exhibit at the Museum; interact with students, teachers and facilitators; participate in small group discussions; experience a Socratic Circle demonstration; and learn how they can get involved.

Dr Tim McCowan is the founding director of Building Bridges, director of Reconciliation and Peacemaking at the WellSpring Centre, and lecturer in spirituality at the Churches of Christ Theological College in Melbourne.

Catherine Devine has been a teacher for fifteen years. She has worked in metropolitan, regional and remote area schools in Victoria and Western Australia and has taught English, Literacy and Religious Education. Since 2006, she has coordinated the Melbourne Interfaith Intercultural Cluster of schools. She is particularly interested in the way Socratic Circles can be employed to promote citizenship through the exploration of issues and ideas.

Jan Molloy is responsible for the development and delivery of the Immigration Museum's education programs. Prior to joining Museum Victoria in 2006, Jan enjoyed a long and successful teaching career in Victorian Government Secondary schools. Jan is a history teacher with a strong commitment to social justice. Her passionate belief in the power of education to assist in building strong communities has found a new focus since she began working at the museum.

Reflections on the Global Financial Crisis

Dr Hans Küng
Dr Simon Longstaff
Katherine Marshall
Steve Killelea
Room 105

While nation-states, corporations and international monetary institutions struggle to restructure the global economy in light of the recent financial crisis, there are voices calling for attention to be given to ethical – even religious – dimensions of the new paradigm needed to insure just and fair practices in the future. What elements of the recent crisis bring ethical concerns to the forefront? What is the appropriate role for religion – if any – in the discussion? How do global challenges such as poverty, the environment, and climate change, figure in the economic and moral calculus? Using the innovative 'agora forum' technique, this discussion will provide theologian Hans Kung, senior business leaders, and Parliament participants all a 'seat at the table' in this vitally important conversation

Dr Hans Küng is an internationally known Christian theologian and president of the Global Ethic Foundation of Tübingen University. He has published over fifty titles, including *The Beginning of All Things – Science and Religion*, *Islam: Past, Present and Future* and a manifesto; *Global Economic Ethic – Consequences for Global Businesses*. Dr Küng lives and teaches in Tübingen, Germany.

Dr Simon Longstaff is the Executive Director of the St James Ethics Centre in Sydney, Australia. He has also been the inaugural President of the Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics, a Fellow of the World Economic Forum and a Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Foreign Policy Association. His book *Hard Cases, Tough Choices* was published by Macmillan in 1997

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. Katherine's work in development involves a series of regional background papers and consultations with academics and practitioners and a series of reviews of development topics.

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.

Christianity and Ecology

Bishop Geoffrey Davies
Norman Habel
John Hart
Joel Hunter
Room 106
Panel Discussion

The Christian tradition is just beginning to come to terms with the impending ecological crisis caused by human-kind's interactions with the environment. The interrelated issues of climate change, species extinction, rampant pollution and depletion of resources are causing significant disruptions in the ecosystems of the planet. Many

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people are predicting future famines and wars as a result of these interconnected problems. This panel discussion will explore the role of Christianity in responding to this crisis. Christian theology and practice have recently begun to shift in order to meet the environmental challenge. Can Christianity respond to worldly issues in a more concrete, immediate way, or will it continue to offer worldly salvation at the end of one's life? Can it move beyond individual concerns with good and evil to envision a common good for the entire world community? How can seminaries and churches 'go green'? What can we learn from eco-justice movements? A panel made up of distinguished Christian leaders and theologians will explore these questions.

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.

Norman Habel is a Fellow at Flinders University, Adelaide, and was formerly Head of Religion Studies at the University of South Australia. He is editor of 'The Earth Bible' series and 'Exploring Ecological Hermeneutics'. He has chaired the ecological hermeneutics of the Society of Biblical Literature for several years. His forthcoming book is entitled 'An Inconvenient Text'.

John Hart is Professor of Christian Ethics at Boston University School of Theology. He is the author of 'Sacramental Commons: Christian Ecological Ethics', 'Ethics and Technology', and 'The Spirit of the Earth'. He is the board president of the Montana Environmental Information Center, member of the Delegation of the International Indian Treaty Council to the United Nations International Human Rights Commission, and an invited observer to the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples, Rio de Janeiro.

Dr Joel Hunter is senior pastor of Northland, A Church Distributed, a congregation of 12,000 that worships at four sites in Metro Orlando and more than 1,000 sites worldwide via interactive Webcast. Dr Hunter serves on the boards of the World Evangelical Alliance (420 million constituents) and the National Association of Evangelicals (30 million members). Recently, he was appointed to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. He is author of several books.

Beyond Beliefs – Muslims and Non-Muslims Living in Australia

Dr Pamela Ryan
Room 107

Film and Discussion

Riots in Sydney in 2005 signalled a deepening divide between Muslims and non-Muslims in Australia. In March 2007, some 400 Australians took over Old Parliament House in Canberra for three days to consider how to bridge this divide. This film suggests how the principles of deliberative democracy may be used to build reconciliation, understanding and social cohesion. The film was directed by Sophie Hyde and Bryan Mason.

As a psychologist, political scientist, organisational consultant and academic, **Dr Pamela Ryan** has helped numerous private and public organisations handle successfully a diverse range of strategic, psychological, organisational, cultural and political issues. As Managing Director of Issues Deliberation Australia/America, Dr Ryan has led psychologists, sociologists and researchers in major public policy projects in Australia and the United States. Dr Ryan is also co-founder of the international nonprofit organisation, Psychology Beyond Borders.

Addressing the Shadow in Our Own Traditions

Melanie Landau
Anna Halafoff
Susan Carland
Rachel Woodlock
Room 108
Panel Discussion

The theme of darkness is prevalent across many of the world's major religions. This multifaith panel, consisting of emerging Monash University women scholars, will explore elements of the shadow, or darkness, in the Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim traditions. This panel will seek to build bridges and recognise the common humanity that underpins all traditions. By allowing ourselves to be open to the darkness, and to integrate and transform it, nothing gets left out and all can be included and transformed.

Melanie Landau is a lecturer at the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University. She is currently completing her PhD on a feminist analysis of traditional Jewish marriage. She has studied and taught Jewish texts in Australia, Israel and the US. She has diverse interests including facilitating personal transformation and group processes as well as creating community across difference through learning, dialogue and ritual.

Anna Halafoff is a researcher for the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, and the Global Terrorism Research Centre, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University. She is a practicing Buddhist in the Tibetan FPMT tradition.

Susan Carland is a researcher in the Centre for Islam and The Modern World at the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University.

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

Women's Peace Initiatives

Marta Benavides
Room 109

Women have been working for peace in myriad ways, in coalitions, as members of religious communities, as members of political groups, as independent activists, and as cultural workers, and often below the radar of those recognised as peace agents. This session will be led by veteran women peace activists, and will offer women the chance to conspire about fomenting peace across the globe, from their diverse spiritual perspectives. It is intended as an informal gathering for women's wisdom sharing, including speaking bold, honest truths.

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 in a 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' brings people together to defend human rights and develop a culture of peace.

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INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION**Global Ethics and Religion Forum –
Rotary International Peace Fellows,
International Christian University****William Steele**
Prashan De Visser
Six ICU Rotary International Peace Fellows
Room 110
Symposium

This is Panel #7 in the 'War and the Role of Religion in a Just and Sustainable World' Symposium.

William Steele is Dean of Liberal Arts at International Christian University, Japan.

Prashan De Visser is President of 'Sri Lanka Unites' in Sri Lanka.

**Does the Media Have Faith? –
Daily Youth Session****Nasya Bahfen**
Anna Halafoff
Nazeem Hussain
Barney Zwartz
Erin Williams
Valarie Kaur
Rabbi Ralph Genende
Room 201
Interactive Workshop

It is fair to say that religion does not get a good rap in the media. Nine times out of ten the story is negative. But where does the responsibility lie in changing the way the media reports on religion? This session will look at the current view of religion in the media, how this has impacted young people of faith, and where the responsibility lies in changing this view.

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.

Anna Halafoff is a researcher for the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific and the Global Terrorism Research Centre, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University.

Nazeem Hussain is a comedian and cast member of Salam Cafe

Barney Zwartz is religion editor of 'The Age', where he has worked for 28 years. He has covered religion since 2002. Mr Zwartz has a degree in theology.

Erin Williams is the Media Coordinator for Interfaith Youth Core.

Valarie Kaur is a filmmaker whose credits include 'Divided We Fall'.

Rabbi Ralph Genende is senior rabbi at Caulfield Hebrew Congregation, which is undergoing an energetic renewal. Rabbi Ralph has a Master's degree in Counselling and is Senior Rabbi to the Australian Defence Force. He previously served as College Rabbi at Mount Scopus College. He is an Executive Member of the Rabbinical Council of Victoria, the Council for Christians and Jews, a member of the Victorian Premier's Multi-faith Advisory Group, and heads a Jewish pre-marriage education group.

**The Reality of the Universal Human
Family: Interreligious Cooperation in
Healing the Earth****James Bowler**
Paul Howorth
Kate Benge
Room 203
Presentation with Q&A and musical performance

The Blood Foundation promotes the idea that we are all part of the Human Family, and that there are certain spiritual values and deep ethical obligations that come with such an understanding. This panel will explore the scientific and spiritual foundations of the Human Family and then look at some real world social applications in Australia, the Pacific region and the world. Professor Jim Bowler will tell the story of our great family from both scientific and spiritual perspectives, with special emphasis given to the Indigenous worldview of which he has been a lifelong observer. Paul Howorth will look at the social challenges and opportunities now present in relations between First Peoples and Europeans and draw upon working examples in the region including Blood Foundation's work with Indigenous Hill tribes in Southeast Asia and victims of the Burmese civil war. Finally, Kate Benge will present Blood Foundation's working model of action-based interreligious cooperation, which aims to bring together people of all faith traditions to alleviate suffering, defeat injustice and heal the earth and her people. Then they will open the floor to questions and close with a special musical performance.

James Bowler's career focuses on understanding Ice Age climates and environments of landscape evolution, including the framework of human origins and migrations. In 1969 he discovered the remains of Mungo Lady on the now-dry shores of ancient Lake Mungo. These 41,000-year-old remains provided the earliest evidence of human occupation in Australia, and were considered the world's oldest ritual cremation. Five years later, he discovered Mungo Man at the site of the world's earliest ochre burial.

Paul Howorth is a barrister and a strategic planner who works as a consultant and researcher in the field of Indigenous development in Australia. Since 2001, Paul has studied the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous views of development. In particular, Paul sees enormous potential for non-Indigenous people to learn crucial principles of sustainability from the world's oldest surviving cultures.

Kate Benge is a human rights activist with experience at Amnesty International in New Zealand and Blood Foundation in Southeast Asia. She is enthusiastic about the practical way Blood Foundation implements a Universal Philosophy. Kate is currently studying Philosophy and Development Studies at Victoria University in Wellington.

Faith-Consistent Investing**Seamus Finn**
Dr Amal Ali El-Tigani
Michiel Hardon
Room 204
Interactive Workshop

The Islamic and Christian traditions both contain teachings about economic life, from prescriptions about lending to the conduct of corporations, that are central to their visions of just societies. They also bring long experience

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with practice, as observers and participants. The collapse of major financial institutions and the resulting economic crisis has prompted renewed interest in these teachings, as leaders from both traditions have pointed out that adherence to faith-consistent economic principles might have averted the downturn and spared the world's poor from the shocks that resulted from the crisis. Rev Seamus Finn and Dr Amal Ali El-Tigani will talk about how interfaith cooperation on these issues could foster the emergence of a more sustainable, environmentally friendly, and just society.

Rev Seamus Finn OMI is a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and a board member of both 3iG and the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). He is a leader in faith-based and socially responsible investing. The cornerstone of his advocacy with corporations and financial institutions is a call for greater transparency and disclosure by the companies and a reliable regulatory and supervisory framework that has a global reach.

Dr Amal Ali El-Tigani is an Assistant Professor in the School of Business at Dar Al-Hekma College, a premier women's college in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where she teaches courses in finance, investment and accounting. Dr El-Tigani holds a DBA in International Business Finance and Investments from the George Washington University, Washington DC. She is also the Vice Dean for Finance and Administration at Dar Al-Hekma College, one of the first and leading colleges for women in Saudi Arabia.

Recently retired from the World Council of Churches, **Michiel Hardon** was the Director of Income Monitoring and was the founding director of 3iG (International Interfaith Investment Group). In the past he also worked for the International Monetary Fund and directed economic and social affairs for the city government of the Hague for four years. Hardon also worked in international consulting in the private sector.

