

CHANNEL

Building community that is humane, compassionate and just

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

February