Best Practices in Interfaith Youth Work: Religious Schools and Community-based Programs Respond

Kathleen Engebretson

Janet Penn

Room 207

Interactive Workshop

This workshop will establish conceptual models for best practices in interfaith work with youth, both in the religiously-affiliated school and in a dynamic, community-based program. Prof Engebretson will explore interfaith education at the primary and secondary levels as a conversation between life worlds. The pedagogical implications of the model will be developed in discussion and through the use of up to four different approaches to pedagogy for interfaith education. In learning about other religions, children and young people develop a sense of justice. As they learn about various religious traditions other than their own, they recognise the humanity of those who practise them. Through such study their own spirituality is nurtured and expanded through being brought into conversation with the spirituality of others. Ms Penn will present the core principles and methodology that guides Interfaith Action's successful, teen-led Youth Leadership Program, including the multi-layered training that empowers high school students to plan and facilitate interfaith dialogue, school programs, national

and international conferences, and community interfaith celebrations. Ms Penn will share examples of best practices, community collaborations, and a vision for the international high school interfaith movement that is built upon teens analysing barriers to cooperation and creating solutions.

Kathleen Engebretson is a lecturer, researcher, writer and doctoral supervisor in the School of Religious Education at Australian Catholic University. She is the author of the recently published 'In Your Shoes: Inter-Faith Education for Australian Religious Educators' (Connor Court) and one of the editors of the 'International Handbook on Inter-Religious Education'.

Janet Penn is the Founder and Director of Interfaith Action, Inc. (IFA) in Sharon, Massachusetts, USA and the creator of IFA's Youth Leadership Program and the Sharon Pluralism Network, an innovative collaboration among town departments to foster a town-wide culture of pluralism. Janet is passionate about empowering teens to lead interfaith work, inspiring adults with their example. She has worked in the nonprofit sector for over 30 years.

Blogistan: Muslims Dialogue through New Media

Hussein Rashid

Wajahat Ali

Haroon Moghul

Room 208

Panel Discussion

In the last several years, Muslim Americans have become increasingly active online. More and more, they are harnessing the full potential of New Media to combat stereotypes, racism and ignorance. They have built followings among Muslims and non-Muslims, and their efforts serve as resources for education about Islam and Muslims. This panel will discuss a variety of Muslim-American presences on the Internet (individual blogs, group blogs, and online magazines) and the use of Web 2.0 applications such as Facebook and Twitter to impact conversations not only within the Muslim community but also about the Muslim community. These traditions allow Muslims to represent themselves but also to continue the age-old Muslim traditions of arguing and discussing the major issues of the day.

Hussein Rashid is a PhD candidate at Harvard University. He has an MTS from Harvard Divinity School and a BA from Columbia College. In 2006, he became one of the Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow. He is a frequent speaker and television and radio guest and is currently a visiting faculty member at Hofstra University. Rashid is the author of the blog *islamicate* (www.islamicate.com). His current research interests include the representation of Muslims in graphic novels.

Wajahat Ali is a playwright, journalist, humorist, blogger and attorney. He is an Associate Editor of *Altmuslim.com*, the leading American Muslim online magazine, and a contributing editor to the award winning *Illume Magazine* (<http://www.illumemagazine.org>). His blog, 'Goatmilk: An Intellectual Playground' (goatmilk.wordpress.com) is ranked in the top seven percent of all political blogs. Ali is the 2009 recipient of Muslim Public Affairs Council's prestigious 'Emerging Muslim American Artist' Award.

Haroon Moghul is director of Public Relations for the Islamic Center at New York University and is a PhD candidate at Columbia University. A contributing editor and end-page columnist for *Islamica*, Haroon also maintains a popular blog, *Avari*, which has won several Brass Crescent Awards. Haroon has been selected as one of 300 Muslim Leaders of Tomorrow.

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Interfaith Dialogue and Institutions of Higher Learning: India, Indonesia and United States Case Studies

Mark Pedersen
Mariam Rahmani
Benjamin Herzberg
Emmett Buckley
Dr Varghese Manimala
Dr Siti Syamsiyatun
Yahya Wijaya
Room 209
Panel Discussion

This panel session is led by educators from the Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS-Yogya); representatives of the Henry Martyn Institute—International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation (HMI); and fellows of the Princeton Religious Life Council (RLC). Panellists will analyse from a variety of perspectives alternatives for approaches and methods of inter-religious studies and dialogue in institutions of higher learning. ICRS-Yogya is a consortium of three universities: Gadjah Mada University, State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, and Duta Wacana Christian University. Together they offer an integrative, international PhD program in interreligious studies. This is the only Religious Studies PhD program that is co-sponsored by Muslim, Christian, and national-secular universities. HMI is an ecumenical Christian organisation dedicated to the objective study and teaching of Islam and the promotion of interfaith dialogue and reconciliation. RLC is a fellowship of Princeton University students who are committed to fostering conversation between all religious faiths at Princeton as well as at the national and international levels.

Mark Pedersen is an Australian-born Muslim and has been active in interfaith dialogue over the past fifteen years. He represents the Islamic Council of Victoria in the Jewish Christian Muslim Association of Australia and works with the Islamic Centre of Education and Development on various community projects, including the annual Melbourne Muslim Music Festival and related arts projects.

Mariam Rahmani is in her final year as an undergraduate at Princeton University. She studies Comparative Literature with an interdisciplinary focus in Art History. Her interests outside of class include involvement with religious life on campus. She comes to the Parliament as a student leader of the Princeton University Religious Life Council.

Benjamin Herzberg is a senior at Princeton University majoring in Chemistry. He has been involved in Jewish communities both in his hometown of Westfield, NJ and at Princeton. Outside the classroom, he is one of three student leaders of the Religious Life Council, Princeton's interfaith dialogue group, and the Editor of Opinion for the campus newspaper, The Daily Princetonian.

Emmett Buckley grew up in a Catholic family in Richmond, Virginia. He attends Princeton University, where he studies philosophy and poetry. Outside of the classroom, he is one of three student leaders of Princeton's Religious Life Council, an interfaith group dedicated to deepening understanding and cultivating respect among all faiths.

Dr Varghese Manimala has a PhD in Philosophy with special emphasis on Intersubjectivity in Western Philosophy and the concept of Sangha in Buddhism. He also holds a Bachelor of Law and has done post-doctoral research in Pluralism and Interreligious Dialogue. Dr Manimala is Director of HMI.

Dr Siti Syamsiyatun is the Associate Director of ICRS-Yogya. She earned her MA in Islamic Studies from McGill University, Canada and her PhD in Politics from the School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University, Australia.

Yahya Wijaya is a lecturer in social and professional ethics at Duta Wacana Christian University and a member of the Executive Board of ICRS-Yogya. He is an ordained minister of the Indonesian Christian Church (GKI) and was a pastor of a GKI parish in Salatiga from 1989 to 1998. He holds a BD from Duta Wacana, a ThM from Princeton Theological Seminary and a PhD from the University of Leeds.

Earth Charter as a Global Ethics for a Sustainable Future

Mary Evelyn Tucker
Rick Clugston
Michael Slaby
Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp
Brendan Mackey
A T Ariyaratne
Room 210
Panel Discussion

The Earth Charter is both a document and a movement. It draws on scientific knowledge, legal principles, sustainability practices, ecological economics, the precautionary principle and equity issues. In its decade-long drafting process, it involved thousands of individuals and groups from around the planet and is the most inclusive civil society document ever negotiated. The Charter offers a comprehensive framework for re-envisioning sustainability as balancing the need for economic development with the need for environmental protection. The key components of the Earth Charter are: 1) cosmological context, 2) ecological integrity, 3) social equity, 4) economic justice, 5) democracy, 6) non-violence and peace. These six components of a sustainable future have their counterparts in values that are shared among the world's religions: reverence, respect, restraint, redistribution, responsibility and renewal. A planetary future that is flourishing, not simply sustainable, will be enhanced by the six components identified by the Earth Charter along with these six values of the world's religions. A framework that integrates values of the world's religions with the central component of global ethics in the Earth Charter may be an important context for expanding sustainability principles and practices.

Mary Evelyn Tucker is a Senior Lecturer and Senior Scholar at Yale University, where she has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Divinity School, and the Department of Religious Studies. Specialising in Asian religions and ecology, she has been a committee member of the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment at the United Nations Environment Program since 1986 and is a member of the Earth Charter International Council.

Richard M Clugston serves on the Steering Committee of the Earth Charter Initiative. He is Executive Director of the Centre for Respect of Life and Environment (CRLE), publisher and editor of Earth Ethics, and is an Adviser to the Centre for Environmental and Sustainability Education. Rick has taught and published on human development, strategic planning, educational reform, and most recently on environmental ethics, spirituality and sustainability.

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Michael C Slaby works for the international Earth Charter Secretariat and coordinates the Earth Charter Programme on Religion and Sustainability. Since 1996, Michael has been involved in youth activism and has led civil society initiatives on sustainable development, human rights and refugee aid on national and international levels. From 2003 to 2006, Michael volunteered as Earth Charter Youth Coordinator, and helped to establish the network of youth organisations that form the Earth Charter Youth Initiative.

Rabbi Avraham Soetendorp is President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, European Region, and co-recipient of the 2005 International Alliance Peace Award with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf. He is an award-winning human rights advocate, lecturer, writer, environmental activist and champion of civil society worldwide.

Brendan Mackey is a professor of environmental science at the Australian National University, Fenner School of Environment & Society. His primary scientific research and teaching are in the field of environmental biogeography, with a focus on the role of natural forests in carbon storage. Brendan has an abiding concern for the ethical bases to nature conservation and human-nature relations. Brendan currently serves on the Earth Charter Council, and is a member of the IUCN Council.

Ahangamage Tudor Ariyaratne is the founder and president of the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement. He was the recipient of the 1996 Gandhi Peace Prize, the Niwano Peace Prize, the King Beaudoin Award and many other international honours for his work in peacemaking and village development.

Religion's Imperative to Present 'the Other' Faithfully (Session 1)

Rabbi Dr Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Moderator
Tariq Ramadan
Marcus Braybrooke
Paul Knitter
Arvind Sharma
Balwant Singh Dhillon
Fr John Pawlikowski
Room 211

What is the religious imperative to present 'the other' faithfully? The need to accurately present traditions other than one's own is, to a large extent, a novel imperative—growing out of our contemporary interfaith reality and a growing movement which seeks to cultivate harmonious intrareligious relations. Against a history of caricature and scorn that have long characterised the portrayal of the other in each of our traditions, we are now challenged to consider: what is the theological and spiritual basis that requires us to present the other faithfully? How can we turn to our traditions and find within them the call to represent the other faithfully—even positively—and how do we replace the older scornful view with an alternative presentation of the other?

Alon Goshen-Gottstein is the director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute and director of the Centre for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Beit Morasha College, both in Jerusalem. He was ordained a rabbi in 1977. Projects of the Elijah Interfaith Institute include the bi-annual meeting of the board of World Religious Leaders, the Educational Network, as well as the Jewish and the Muslim Theology of the Religious Other.

Conflict Transformation and Peace Building

Stein Villumstad
Jacqueline Ogega
Dr William F Vendley
Room 212
Training Session

This workshop, held by the group Religions for Peace, will focus on the power of multireligious cooperation in conflict transformation. Open to all religious leaders, women of faith, youth and other stakeholders, the program seeks greater awareness of and commitment to multireligious action to end violent conflict and build peace. Group discussion will address various forms of violence and its victims, helping to contribute to an exchange of ideas regarding prevention, peace building, and knowledge of best practices. By further strengthening religious leaders' knowledge of how to effectively lead conflict transformation, peace building initiatives can emerge through multireligious cooperation.

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.

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.

Dr William F Vendley has served as Secretary General at Religions for Peace since 1994, coordinating international activities and projects in more than 70 states around the world. He has led negotiations that have helped to prevent conflicts, mediated peace and rebuilt societies in the aftermath of violence. Under his leadership, Religions for Peace and its affiliates have engaged religious communities to assist the more than 12 million orphans of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Private Property, Religion and the Environment

Paul Babie
Peter Burdon
Room 214
Lecture

Climate change is a private property problem. Specifically, the presently dominant model of private property, implemented and operating in legal systems worldwide, prioritises self-interest over obligation towards the community. This presentation argues that this underpins and makes possible those human activities which lead to ecological destruction. Yet climate change is more than a legal or a political issue. It is also a moral and spiritual challenge, which requires the application of spiritual or religious thought as part of the solution. The presenters

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will offer two unique solutions to this problem. Dr Babie will draw on both monotheistic and polytheistic traditions in arguing for a private property model which places community obligation in the hands of individuals who enjoy the protection of private property over goods and resources. Obligation thus becomes an individual matter of choice and decision. Mr Burdon will argue that private property is fundamentally anthropocentric, and drawing on the work of 'geologist' Fr Thomas Berry, will present ideas from an emerging field of law termed Earth Jurisprudence.

Paul Babie is Associate Dean of Law (Research) at the Adelaide Law School. He is also Founder and Director of the University of Adelaide Research Unit for the Study of Society, Law and Religion, and a Ukrainian Catholic Priest. He holds a BA (Calgary), BThSt (Flinders), LLB (Alberta), LLM (Melbourne), and a DPhil in law (Oxford). Paul's research focuses on law and religion, the nature of religious law, and property theory.

Peter Burdon is completing his PhD in Law at the University of Adelaide School of Law. He holds a BA (Adelaide) and LLB (Adelaide). Peter's research focuses on an emerging theory of law called Earth Jurisprudence which seeks to develop legal theory to recognise that humans exist as integral, interdependent members of a single, comprehensive Earth community. Peter lives on Kurna land in the Adelaide Plains with his wife and baby girl.

Judaism, Vegetarianism and Tikun Olam (Healing the World)

Thomas Kramer
Room 215
Seminar

Modern agribusiness has degraded vast areas of the earth's ecosystems and contributed to climate change. A meat-based diet is a major factor in these potentially catastrophic developments. This session will establish a non-sectarian protocol for a harmonious, sustainable, well-fed world, based on the traditional Jewish philosophy of Tikun Olam or Healing the World. As an ancient religion, many of Judaism's rituals were integrated into the annual cycle of the seasons. This integration was reinforced by Genesis 2:15, where Jews were enjoined to be Shomrei Ha'adamah, Guardians of the Earth. Subsequently, through the millennia, Judaism developed a practical, ethical philosophy of healing the world and its peoples. This program will provide an exposition of the crises the earth faces and an analysis of the most efficient and economical means of restoring sustainability to the planet's degraded ecosystems while also facilitating the regeneration of impoverished communities throughout the world. Importantly, the program will be structured to ensure that activists/participants take the recipient community's culture and mores into full consideration. In particular, appropriate guidelines will be devised and implemented to respect Indigenous people who maintain their traditional way of life and have an abiding history of living in harmony with their environment.

Tom Kramer is a Chartered Engineer and an Honorary Associate of the University of Sydney, where he received his PhD in 1994 for research into Antisemitism and the Holocaust. He authored the book 'From Emancipation to Catastrophe: The Rise and Holocaust of Hungarian

Jewry' and contributed ten articles to the publication 'Antisemitism: A Historical Encyclopedia of Prejudice and Persecution'. A vegetarian for over 25 years, Dr Kramer was one of the three Foundation Convenors of the Sydney Jewish Vegetarian Society.

The New Archaic: Neuroscience, Spiritual Practice and Healing

Anne Benvenuti
Elizabeth Davenport
Glenys Livingstone
Room 216
Interactive Workshop

This workshop will focus on the intersection of religious practice and neuroscience research. Participants will learn how neuro-networks in the brain relate to spiritual practice. The presenters will use experiential exercises and structured responses to illustrate the types of neuro-integration related to spiritual practice. They will also present an overview of related neuroscience research and its implications for religious practice and will apply it to specific examples of religious practice from Indigenous, Eastern, and Western traditions. The global panel of presenters, from Pagan, Buddhist and Christian traditions, will also discuss the importance of listening to one another, especially as it relates to the healing of the earth. The workshop will emphasise spiritual practise as something that awakens us to the idea that we are all 'co-beings' with others, with the natural world, and with the transcendent.

Anne Benvenuti, PhD, is Professor of Philosophy and Psychology at Cerro Coso College, California, and Visiting Scholar at University of Chicago Divinity School and Georgetown University Medical School, Systems Medicine. A licensed psychologist trained in mind/body medicine, she has published on science and religion and is working on models of religious accountability. Benvenuti has personal experience over many years in three traditions: Buddhism, Christianity and Shamanism. She is also a naturalist and published poet.

Elizabeth Davenport is Dean of Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago. She oversees religious life at the university, working with students, faculty and community leaders of all traditions. A native of England, she has a strong connection to Indigenous Celtic traditions and is ordained in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. She holds BA and MA degrees in theology from Oxford University and a PhD in Religion and Social Ethics from the University of Southern California.

Glenys Livingstone holds a PhD in Social Ecology and an MA in Theology and Philosophy. She has Australian country roots and has trained as a teacher. Dr Livingstone has been academically and culturally involved in the resurgence of female sacred imagery for over thirty years. She is a celebrant of the annual seasonal rituals and author of 'PaGaian Cosmology'. She lives in the Blue Mountains with her partner Taffy Seaborne.

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11:30am–1:00pm
INTERRELIGIOUS SESSION**Religious Conflict and Persecution:
The Cases of Myanmar, Thailand
and Iran****Dr Natalie Mobini-Kesheh**
Helen James
Room 217
Lecture

This program will consist of two parts. It will first explore the integral relationship between religion and public political society in contemporary Thailand and Myanmar in the context of Buddhism's philosophy of non-violence, its reification of ahimsa (non-violence, non-harm), and commitment to atman (selflessness) and moksha (non-attachment to materiality) as essential values for transforming socio-political relations. Religion is tightly interwoven with political life in these two countries, and each of them have substantial minorities who follow the Muslim, Christian, Hindu or other faiths. The second part of the program will relate to freedom of religion and the persecution of the Bahá'ís in Iran. Since 1979, Bahá'ís have faced a government-sponsored, systematic campaign of religious persecution in Iran, where they form the largest non-Muslim religious minority. Many Bahá'í leaders have been executed, hundreds of community members have been imprisoned, and tens of thousands have been deprived of jobs, pensions, businesses and educational opportunities. Their situation will be used as a springboard for discussion about how people of faith can unite to defend the universal human right to freedom of religion and belief in situations where this right is under attack.

Dr Natalie Mobini-Kesheh has been a member of the Australian Bahá'í community for almost 20 years. She is an active participant in interfaith dialogue on its behalf, and convenes a Women's Interfaith Network group in western Sydney. Dr Mobini-Kesheh received her doctorate from Monash University. Her research focused on the Arab minority in Indonesia. She is the author of one book and several papers in this field.

Helen James is an associate professor with the Australian Demographic and Social Research Institute, ANU, and Life Member, Clare Hall, Cambridge University. She researches and publishes on the sociology of non-violence, health and religion, particularly with respect to Thailand and Myanmar. She has published eight books and over thirty articles and book chapters.

**Interreligious Regional Concerns:
Middle East**

Room 218

How does spirituality—and the interreligious movement in particular—express itself through the prism of geography? This is one of a series of regional conversations.

East Asian Perspectives on Ecology**Maria Reis Habito**
Dharma Master Hsin Tao
Mary Evelyn Tucker
Ruben L F Habito
Peter Chang
Room 219
Panel Discussion

While globalisation has brought about new opportunities and advantages, it has also led to an ecological crisis of such proportions that, for the first time in history, the survival of many species (including humans) is at stake. Global warming, a compromised ozone layer, the pollution of water, earth and air, as well as rapidly progressing deforestation are all contributing to the extinction of countless species and causing natural disasters of tragic dimensions. This panel discussion will attempt to offer solutions to the ecological crisis, taken from the teachings and practices of East Asian traditions. Panel members will offer perspectives from the Confucian, Buddhist, Taoist and Shinto traditions and will discuss the distinctive contributions that each of these traditions can make toward healing the earth.

Maria Reis Habito is the International Program Director at the Museum of World Religions and Director of the Global Family for Love and Peace. She has studied in Taiwan, Munich and Kyoto, and completed her PhD at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in 1990. She has organised many international, interfaith conferences, notably a series of Buddhist-Muslim dialogues published under the title 'Listening: Buddhist-Muslim Dialogues 2002-2004' (Taipei, 2005).

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.

Mary Evelyn Tucker is a Senior Lecturer and Senior Scholar at Yale University, where she has appointments in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, the Divinity School, and the Department of Religious Studies. Specialising in Asian religions and ecology, she has been a committee member of the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment at the United Nations Environment Program since 1986 and is a member of the Earth Charter International Council.

Ruben L F Habito is Professor of World Religions at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, and founding teacher of the Maria Kannon Zen Center, Dallas, Texas. He served as President of the Society for Buddhist Christian Studies, and of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. His publications include 'Healing Breath: Zen for Buddhists and Christians in a Wounded World' (2006), 'Experiencing Buddhism: Ways of Wisdom and Compassion' (2005), and 'Living Zen, Loving God' (2004).

Dr Peter Chang is a Research Officer in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Program at La Trobe University, Australia. He holds a Harvard University doctoral degree in religious studies, specifically comparing the Christian and Confucian traditions. Peter is a Christian and a student of Confucianism. Recently, his researches examine how the classical Chinese philosophical and religious traditions could inform China's contemporary concerns, such as human rights, intercultural interactions, as well as bioethical and environmental exigencies.

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2:30–4:00pm
ENGAGEMENT SESSION

LUNCHTIME PROGRAMMING

1:00–2:30pm

Global Ethics and Religion Forum –
World Religions Perspectives on Justice,
War and Peace – Panel I

Rev Dr William Leshner, Moderator

Rabbi Dr Elliot Dorff

Heinz-Gerhard Justenhoven

Leif Stenberg

William O'Neill SJ

Hans Ucko

Room 110

Symposium

This is Panel #5 in the 'War and the Role of Religion in a Just and Sustainable World' Symposium.

Rev Dr Bill Leshner, Chair of the Parliament of the World's Religions Board of Trustees, has been active in the Parliament since its centennial gathering in Chicago in 1993, serving as an Ambassador for the Council in preparation for the 1999 Parliament in Cape Town, South Africa and as the convener of the 2004 Parliament in Barcelona, Spain. Dr Leshner has worked with communities and institutions across the globe in various responsibilities for church bodies. He currently serves as a Trustee of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia and as a member of the Board for the Global Ethics and Religion Forum.

Rabbi Elliott Dorff is Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at American Jewish University, USA. (Judaism)

Heinz-Gerhard Justenhoven is Director of the Institute for Theology and Peace, Germany. (Roman Catholic tradition)

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

William O'Neill is Associate Professor of Social Ethics at Jesuit School of Theology Berkeley, USA. (Africa)

Hans Ucko is a past Program Executive for Interreligious Relations and Dialogue for the World Council of Churches, Sweden.

Let's Shake

Karen Casey

Room 215

Artistic Performance

Let's Shake is a participatory art event encouraging people to extend a hand beyond their comfort zone and make a genuine connection with another person. The process involves casting the inside of a handshake while people communicate with each other. The resulting forms are intriguing, shell-like objects imprinted with a record of each person's palm and the memory of the encounter. The project came about during the development of a permanent artwork promoting reconciliation, commissioned by the University of Adelaide. Inspired by the notion of the space contained within a handshake, the idea was conceived by Melbourne artist Karen Casey and developed in collaboration with public sculptor Darryl Cowie. For the initial phase of the project, the University hosted an event with the artists, inviting Indigenous and non-Indigenous

representatives, staff and students. People sat opposite each other, holding wet plaster between their hands and making conversation until the plaster hardened. The cast handshake forms were then recorded and boxed to be used in the mould for the commissioned sculpture. In light of the heartfelt responses and encouragement from people involved in the process, it was decided to continue as Let's Shake, an ongoing project promoting cultural connection and dialogue through public events and artworks.

Karen Casey is a respected Melbourne Indigenous artist with a longstanding commitment to promoting environmental awareness and social harmony through her art. She has worked on numerous community, public art and urban design projects and in 2003 was appointed Artist-in-Residence for the City of Melbourne. She has recently been involved in Arts Education Curriculum programming and was a participant in the 2020 Summit at Parliament House, Canberra in 2008.

ENGAGEMENT 2:30–4:00pm

Spanish Language Session 1 of 2

Ruth Broyde Sharone

Room 101

Interactive Workshop

Esto es para nosotros, gente de habla español, un simposium interactivo dedicado a los participantes de Latinoamérica que se encuentran en el Parlamento de Melbourne. Este simposium, en nuestro idioma, nos brindará oportunidades de conocernos y de conectarnos. Vamos a examinar detalladamente los desafíos particulares de America Latina en el campo interreligioso, y vamos a contemplar como se podría realizar el gran potencial de nuestras comunidades, ciudades, y países. Recién empezamos pero ya vamos forjando nuestro propio camino. Somos gente de imaginación y de talento y ha llegado el momento de reconocer que tenemos mucho que contribuir al movimiento interreligioso global.

La primera parte del simposium será para mejorar la comunicación entre nosotros, país con país. Compartiremos nuestras experiencias hasta hoy día, los éxitos y los casi-éxitos. Exploraremos como se puede desarrollar una red extensiva de actividad interreligiosa entre nosotros mismos, una red que nos puede fortalecer y enriquecer.

Facilitará este simposium Ruth Broyde Sharone, la representante de la Red de Ciudades Hermanas, que el Parlamento mandó para alentarnos y apoyarnos. Ella ya visitó cuatro países de America Latina este año: Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia y Argentina. Nuestra amiga que nos apoya, Ruth pidió y logró crear este simposium en Melbourne especialmente para nosotros.

These two Latin American networking sessions will be conducted in Spanish, and arrangements can be made for translation into English upon request. Please email program@parliamentofreligions.org or visit the Program Information Desk by Saturday, December 5th.

Ruth Broyde Sharone is a documentary filmmaker, journalist and public speaker. She travels frequently to college campuses to lead interfaith programs and screen her popular film 'God and Allah Need to Talk'. Co-Chair of the Southern California Committee for the Parliament, Ruth also currently serves as a Partner Cities Associate. She is also Co-Director of the Rodef Shalom School for Peace, with Jerusalem peacemaker Eliyahu McLean. Her new book, 'Minefields and Miracles: Adventures In Interfaith' will be published in 2009.

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Religion and Belief in Public Schools

Cathy Byrne
Harry Gardner
Terence Lovat
Room 102
Panel Discussion

Global processes are increasing the ethnic and religious diversity of societies, including Australia, where about two-thirds of the nation's children are educated in the government schooling system and the other third in private religious schools. Education and religion has always been a controversial subject both before and since the government began funding religious schools in the 1960s. This seminar focuses on how religion is taught in government schools compared to private religious schools. We will discuss single-faith instruction, which is thought by some to increase religious intolerance, and will incorporate the perspective of a humanist representative who advocates teaching the Humanist perspective in public schools. Developing an understanding of our world's diverse religious traditions as well as respect for people of diverse faiths and no faith is essential for both hearing each other and collaborating together to heal the earth.

Cathy Byrne is a PhD scholar at Macquarie University's Centre for Research on Social Inclusion. Her thesis will focus on the social implications of segregated, single-faith religion classes in Australian public primary schools. This is a continuation of her Master's research, which examined cultural diversity attitude outcomes of senior school study of religion. Cathy is undertaking a Graduate Certificate in Religion and Values Education.

Harry Gardner is education director for the Victorian Humanist Society. Following a career in scientific research, Gardner turned to combining his interest in children's entertainment with primary school education. He has developed a Humanist curriculum framework for lessons in values and ethics as an alternative to religious scripture classes. The course is being considered for use by the Victorian Department of Education.

Professor Terence Lovat is an experienced researcher who has managed research projects concerning Values Education, Religion and Spirituality. He has published several scholarly texts and more than eighty refereed articles in scholarly journals and books. Professor Lovat is a regular keynote presenter at national and international conferences, most recently in the areas of religion, values and Islam at government sponsored conferences in Russia and Ukraine.

Has Economics Triumphed over Ethics?

Dr Hans Küng
Dr Simon Longstaff
Steve Killelea
Simon McKeon
Room 103

Recently a non-profit organization in Australia felt compelled to appeal for corporate sponsorship support on the following basis: domestic violence was bad for the economy, rather than that it was ethically wrong and harmful to individuals, families and society. How does this anecdote illustrate an evolving shift in the role of ethical considerations in the economic marketplace? Has this shift been a factor in the recent global financial crisis? What broadly shared values are needed if the world is going to make

progress to a more just, peaceful and sustainable world? What is the role of religion and spirituality in promoting human values and in partnering with the corporate and business sector in pursuing mutual aims? Renowned German theologian Hans Küng joins with senior business leaders in an 'agora forum' discussion on the ethical implications of recent trends in global economic dynamics.

Dr Hans Küng is an internationally known Christian theologian and president of the Global Ethic Foundation of Tübingen University. He has published over fifty titles, including *The Beginning of All Things – Science and Religion*, *Islam: Past, Present and Future* and a manifesto; *Global Economic Ethic – Consequences for Global Businesses*. Dr Küng lives and teaches in Tübingen, Germany.

Dr Simon Longstaff is the Executive Director of the St James Ethics Centre in Sydney, Australia. He has also been the inaugural President of the Australian Association for Professional and Applied Ethics, a Fellow of the World Economic Forum and a Member of the International Advisory Committee of the Foreign Policy Association. His book *Hard Cases, Tough Choices* was published by Macmillan in 1997.

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.

Simon McKeon is Executive Chairman of Macquarie Bank Limited's Melbourne office and specialises in mergers and acquisitions. He has degrees in Law and Commerce from the University of Melbourne and practised as a solicitor with Blake Dawson Waldron in Sydney. Mr McKeon is also Chair of MS Research Australia and founding Chair of Melbourne Cares. He is on the Board of VisionFund which is responsible for World Vision International's micro economic development activities.

Spiritual Education and Interreligious Learning for Primary (Elementary) and Secondary Students

Elizabeth Mellor
Helen Nichol
Sue Smith
Peta Goldberg
Room 104
Interactive Workshop

These presentations invite participants to engage interactively with various approaches to spiritual education and interreligious learning with primary and secondary school students. Children look for inner meaning and wider connections with the world to develop their sense of belonging, well-being and resilience. Interreligious learning and these experiential approaches complement each other. Such teaching can provide an internal structure for the future adult to build his or her own spiritual/religious being. Understanding the changing needs of the maturing child is crucial. Panel members will present some practical approaches to spirituality education and interreligious education within plural education frameworks.

Elizabeth Mellor is Co-Founder and Co-Director of Biame Network Inc, a nonprofit educational and spiritually oriented organisation dedicated to promoting spiritual fulfilment and personal well being for everyone. She is an international workshop facilitator and author living in Melbourne.

Helen Nichol, BBSoc, Dip Ed (Sec), MAPS (assoc), brings her career experience in psychology and education to her current studies in theology and philosophy. She is Chaplain at Erasmus School, with duties include teaching scripture and philosophy; developing and providing spiritual,

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social and emotional programs for the student and parent community; and providing a forum for spiritual inquiry and the practice of meditation for adolescents.

Sue Smith is a parent, educator, academic and storyteller whose work has been to engage young people in lively, fun learning that will lead them to better understand themselves and their world. As an Australian woman who is Anglican from birth, Buddhist by choice, and experienced at working with Indigenous Australians in education, Sue has sought ways in which education may nourish our common humanity and human potential.

Peta Goldberg is Professor of Religious Education at Australian Catholic University. She has worked extensively with teachers of religion in schools across Australia and New Zealand. For the past eight years, she has chaired the Queensland Studies Authority Study of Religion Syllabus committee and has published widely in the area of religious education.

Interpreting the Text: Apostasy and Homosexuality

Michael Kirby

Abdullah Saeed

Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon

Room 105

The 20th century was marked by many scientific discoveries about human (and other species') sexuality. Alfred Kinsey, Evelyn Hooker and, more recently, genetic scientists have postulated natural causes for sexual variation, presenting them as normal variants, not abnormal and deliberately chosen in defiance of ordinary norms. Against this background and the pluralist nature of modern societies, religious condemnations of homosexuals are increasingly questioned, including by believers. This has led to tensions in political, social and religious life. That tension is being acted out in many countries, including Australia, where laws discriminating against sexual minorities are being repealed and amended. Some religions insist on unwavering interpretations of scripture, antagonistic to homosexuals. However, drawing on his long experience as an Australian judge, Michael Kirby points to the occasional need to re-read texts where they come into conflict with advances in contemporary knowledge and experience. He suggests that this is what will happen with interpretations of Leviticus 20:13 and other Biblical texts that have been a source of great injustice to GLBT minorities.

Upon his retirement from the highest court in Australia in February 2009, **Michael Kirby** was the nation's longest serving judge. He has also served in many other courts and bodies in Australia and in UN bodies. He is President of the Institute of Arbitrators & Mediators Australia. He was raised in the Anglican tradition of Christianity which he sees, for historical reasons, as a denomination sensitive to inclusion of sometimes opposite and conflicting opinion.

Dr Abdullah Saeed is the Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Melbourne, where he also directs the National Centre of Excellence for Islamic Studies and Asia Institute (www.abdullahsaeed.org). He is involved in interfaith dialogue between Christians and Muslims, and between Jews and Muslims, and is a frequent and popular lecturer. Dr Saeed has a BA in Arab/Islamic Studies from Saudi Arabia, an MA in Applied Linguistics and a PhD in Islamic Studies from the University of Melbourne.

Rev Dorothy McRae-McMahon is a minister in the Uniting Church in Australia. She worked in the Pitt Street Parish in Sydney and as UCA National Director for Mission. She was Moderator of the World Council

of Churches Worship Committee for its Harare Assembly, has published nine books of liturgy and still writes liturgies for churches in six countries. She was awarded the 1988 Australian Human Rights Medal and an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Macquarie University.

Sacred Sites, Sacred Solidarity: Current Initiatives

Stein Villumstad

Additional Speakers to be Announced

Room 106

The World Heritage Sites initiative, implemented and administered by UNESCO, provides a model and link for efforts to safeguard the sacred sites of religious and spiritual communities worldwide. Efforts to expand this initiative internationally have been taken up by spiritual communities and interreligious organisations, at both grassroots and international levels. This session of the 'Sacred Sites, Sacred Solidarity' Symposium will feature the recent initiatives, their evolving character and the ways in which concerned individuals, groups, communities and institutions can join forces within this overarching movement to properly protect and respect the revered places of worship and practice of diverse spiritual traditions. Leading minds and passionate defenders of sacred sites will explore recent and innovative work in the sacred sites movement. Stein Villumstad, Deputy Secretary General of Religions for Peace, will discuss the process and development of a 'Code on Holy Sites' and the long and winding road to establishing an International Convention adopted by the United Nations to safeguard sacred spaces.

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.

Migrar o Morir/Paying the Price (Premier Film Series Selection)

Room 107

Film

This film examines the lives of impoverished workers from Guerrero, Mexico, who migrate to Sinaloa to pick exotic Chinese vegetables for the export trade. It is a devastating portrait of hardship—from these migrants' community of origin, largely abandoned by the local and state governments, to the inhumane and slave-like working conditions of the migrant camp. The film was directed by Alex Halkin. Q & A to follow.

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ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Global Ecological Crisis: A Time for the Reunion of Science and Religion?

Irina Trubetskova

Room 108

Academic Paper

Science and religion are two disciplines that seek truth and attempt to understand the construction of this world, even though they focus on different aspects of the same reality and use different ways to explore and interpret it. Their historical relationship has varied dramatically—from full harmony, respect and mutual understanding to alienation, separation, divorce and animosity. It is an undeniable reality that we face an impending global ecological crisis that threatens the future of our human civilisation and culture. In response, science and religion seem to be converging toward a common goal of preventing the global catastrophe. The predictions of former and current thinkers about the reunion of science and religion appear to be coming true. For example, the philosophy of Russian Cosmism looked forward to a time when all of humanity would be united by 'the philosophy of common task'. Indeed, is it not the main mission of both science and religion now to collaborate on promoting ecological awareness and cultivating sustainable ways of life in order to ensure a decent life for generations to come?

Irina Trubetskova has a PhD in Biology and is studying in the Natural Resources and Earth System Science department at the University of New Hampshire. She has also conducted research at the Max Planck Institute for Limnology in Germany, Michigan Technical University and the Estonian Marine Institute in Tallinn, Estonia. She is currently finishing her dissertation research entitled 'From Biosphere to Noosphere: A Challenge for Educators in the Age of Sustainability'.

Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding: The Case of Thailand

Naree Charoenpolpiriya**Sukkriya-Ayu Bahah****Arachapon Nimitkulpon**

Room 109

Inspired by Gandhi's Shanti Sena (or Peace Army), Peace Witness Volunteers (PWV) is an all-female group based in Southern Thailand. The conflict in this area involves Malay Muslims, local Buddhists, Thai authorities and the Malay Muslim armed groups. There are many human rights violations and discrimination against both the Malay Muslim and Thai Buddhist populations. The language barrier between local-language speaking villagers and Thai-speaking authorities, and more importantly the lack of information as well as the misinformation caused by the emerging communal antagonism, augments the conflicts. PWV is a third party mediator in conflict, providing a 'channel of communication', assisting with language interpretation, providing human rights and legal knowledge to the villagers and acting as representatives to media. In addition, they provide humanitarian-social support for victims of the conflict, increase awareness of conflicts and provide information to the general public. The latter

role has recently been proved by publication of the PWV's well-received book, 'Silent Whispering' (2009). The book presents stories of victims regardless of ethno-religious identity. It aims to generate well-rounded understandings about the Southern Thailand conflict to the Thai public, and hence to mitigate the antagonism fostered by the lack of information.

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.

Sukkriya-Ayu Bahah is the current project manager for Peace Witness Volunteers (PWV). Previously, she has participated in a peacebuilding workshop in India as well as human rights and nonviolent action trainings. As a former volunteer to the 2007 project of PWV, Sukkriya-Ayu has experienced a number of peace witnessing activities. She is a Muslim and will represent that community's involvement and perspectives.

Ms Arachapon Nimitkulpon works with the Working Group on Justice for Peace, a national human rights NGO that focuses on human rights abuses in the three southern provinces of Thailand. Last year she was part of the Peace Witnessing Project based in Pattani Province. Her role is to coordinate the fact-finding trips to villages and visit victims' families. She has also worked on constructive articulation through online media, writing articles, and making a short documentary.

Media Savvy: How journalists and Religious Leaders can Work Together for Better Coverage

Cardinal Theodore E McCarrick**Roland Shatz****Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff**

Room 110

A panel of religious leaders, journalists and media experts will discuss what it takes to get religion into the news cycle. What can religious leaders do to help overcome stereotype-driven news selection, and how can journalists make ethical decisions—even when the heat is on? We will examine data from the past year to see how major global broadcast networks devoted airtime to religion and values, and give awards to the religious leaders and news professionals who exemplify best practices. Religious leaders will be considered for awards on the basis of their willingness to be interviewed and how well they represent their religious tradition in the mainstream media. News professionals who champion coverage of religious diversity and make room for the complexities of religion within their newscasts will be considered for awards.

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.

Roland Shatz is the President of Media Tenor and a Co-Founder of the C-1 World Dialogue, and one of the leading experts in the field of media impact research. He has focused on improving global media through his work at Media Tenor, which provides ongoing international media content analysis, including analysis of new and traditional global media content.

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Canon Alistair Macdonald-Radcliff is Director General of the C-1 World Dialogue, has served as Senior Advisor to the World Economic Forum and its Council of 100 Leaders' West-Islamic Dialogue. He was also formerly Dean of All Saints' Cathedral in Cairo where he remains international advisor to President Bishop Mouneer Anis, Primate of the Anglican Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Shadi Toloui-Wallace

Shadi Toloui-Wallace

Room 201

Artistic Performance

Australian singer and composer Shadi Toloui-Wallace aims to uplift hearts through her music. Born to parents of Australian and Iranian origin, she blends diverse backgrounds to create music that is varied, soulful and unique. In this performance she will perform songs from her debut album, 'Leather Bound Book', a collection of Bahá'í Sacred Writings set to contemporary melodies with a World Music flair.

Born to parents of Australian and Iranian origin, **Shadi's** love for music and devotion to her Faith blends these diverse origins to create music that is varied, soulful and unique. Touching someone's heart in a song through the power of music is something she treasures. Shadi is undertaking a national tour with other artists both before and after the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Joanne Shenandoah: Healing Through Music

Room 201

Artistic Performance

A Grammy Award and eleven-time Native American Music award-winning artist, Joanne Shenandoah, a Wolf Clan member of the Iroquois Confederacy, has fulfilled the promise of her Native American name, Tekaliwah-kwa ('She Sings'). From traditional chants to contemporary sounds, Joanne enchants audiences around the world and has established a reputation as one of America's foremost and celebrated Native recording artists. Neil Young calls her 'one of the finest tributes to Native American Music and Culture'. The Associated Press states, 'Shenandoah has become the most critically acclaimed Native American Singers of her time'. Since emerging as an artist in 1990, Shenandoah has performed at Carnegie Hall, the White House, Kennedy Center, Earth Day on the Mall, Woodstock '94, the Parliament of the World's Religions in South Africa, Barcelona's Sagrada Familia in Spain, and Hwa Eom Temple in South Korea, as well as at thousands of venues in the US.

The Road to Copenhagen – Is Climate Change the New Slavery?

Room 202

Panel Discussion

There are interesting echoes between the current economic debate about climate change and the debate about the abolition of slavery over 150 years ago. One of the chief objections to ending the admittedly morally objectionable practice of slavery was the projected collapse it would bring to the world economy. Similar projections have been given for scenarios in which the global economic system would be transformed to reduce green house emissions through the development of new technologies and changes to more eco-friendly lifestyles of individuals and nations. Is climate change in all its manifestations a new form of slavery? Are there any lessons from the abolition of slavery, and the resulting boom to the world economy that resulted, which might be applied to the current situation? How do we weigh moral and economic values and outcomes as we consider addressing this pressing global challenge?

Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Response and Advocacy by Religious Communities

Sue Wareham, Moderator

Hirotsuga Terasaki

Mr Kawai

Room 204

Nuclear weapons are the most significant human-made destructive force on the planet. They pose a spiritual as well as existential threat to humanity. Why has humanity been so slow and ineffective in meeting the challenge posed by nuclear arms? What can religious and spiritual communities do to meet the challenge of abolishing these weapons of mass annihilation? This panel discussion will explore the grassroots and advocacy efforts made by various religious communities around the world to protect against nuclear proliferation and mobilise public opinion. These include the proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention, and the development of educational tools such as exhibitions, volumes of nuclear survivors' testimonies, DVDs and publications showing what individuals can do to address the situation. SGI's work on disarmament is characterised by grassroots education. These activities, which have been carried out on a global scale, include petition drives, traveling public exhibitions, seminars and publications.

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

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Strangers Becoming Neighbours: Community Interfaith Responses to Interdependence (Session 1)

Paul Chaffee, Moderator

Helen Spector

James DeLange

Janet Bregar

Carla Mae Streeter

Michael G Pappas

Paul R Strickland

Donald Reid

Samir Selmanovic

Room 207

Panel Discussion

Six stories of interfaith response to our growing local interdependence will provide models and lessons learned about how we build interfaith understanding and social cohesion in our communities. These panellists will recount their experiences creating safe spaces to encounter 'the other', working side-by-side to make our cities hospitable and safe for people of diverse traditions, standing up for and with each other, and learning how to honour the dignity and humanity of each other. They will also share how, in doing so, they all have been changed. After the panel presentations, session attendees will share stories of success and challenge from their local settings. By engaging each other on critical questions, they will enrich our local interfaith responses to increasing interdependence. This session will continue through the afternoon Openspace program time.

Paul Chaffee, ordained in the United Church of Christ (USA), has been the Executive Director of the Interfaith Center at the Presidio in San Francisco since its inception in 1995. He is a trustee of the North American Interfaith Network and has helped begin several United Religions Initiative Cooperation Circles.

Helen Spector serves on the Board of Trustees for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. She joined the Board in 1990 to help plan the 1993 Parliament Centenary Celebration and has served as co-chair for the Site Selection task forces that selected Barcelona (2004) and Melbourne (2009) for Parliament gatherings. Helen lives in Portland, Oregon.

Rev James DeLange has been Chair of the San Francisco Interfaith Council since 2004. For nearly all of its twenty years of existence, Pastor DeLange has served on the Council's Board of Directors, first as Chief Financial Officer. Pastor DeLange was Senior Pastor of St Francis Lutheran Church in San Francisco for eighteen years. Before coming to St Francis, he served Faith Lutheran Church in Huntington Beach, California, a congregation he founded in 1962.

Rev Dr Janet Bregar is a professor of Comparative Religions and the Pastor of Village Church in Los Angeles. She is currently an instructor in Comparative Religions at California State University Fullerton. Dr Bregar is the past executive director of the Santa Monica Bay Interfaith Council and a current Board Member. Dr Bregar has been active in interfaith work both in the United States and internationally for over thirty years.

Carla Mae Streeter, OP, is a Dominican Sister presently serving as a full professor at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St Louis, Missouri. Dr Streeter is a member of the board of Interfaith Partnership/Faith Beyond Walls, an interfaith organisation of 31 religious traditions. She teaches theology in the Latin Catholic tradition.

Michael G Pappas is Executive Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council. For sixteen years, he served parishes in San Francisco and Palos Hills, Stockton, California as an ordained priest in the Greek Orthodox Church, focusing on the homeless and interfaith relationships. Prior to

entering the ministry, Michael worked as a lobbyist, a Regional Field Director for a presidential campaign, and an investment banker for the oldest municipal bond firm in New Jersey.

Paul Strickland is the Executive Director of the Center for Religious Inquiry (CRI) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CRI's mission is to create a safe, welcoming place for religious seekers of any background or affiliation to experience a deeper understanding of unity through inquiry, dialogue, study and reflection. Paul is a former corporate human resources executive who is deeply committed to the interreligious movement in Minneapolis and internationally in Peru, South Africa, Syria and Cuba.

Donald Reid is an ordained member of the Scottish Episcopal Church and has worked since 2004 as director of the Festival of Spirituality and Peace. The Festival seeks to bring together thinkers, artists and performers, from every faith and none, to discern and model ways to build peace in a post-9/11 world. Donald is also co-convenor of the Edinburgh InterFaith Association.

Samir Selmanovic, PhD, is the author of 'Really All About God: Reflections of a Muslim Atheist Jewish Christian'. He is the founder and Christian co-leader of Faith House Manhattan, an interfaith 'community of communities' that brings together forward-looking Christians, Muslims, Jews, atheists and others who seek to thrive interdependently. Samir serves on the Interfaith Relations commission of the US National Council of Churches and speaks nationally and internationally. He lives in New York City.

Sharing Wisdom – Fostering Peace

Jathedar Singh Sahib Giani Gurbachan Singh

Rabbi Dr Alon Goshen-Gottstein

Dharma Master Hsin Tao

Dr Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh

Paul Knitter

Room 208

Panel Discussion

The 21st century is marked by a widespread feeling of crisis, insecurity and loss of direction. The ecological balance of the Earth is under serious threat; political, social and economic security is elusive; and religions are faced with numerous challenges, both from inside and outside. This panel will consider how, through sharing the wisdom found in our religious traditions, we can address collectively the multiple challenges posed to us as people of faith in the 21st century. It is a continuation of the discussion held during the third meeting of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders in Amritsar in 2007. We will enter into the discussion starting with the basic question: What is wisdom? Why should we share? Further, which distinct teachings and methods do our religions offer to achieve inner peace? What is the relationship between inner and outer peace? What is the role of forgiveness? Finally, we will ask which particular wise teaching from our own tradition would we like to share with the others. The panel will conclude by inviting each participant to reflect on gifts received from listening to the religious Other.

Jathedar Singh Sahib Giani Gurbachan Singh, aged 60, is the current religious head of Sri Akaal Takhat Sahib, the supreme religious authority of the Sikhs, based in Amritsar, Punjab, India. He was appointed as Jathedar on 6 August 2008, after serving 37 years as a Sikh religious preacher. His last appointment was as Head Granthi of Sri Harmandir Sahib, also known as the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Alon Goshen-Gottstein is the director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute, and director of the Centre for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Beit Morasha College, both in Jerusalem. He was ordained a rabbi in 1977.

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Projects of the Elijah Interfaith Institute include the bi-annual meeting of the board of World Religious Leaders, the Educational Network, as well as the Jewish and the Muslim Theology of the Religious Other.

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 Wu-sheng 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 UNESCO Paris and UN in New York.

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.

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.

Green Buildings, Green Cities – An Ethical Path Forward

Steve Perkins
Stephen Scharper
Andrew Newman
Room 209
Panel Discussion

The challenge of sustainability and climate change calls all people, and especially religious and spiritual communities, to dramatically reduce their use of resources—especially energy—to avert planetary disaster. This challenge is occurring in the context of global urbanisation: 50 percent of the world's population now lives in cities. Unless cities can decrease their emissions and restore their ecological integrity, our children and grandchildren will inherit a degraded, even an uninhabitable Earth. Fortunately, cities have a unique potential to offer residents a good quality of life while using resources wisely as a result of their density, cultural creativity and social networks for innovation. Religious and spiritual communities can now play many roles in this move toward urban sustainability. They raise up the Creation as a gift from God to be protected, rather than a commodity to be consumed. They support each other in the struggle to change behaviours. They witness to the justice demands of the poor and disempowered. And they model new, more sustainable ways of being and acting, both individually and collectively. This program will explore ways that religious communities and interreligious organisations are providing leadership in this movement toward urban sustainability.

Dr Stephen Perkins is senior vice president of the Center for Neighborhood Technology, a Chicago-based organisation that promotes sustainable urban communities. He has organised multiple urban revitalisation projects in Chicago and is currently working to make the 2009 Parliament event carbon neutral.

Stephen Bede Scharper is Associate Professor with the Centre for the Study of Religion and the Centre for Environment at the University of

Toronto, and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto at Mississauga. Formerly president of the Religious Education Association of the US and Canada, he is author of 'Redeeming the Time: A Political Theology of the Environment' (Continuum 1997). His research and teaching are in the areas of ethics and ecology.

Andrew K Newman is Project Coordinator for the MillionTreesNYC initiative. He has experience in working with diverse populations in the area of community engagement and has an academic background in religious studies.

Educating Religious Leaders for a Multi-Religious World

Don Swearer, Moderator
Hajjah Maria Ulfah
Michael Melchior
Antje Jackelén
Pal Ahluwalia
Swami Atmapriyananda
Eshin Nishimura
Room 210
Panel Discussion

How is the next generation of religious leaders being educated? Does their preparation include knowledge of other religious traditions, insights into the modern interfaith movement and training in working together with leaders from other religions? This panel, created by the Henry Luce Foundation-funded Task Force of Theological Education which represents fifteen US seminaries, will open some of these questions and begin an exploration that, it is hoped, will be carried on in places around the world where religious leaders are being educated. Emphasis is placed on the 'initial' nature of this discussion. Six religious educators plus the moderator, each from a different religion, will comprise the panel. Since no one person can represent the many different ways religious leaders are educated in each tradition, the panelists will give examples from their own experience. They may also place these experiences in the larger framework of typical educations in their tradition. Interaction among the panel members and with the audience will undoubtedly lend further insights into the topic. Participants who are interested in this issue will be encouraged to carry on this explorative discussion at daily 'Educating Religious Leaders for a Multi-Religious World' seminars and to stay in contact with each other.

Donald K Swearer is the Director for the Center for the Study of World Religions and Distinguished Visiting Professor of Buddhist Studies at Harvard Divinity School. He was previously the Charles and Harriet Cox McDowell Professor of Religion at Swarthmore College. His publications on Buddhism, comparative religions and interreligious dialogue include 'Dialogue: The Key to Understanding Other Religions' and 'For the Sake of the World: The Spirit of Buddhist and Christian Monasticism'.

Hajjah Maria Ulfah is a lecturer and Vice Rector of the Institute for Qur'anic Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia. In 1980, she won both the national Qur'an recitation competition in Jakarta and the international Qur'an recitation competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. As a professional Qur'an reciter, she has appeared all over Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe, North America, Australia and Japan.

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

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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.

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.

Professor Pal Ahluwalia is Pro Vice Chancellor of Education, Arts and Social Sciences at the University of South Australia. He has published many books and articles and was appointed a UNESCO Chair in Transnational Diasporas and Reconciliation Studies in 2008. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia.

Swami Atmapriyananda was inspired by the Ramakrishna-Vivekananda ideal of renunciation and service and was drawn to monastic life through his close contact with monks of the Ramakrishna Order. He taught physics at Vidyamandira College for nearly 27 years. When the Ramakrishna Mission established Vivekananda University in 2005, Swami Atmapriyananda became its first Vice Chancellor, a position he currently holds.

Eshin Nishimura has been a Rinzaï Zen Buddhist priest since 1936. He is former president of Hanazono University in Kyoto, Japan and is also a major modern scholar in the Kyoto School of thought. A current professor in the Department of Buddhism at Hanazono University, he has lectured at universities throughout the world on the subject of Zen Buddhism. He has been a participant in many dialogues on the relationship of Zen to Christianity and Western philosophy.

The State and Religious Freedom

Rabbi David Saperstein
Room 211

What is the role of the state in protecting religious freedom? What is the role of religious communities in asserting their religious freedoms in the civic realm, and where may those efforts best be focused? What collaborations can enhance the ongoing work of protecting religious freedom? Rabbi David Saperstein, the director and counsel of the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, is an expert in church/state issues. His expertise covers issues such as hate crimes, discrimination, free exercise, equal rights, and the role of religious communities in active engagement in political processes. 'The religious community cannot be complacent. Too much is at stake.'

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.

Alternatives to Empire, Another World is Possible

Rev Harry Kerr
Larry Marshall
Dr Chandra Muzaffar
Joseph Camilleri
Room 212
Interactive Workshop

Alternatives to Empire is a collaborative project that challenges the characteristics of Empire: dominance achieved through military victory; the exploitation of the economic resources of the subject peoples; the destruction of cultures, religions and languages of subject peoples; and the transfer of wealth from poor to rich. The project assumes that people of different faiths and philosophies can discover common values that embody a respect for the rights and dignity of all humanity, sustainable stewardship of the earth's economic and ecological systems, and the sacredness and unity of all life. This workshop will explore those values that are universal in scope and inspiration and that are premised on the fundamental questions of human existence: Who are we? What is our purpose on this earth? How should we live? How should we address the critical challenges that face humanity at this moment in history? This workshop engages members of all faiths and humanist traditions in a conversation, based upon a respect for the diversity of deeply held views. It will open up new energies, resources and skills to envision and enact alternatives to the present structures of hegemonic domination.

Reverend Harry Kerr, is Convenor of Pax Christi Victoria, a branch of the International Christian Peace Movement, Pax Christi International.

Larry Marshall is the Project Officer for the Centre for Dialogue at La Trobe University where he is responsible for two projects involving the Muslim Community in Victoria. He coordinates the Young Muslim Leadership Training Program and the visits by Islamic Scholars to Australia. Larry is also the Project Officer for the International Network of Universities (INU) on a project to coordinate a Master's Program in Global Citizenship and Peace across eight international partner universities.

Dr Chandra Muzaffar is President of the International Movement for a Just World (JUST), an international NGO based in Malaysia, which seeks to critique global injustice and to develop an alternative vision of a just and compassionate civilisation guided by universal spiritual and moral values. He is also the Noordin Sopiee Professor of Global Studies at the Science University of Malaysia (USM) in Penang and has published extensively on a variety of subjects.

Joseph Camilleri is the founder and director of the Centre for Dialogue at La Trobe University in Melbourne and one of Australia's leading International Relations scholars. Professor Camilleri has pursued a wide range of research interests in the International Relations discipline. These include regional and global governance, the political economy of Asia-Pacific, the role of religion and culture in international affairs, the politics of oil and the Middle East, and security policy (including weapons non-proliferation).

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UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations – Asia Pacific: An Interregional Perspective on Interreligious Relations

Anna Halafoff
Dr Rosa Maria Guerreiro
Gary Bouma
Greg Barton
Dr Tuba Boz
Douglas Pratt
Dr Zainal Abidin Bagir
Dr Fatimah Hussein
Dr Yeoh Seng Guan
Room 213
Panel Discussion

In this program, the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations (UCIIR) - Asia Pacific staff and associates will discuss their recent and current projects in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and New Zealand. The UCIIR - Asia Pacific is an educational, research and policy activity centred in the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University. UNESCO has established UCIIRs since 1995 to provide input drawn from an understanding of religious and cultural diversity to UNESCO programs and policies, to conduct research in their area and to engage in policy debates in their region. The UNESCO Chair for the Asia-Pacific was awarded to Monash University in 2004 and was launched by H E Abdurrahman Wahid, former President of Indonesia.

Anna Halafoff is a researcher for the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific and the Global Terrorism Research Centre, School of Political and Social Inquiry, Monash University. Dr Rosa Maria Guerreiro is a Program Specialist, Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue, Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue, UNESCO Paris.

Professor Gary Bouma is the Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Monash University and an Associate Priest at St John's East Malvern. His research has focused primarily on the interaction between religion and society in Western societies including Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Europe. He is the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, Monash University.

Professor Greg Barton is Acting Director of the Centre for Islam and the Modern World and Deputy UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, Monash University.

Dr Tuba Boz is a researcher for the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, Monash University.

Professor Douglas Pratt is convenor of the Religious Studies Programme at the University of Waikato, New Zealand and Canon Theologian Emeritus of the Anglican Diocese of Waikato. He is the New Zealand Associate of the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, Monash University.

Dr Zainal Abidin Bagir is the Executive Director of the Center for Religious and Cross-cultural Studies, Graduate School of Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. He is an Indonesian Associate of the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, Monash University.

Dr Fatimah Hussein is Professor of Islam-Christian Dialogue, Universitas Islam Negeri - Sunan Kalijaga Jogjakarta, Indonesia.

Dr Yeoh Seng Guan is Senior Lecturer in Communications, Monash Malaysia. He is a Malaysian Associate of the UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific, Monash University.

A Spiritual Audit of the World's Workplaces: Sharing Our Stories of the Human Spirit at Work

Elizabeth Denton
Room 215
Interactive Workshop

More and more people have started to express a desire to bring their 'whole selves' to work. We spend so much of our waking lives in the workplace, where there are innumerable, indescribable opportunities and possibilities for personal transformation and meaningful interaction with our coworkers. Drawing on research published in 'A Spiritual Audit of Corporate America' (1999) and 'A Spiritual Audit of the World's Workplaces' (forthcoming, 2010), Dr Elizabeth A Denton will present conclusions, insights and stories of how spirituality and consciousness are expressed in our global workplaces, at the individual level, within teams or work units, through organisational policies and processes, to the impact on communities and our planet. Following this initial presentation, participants will dialogue in small groups and share stories and workplace examples of spirituality, consciousness, values, and expressions of basic humanity, using examples from their own experience or those they've observed. Each small group will choose two or three stories to share when the large group comes back together. Participants will learn how individuals and organisations in other countries, cultures, and traditions express their spirituality and humanity in the workplace. They will leave with multiple examples to take back and implement in their own workplaces.

Dr Elizabeth A Denton is a psychologist, business consultant, author, wisdom teacher, and integrative energy practitioner based in New York City. Co-author of 'A Spiritual Audit of Corporate America' (1999) and 'A Spiritual Audit of the World's Workplaces' (forthcoming, 2010), Liz works with leaders of large global corporations and entrepreneurial organisations to bring more consciousness, awareness, presence, values and ethics into our workplaces.

The Spiritual Dynamics of Hearing/Listening and Healing: Awakening to the Flow Within, Between and Among Us

John L Hochheimer
Room 216
Interactive Workshop

The work of reconciliation in post-traumatic societies seeks to create the space for people to experience their common humanity in the aftermath of political violence. This work often requires the ongoing construction of safe spaces where compassionate hearing among people of differing faith/religious identities can take place. Using stories from the field and interactive group exercises, this

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will be a workshop/seminar in which we engage participants from different religious/spiritual communities in awakening our experience of interconnection, helping us to expand our identities beyond self and other to 'We'. Working together, we can begin the ongoing work of hearing each other and healing the earth by healing each other while hearing the earth.

John L Hochheimer is Professor of Communication at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He received his doctorate in Communication from Stanford University in 1986. His primary work has been in the area of Spirituality in Media, Communication and Education, with an emphasis on community-based efforts to promote reconciliation in post-traumatic societies.

The Muslim Green: Muslim Contributions to Healing the Earth

Norah Ziad Elmagraby
Dr Fahad A Alhomoudi
Imam Afroz Ali
Dr Bagher Talebi Darabi
Dr Nargis Virani
Room 219
Panel Discussion

For many Muslims, the color green represents a connection to the beauty and promise of nature—on Earth and in Paradise. Nearly 800 of the 6,236 verses in the Qur'an reference nature and its relationship to humanity. Through the lenses of scholarship, activism and the arts, this panel will discuss the Muslim connection to nature and the environment as well as many Muslims' approach to healing the Earth coming from Sunni, Sufi and Shi'a perspectives. Panellists will discuss the role of protecting the environment and natural resources in Islamic Law, the rights of the environment in Islam with special emphasis on water management principles, Rumi's views on the dynamism of the relationship between humans and nature, the environmental crisis and human health from a Shi'a Islam viewpoint, and more.

Norah Ziad Elmagraby is a Junior Nursing student at Dar Al-Hekma College, where she is founder of the Dar Al-Hekma Recycling club and Student Government President. She is also on the Dean's list for academic excellence. She participated in Zaid University's Youth Delegation to Dubai in 2008 for the Women as Global Leaders conference and led many community service projects.

Dr Fahad A Alhomoudi obtained his PhD in Islamic Law from McGill University (2006). He was appointed a Vice-Dean for academic research at Imam University in Saudi Arabia (2007) and was awarded a Fulbright scholar award (2008). In addition to his native Arabic, Alhomoudi speaks English and French and can read Persian. Alhomoudi has published two books and several articles. His research covers Islamic Law, Environmental Law, Prophetic Tradition, and Interfaith Dialogue.

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.

Bagher Talebi Darabi is a Faculty Member of Adyan University in Qom. He holds a PhD in Sociology of Culture from the Allameh Tabatabaee

University, Tehran. He translated 'The Essential Talmud', written by Adin Stiensaltz, into the Persian language and has contributed several articles on issues such as New Religious Movements, New Age and Sociology of Religion to both domestic and international conferences.

Dr Nargis Virani is Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at The New School University in New York City. Born in Mumbai, India, she has studied and taught at universities around the Middle East and North America and received her MA and PhD from Harvard University. A scholar of pre-modern Islamic Thought and Mystical Literatures, her research interests concentrate on multilingual literatures developed in a Muslim milieu.

Does the Media Have Faith? – Daily Youth Workshop

Joseph Youhana
Jan Shamoon
Kalyan Ky
Nosrat Hosseini
Maryam Marqos
Tina Hosseini
Room 220

It is fair to say that religion does not get a good rap in the media. Nine times out of ten the story is negative. But where does the responsibility lie in changing the way the media reports on religion? This interactive workshop, facilitated by members of the Ethnic Youth Council, will explore the impact media stories about religion have on the individual and community using small group discussions and role plays.

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Spanish Language Session 2 of 2

Ruth Broyde Sharone
Room 101
Interactive Workshop

Esto es para nosotros, gente de habla español, un simposium interactivo dedicado a los participantes de Latinoamérica que se encuentran en el Parlamento de Melbourne. Este simposium, en nuestro idioma, nos brindará oportunidades de conocernos y de conectarnos. Vamos a examinar detalladamente los desafíos particulares de America Latina en el campo interreligioso, y vamos a contemplar como se podría realizar el gran potencial de nuestras comunidades, ciudades, y países. Recién empezamos pero ya vamos forjando nuestro propio camino. Somos gente de imaginación y de talento y ha llegado el momento de reconocer que tenemos mucho que contribuir al movimiento interreligioso global.

La segunda parte es para vincular nuestras comunidades con el Parlamento global. Vamos a soñar juntos, a crear iniciativas para compartir recursos y ideas, simultáneamente entre nosotros y con gente de todo el mundo. Tenemos ya ejemplos de gran actividad y de potencial,

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los resultados de los eventos Pre Parlamentos que ya se realizaron, que puedan inspirar activistas en todos lados. Vamos a ver como planeamos compartir nuestras experiencias con los de más.

Facilitará este simposium Ruth Broyde Sharone, la representante de la Red de Ciudades Hermanas, que el Parlamento mandó para alentarnos y apoyarnos. Ella ya visitó cuatro países de America Latina este año: Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia y Argentina. Nuestra amiga que nos apoya, Ruth pidió y logró crear este simposium en Melbourne especialmente para nosotros.

These two Latin American networking sessions will be conducted in Spanish, and arrangements can be made for translation into English upon request. Please email program@parliamentofreligions.org or visit the Program Information Desk by Saturday, December 5th.

Ruth Broyde Sharone is a documentary filmmaker, journalist and public speaker. She travels frequently to college campuses to lead interfaith programs and screen her popular film 'God and Allah Need to Talk'. Co-Chair of the Southern California Committee for the Parliament, Ruth also currently serves as a Partner Cities Associate. She is also Co-Director of the Rodef Shalom School for Peace, with Jerusalem peacemaker Eliyahu McLean. Her new book, 'Minefields and Miracles: Adventures In Interfaith' will be published in 2009.

Pagans and Religious Freedom

H Ps Phyllis Curott

Patrick McCollum

Grove Harris

Room 102

Panel Discussion

Minority religions are often misunderstood and sometimes discriminated against because of the lack of accurate information among the general population. From creating legally recognised religious organisations to gaining the right to minister to the incarcerated, from including the Pagan traditions in academic and interfaith discourse, to winning the right to have their religious symbols on the tombstones of Pagan soldiers, the individuals on this panel will discuss the ways that each of them has been publicly active in addressing these and other issues of religious freedom for non-mainstream religions, including Paganism.

An attorney and Wiccan priestess for almost 25 years, **H Ps Phyllis Curott** is the author of 'WitchCrafting: A Spiritual Guide to Making Magic'. An outspoken advocate for the rights of Wiccans, she has been widely profiled in the national and international media, and is a founder of the Temple of Ara.

Patrick McCollum is the Director and Chair of the National Correctional Chaplaincy Directors Association and statewide Wiccan chaplain for the California Department of Corrections. McCollum has taught Pagan Chaplaincy Training at the Leadership Institute, part of Circle Sanctuary's annual Pagan Spirit Gathering. He is the National Coordinator of the Lady Liberty League Prison Ministries Program and a member of the National Advisory Council of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

Grove Harris is a pragmatic visionary and social justice educator with expertise in religious diversity in the US. She served as the Managing Director for the Pluralism Project, based at Harvard, until 2007 and is now the Program Director for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. Grove was a participant at the 1999 Parliament in Cape Town and 2004 Parliament in Barcelona. Grove has written on Pagan involvement in the interreligious movement, and healing in feminist Wicca.

Spiritual Practice, The Inner Search

Petrea King

Mahant Swami Shankarananda

Room 103

To understand the real meaning of religion we have to understand its spiritual core. The key understanding of spirituality is that there is a divine possibility that exists within every one of us. The great realisers of humankind are those who have attained this goal. They have tapped into a universal dimension marked by happiness, wisdom and love. To attain this exalted and transformed state we have to begin to understand the relationship between our subjective inner world and the objective outer world. The events of the outer world have seeds within our own psyche. By means of spiritual practice (sadhana), including meditation and self-inquiry, we are able to remove blocks and make inner connections that transform our outer life. We find the spark of God within ourselves. If we ignore the enormous importance of the inner world to our lives, we condemn ourselves to the 'law of chance', that is, we go up and down according to external events. As we grow in the understanding of the laws of our inner being, we establish an inner power and certainty that we take to all of our encounters.

Petrea King has brought her warmth, humour and wisdom to thousands of people facing spiritual challenges. Bestselling author of eight books and many meditation CDs, Petrea is the Founding Director of the Quest for Life Foundation which provides services for people dealing with life's greatest challenges. A regular guest in the media she has often been nominated for Australian of the Year and is also the recipient of numerous awards including the Centenary Medal.

Mahant Swami Shankarananda is a leading meditation teacher and Director of the Shiva School of Meditation in Mt Eliza. He has taught and written about meditation, self-inquiry and the philosophy of Kashmir Shaivism for over forty years. He is author of the best-selling book 'Happy for No Good Reason', and 'Consciousness is Everything'.

Experience the Women's Interfaith Network

Natalie Mobini-Kesheh

Josie Lacey

Rev Pravrajika Ajayaprana Mataji

Thubten Chokyi

Mohini Gunesekera

Susan Emeleus

Trish Madigan

Seforosa Carrol

Wilma Viswanathan

Shehara Viswanathan

Mina Singh Batra

Room 105

Panel Discussion

The Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) is a gathering of women of many religious traditions who meet and work to promote harmony, understanding and respect among the followers of the various world religions, and stand together as a sign of solidarity among people of faith.

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Officially launched in Sydney, Australia in March 2001, WIN provides a model for constructive and harmonious dialogue between women of faith, who are often excluded or under-represented in the dialogue between faith leaders. Local WIN groups can be formed where there are women from at least three different religious groups who are willing to adopt the Aim and Principles of WIN. In addition to presenting WIN as a practical model that others can adopt, this program will provide participants with an opportunity to witness a WIN dialogue in action.

Dr Natalie Mobini-Kesheh has been a member of the Australian Bahá'í Community for almost 20 years. She is an active participant in interfaith dialogue on its behalf and convenes a Women's Interfaith Network group in Western Sydney. Dr Mobini-Kesheh received her doctorate from Monash University for her historical research on the Arab minority in Indonesia and is the author of one book and several papers in this field.

Josie Lacey was the Foundation Convenor of the Women's Interfaith Network. She is a life member of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and an executive member of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies. Mrs Lacey is the Interfaith Adviser to the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) and the Australian Partnership of Religious Organisations (APRO). She is also a New South Wales Executive Member of the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

Rev Pravrajika Ajayaprana Mataji is the President of the Ramakrishna Sarada Vedanta Society of New South Wales.

Thubten Chokyi is a Buddhist nun in the Gelugpa tradition, a meditation leader and a teacher of Tibetan Buddhism. She is the Spiritual Program Coordinator at Vajrayana Institute in Sydney, Australian Coordinator and Teacher Coordinator for the Liberation Prison Project, and Volunteer Manager for the Happiness & Its Causes and Mind & Its Potential conferences. She is a member of Women's Interfaith Network and a committee member of the Australian Sangha Association.

Mohini Gunsekera arrived in Australia from Sri Lanka in 1972. She practiced as a Barrister from 1974 to 1979, and thereafter as a Solicitor. She has acted for many Buddhist charities, as well as the Sri Lanka Association and the Sri Lanka Consulate Sydney. Mohini was Founding President of the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils and is now its Honorary Vice President. She served for many years as Vice President of the Buddhist Council for New South Wales.

Reverend Susan Emeleus holds degrees and training in science, education, theology, counselling and hospital chaplaincy. She worked for 30 years as a physics teacher in East Africa, Papua New Guinea and Australia. She was a Chaplain at the Children's Hospital, Westmead for five years. Sue was ordained Deacon in the Anglican Church in 1996 and is honorary assistant minister at St George's Anglican Church, Paddington, NSW. Sue is Convenor of the core group of the Women's Interfaith Network.

Trish Madigan is a 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 Seforosa Carroll is a Uniting Church minister and a student at the School of Theology, Charles Sturt University. Her PhD research is on a feminist diasporic reading of interfaith dialogue and encounters in Australia. Sef is currently the Chairperson of the Uniting Church National Assembly Working Group on Relations with Other Faiths. She represents the Uniting Church on the National Dialogue of Christians, Muslims and Jews and is a member of the Women's Interfaith Network.

Wilma Viswanathan has served on the Uniting Church National Assembly Working Group on Relations with Other Faiths since the early 1990s. She was one of the keynote speakers at the Women's program of the International Conference of Christians and Jews in Jerusalem in June 2008. She is the Secretary of the World Conference of Religions for Peace

in NSW and a member of the Council of Christians and Jews and the Anti-Slavery Project.

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.

Mina Singh Batra was born in India, where she witnessed the Partition and assisted with the rehabilitation of refugees. Since coming to Australia in 1973 with her husband, Mina has represented the Union of Australian Women and the National Council of Women in Australia at the United Nations Women's World Conferences in Beijing and New York. Mina is the Convenor for Interfaith of the Executive of the United Nations Association of Australia (NSW).

Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action

Room 107

Film

Nearly all Native American nations live on land threatened by environmental hazards, from toxic waste to strip mining and from oil drilling to nuclear contamination. This documentary film tells the stories of five activists in four communities dedicated to protecting Indian lands against environmental disaster, while preserving their sovereignty and ensuring cultural survival. The film was directed by Roberta Grossman.

Enhancing Religious Leadership for the Future 2 of 3

Rabbi Dr Alon Goshen-Gottstein

Room 111

What are the newest challenges of religious leaders, and how do they compare with challenges that are long-standing? What should be the goals of religious leaders be? How might religious leaders be trained in light of the above? This is the second session of a three-day open space workshop, based on study materials prepared by a recent gathering of leading interreligious scholars. The session is geared to religious leaders or those in training to become one and is limited to 30 participants. Advanced registration is required, along with a commitment to participate in the entire series.

Alon Goshen-Gottstein is the director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute and director of the Centre for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Beit Morasha College, both in Jerusalem. He was ordained a rabbi in 1977. Projects of the Elijah Interfaith Institute include the bi-annual meeting of the board of World Religious Leaders, the Educational Network, as well as the Jewish and the Muslim Theology of the Religious Other.

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Sacred Music of India: Natesan Ramani and Manjiri Kelkar

Natesan Ramani

Manjiri Kelkar

Room 201

Artistic Performance

This unique double bill combines vocal and instrumental performances of north and south Indian classical music. The music of the south, Carnatic, is highly sophisticated and has remained devotional, untouched by Muslim influences, while north Indian music, with patronage at the courts, assumed a romantic colour as it came under Persian influence. Beloved flautist Natesan Ramani will offer selected compositions of Carnatic music. Acclaimed Hindustani classical vocalist Manjiri Kelkar will sing selected traditional north Indian sacred music.

Revered and much-loved **Dr Natesan Ramani**, a legend in his own lifetime, represents the best of Carnatic sacred music. He touches the hearts of his audiences, as Lord Krishna with his flute did the hearts of his gopies (female cowherd devotees), with his simple soprano bamboo flute. Like Panna Lal Ghosh, Dr Ramani, using a longer flute, can play north Indian ragas with equal ease, which are both enchanting and powerful. His ensemble includes his illustrious son Thiagarajan and the brilliant percussionist Thanjavur Ramadas on the Mridangam.

The young and golden-voiced **Manjiri** is the first winner of India's most highly regarded Bismillah Khan Award. In a short time, she has been invited—to the envy of older masters—to all five major Indian music festivals. She has a rare, melodious voice and a fine sense of intonation. She moves, like the late Kesarbai Kerkar, with graceful ease from the purely sacred classical to the semi-classical romantic forms like Thumri and Tappa. Manjiri is accompanied on the tabla by Milind Hingane and by Suyog Kundalkar on the harmonium.

Open Space Conversation with Cardinal McCarrick

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick

Room 204

In this Open Space program, Parliament attendees are invited to enter into informal conversation with the polyglot Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, emeritus Archbishop of Washington D.C., a leading figure in American Catholicism, on issues associated with his own journey of faith, the changing nature of spirituality and current developments in Catholicism and other religious traditions. The Cardinal is also experienced in themes associated with religious freedom, social justice and international security as well as national and international migration. The focus will be on dialogue and exchange of ideas in a complex and globalizing 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 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.

Strangers Becoming Neighbours: Community Interfaith Responses to Interdependence (Session 2)

Helen Spector, Open Space Facilitator

Room 207

Interactive Workshop

This session features lively exchanges of stories of interfaith engagement among participants from around the world, highlighting the developmental challenges and new-found strengths that accompany such experiences. Participants will have the opportunity to exchange practices that work and engage about issues of mutual interest that they are addressing in diverse contexts. In the process, they will build new relationships as they learn new ways to address their local situations. This session will utilise Open Space Technology to enable participants to set the topic agenda and choose their own conversations. We will end with brief reports from each conversation group.

Helen Spector serves on the Board of Trustees for the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions. She joined the Board in 1990 to help plan the 1993 Parliament Centenary Celebration and has served as co-chair for the Site Selection task forces that selected Barcelona (2004) and Melbourne (2009) for Parliament gatherings. Helen lives in Portland, Oregon.

Sharing the Zoroastrian Environmentalist Faith: Building Bridges with Indigenous Communities

Rashna Ghadialy

Room 209

Zoroastrians worship and pray to Ahura Mazda (Creator), the Yazatas (pre-Zoroastrian divinities); and revere the Amesha Spentas in our prayers. The Amesha Spentas (humankind, animals, fire and other luminaries, metals and minerals, earth, water and land) when loosely translated in English are the 'divine sparks' or 'bountiful immortals' which help govern Ahura Mazda's creation. In other words, we pray both to the Creator and his Creation. Care for the environment, thus, is an imperative for Zoroastrians. Similarly, building bridges with people of all faiths, especially those that share common beliefs with us becomes a part of Zoroastrian living and learning.

In this vein, I started a green consulting business, Think Green, to work on environment related issues; share new innovational technologies with others; and above all, care for the earth. I have been fortunate enough to have worked and shared ideas regarding alternative energy with a multi-faith indigenous group in Tharparkar, Pakistan. My presentation will discuss the Zoroastrian beliefs and practices pertaining to the environment, my work with the Thari people in Pakistan, and a documentary on the lives of the indigenous Thari people called Colours of the Sand.

Rashna Ghadialy is a Pakistani-American Zoroastrian residing in Chicago, USA. She has been actively involved in the North American

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Zoroastrian leadership community. A demographer by training, she has recently started her own green consulting business, Think Green which provides assistance in greening residences and communities.

Dhakiyarr vs the King (Premier Film Series Selection)

Room 210
Film

The family of the great Yolngu leader Dhakiyarr Wirrpanda is searching for answers. Seventy years after his controversial murder trial and subsequent disappearance, Dhakiyarr's body still has not been found. His descendants know that justice has not been served. They want to restore what was denied to him: his honour. This is their story, told in their own words, of two laws, two cultures and two families coming to terms with the past. 'Dhakiyarr vs the King' is the story of the Yolngu people of northeast Arnhem Land, Australia. The film was directed by Tom Murray and Alan Collins. Q & A to follow.

The After Party – Legacy and Young People (Session 1)

Gemma McDonald
Julia Torpey
Room 212
Panel Discussion

The first session of this two-part program will look at what is already happening around the world for young people in interfaith circles, explore lessons learned and identify any gaps. This program will feature the voices of young people from the Faith Fellows Act (USA), the Centre for Multicultural Youth (Melbourne), the Multifaith Multicultural Youth Network (Melbourne), the Young Women in Interfaith (Sydney), the Interfaith Youth Core (Chicago) and the Parliament Youth Committee (Melbourne).

Gemma McDonald is the Community Organiser for Youth for a Parliament of the World's Religions. She has worked as a performer and choreographer for Artworks, where her work with youth also began. Having completed a Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies and Post-Graduate studies in Event Management, Gemma is now focused on the organisational work behind events and currently serves on the National Bahá'í Youth Conference Board.

Julia Torpey is an Interfaith Researcher for the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions. She is a descendant from the Eora people in New South Wales and co-wrote 'Urgent', a book developed in conjunction with the Geelong Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative, Clockwork Youth Health Services and Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal young people throughout the Geelong Area. Her aspiration is to offer young people the opportunity to participate in the development and performance processes of artistic production.

Personal and Professional Journeys of Women Leaders: A Worldwide Dialogue

Dr Linda Lyman
Room 214
Interactive Workshop

In all cultures women leaders engage in transformative journeys that develop courage and enable their voices to be heard. This interactive workshop will begin with an opening presentation highlighting common themes in the stories of women educational leaders from every continent. The presentation will report results of research comparing the life stories of women scholars who participated in the 2007 Rome conference: 'Sharing the Spirit, Fanning the Flame: Women Leading Education Across the Continents'. The intersection of leadership and spirituality comes alive in the stories and faces of these women and the places where they lead. In small groups we will share our own stories, identify commonalities, and reflect on the successes and struggles experienced by women leaders everywhere. Through our stories we gather strength to advance justice in all the institutions of our societies. A more equal balance of female and male voices in leadership contributes to building environments where all may reach their full human potential. Women's leadership matters.

Dr Linda Lyman is a professor at Illinois State University. A 2005 Fulbright Scholar, she has taught Women's Leadership in American Culture at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki and studied how principal Greek women lead change. She has written three books, including 'Leaders Who Dare' (2005) about women educational leaders. Dr Lyman holds academic degrees from Northwestern, Harvard and the University of Nebraska and participates in international research examining the worldwide status of women's leadership.

Twenty-One Moments of Stillness

Diane Butler
Room 215
Interactive Workshop

Stillness is an innate aspect of nature and way of being in the arts and religiosity of many traditions. Diane Butler will offer a participatory environment wherein each person guides his or her own practice. Beginning in a daily life posture, an awareness of gravity, place and space grows. Then, with one's personal sense of nature, time and environment, participants may remain in the same posture or move to a new posture. Together, everyone will dwell in twenty-one moments of stillness. The session will conclude with time for discussion.

Diane Butler was born in Ohio, USA and has lived in Bedulu and Tejakula, Bali since 2001. She is a movement artist, teacher and program director who has worked in contemplative intercultural arts around the world. Diane is a founding member of Yayasan Dharma Samuan Tiga and Dharma Nature Time. She holds a BFA in Dance (Juilliard), MALS in Dance & Culture (Wesleyan) and is completing her PhD in Cultural Studies (Universitas Udayana, Bali).

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A Listening Place Each Day

Kristen Hobby
Lynette Dungan
Bernie Miles
Kava Schafer
Jill Manton
Nola Vanderfeen
Room 217

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.

2 Jews, 3 Opinions: An Open Conversation on the Implications of the Parliament for Our Jewish Communities

Rabbi Brad Hirschfield
Room 218

Lay leader, clergy, or academic, Jewish or simply one who cares about things Jewish, this conversation is for you if you want to connect your experience at the Parliament to your interest in Judaism and the Jewish community. As we participate in the Parliament, hearts are stirred, spirits rise and thinking expands. But in order to help carry our experiences in Melbourne back to our home communities, there are important questions that need to be asked. What specifically are the implications of your participation in the Parliament for both your personal identity and for your understanding of the Jewish community? This facilitated conversation will explore how participation in a multifaith encounter can deepen both our understanding of, and commitment to, Judaism in particular. We will also consider the ongoing concern about continuity/durability of the Jewish community. Why does that question loom so large for so many within the organised Jewish community, and how does our experience at the Parliament shape our response? While there are no right or wrong answers to these questions, our willingness to address them will help us turn a personally transformative experience into a communally formative one.

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.

Educating Religious Leaders for a Multi-Religious World: Virtues and Skills for Multi-Religious Education

North American Theological School Students
Room 219
Panel Discussion

In this session, we want to temporarily put aside differences of doctrine or teaching and look at what might be recognised as the virtues that one must bring to the table of dialogue. In attempting this, we will draw guidance from Catherine Cornille's new book, 'The Im-Possibility of Dialogue'. She calls upon all religious persons who feel the need for dialogue to examine what seem to be the virtues needed to truly engage in a conversation with others that will bring greater insight and collaboration. Such virtues include the following: humility regarding one's own understanding and claims; commitment to the truth and values that one has found in one's own tradition; a trust in the interconnectedness that makes conversation between religions possible despite daunting differences; empathy, by which one attempts the complex but necessary task of trying to understand the religious other from within the other's own world of belief and imagination; and hospitality, by which we truly open ourselves to learn from the other with whom we are seeking a relationship of friendship. Besides discussing the nature of these and other dialogical virtues, we will explore together the skills needed in applying them and living them in partnership with religious 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.

Ears Wide Open: The Art of Inloquence

Hal French
Room 220
Lecture

We honour those people who are masters of eloquence: Demosthenes, Daniel Webster, Lincoln at Gettysburg, Martin Luther King, Maya Angelou. But the masters of listening, or 'inloquence', are anonymous. Inloquence is indispensable to dialogue, and the radical character of listening requires receptivity, openness, and a willingness to change on the basis of what one hears. The first part of this presentation will discuss how we may enhance our ability to listen to the voices of nature. A hymn says, 'All nature sings and round me rings the music of the

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9:00–10:30pm
EVENING PROGRAMS

spheres'. But hearing these sounds requires two things: silence and slowness. The second part will examine 'inloquence' in the process of dialogue. It will suggest five steps in this process: 1) Suspension of judgment; 2) recognition of the symbolic character of language and logic; 3) the validity of inside and outside views; 4) mutual relevance; and 5) the resolution to ponder deeply. This presentation will discuss how to cultivate inloquence and practices that encourage it, especially those that value quietness, beyond the noises of civilisation and our customary frenetic pace.

Hal French is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of South Carolina and an accomplished author. He has been engaged in interfaith work since 1975, when he first joined the World Congress of Faiths. He is currently on the Steering Committee of Partners in Dialogue in Columbia, South Carolina, and the Advisory Board of the International Interfaith Centre in Oxford, England, and has also served on the Board of Directors for the North American Interfaith Network.

EVENING PROGRAMS 9:00–10:30pm

Blue Gold: World Water Wars

Room 107

Film

The needs of housing and industry, coupled with the over development of agriculture, have increased the global demand for fresh water far beyond the limited supply. This film asks viewers to imagine a world where water has become a commodity, a world where corporations force developing countries to privatise their water supplies, and where governments use water as leverage for economic and political advantage. Military control of water supplies could change the geo-political map and lead to world water wars. This film tells stories from around the world of people who struggle for the right to water, from lawsuits to local protests, and from legislative changes to political revolutions. The film was directed by Sam Bozzo.

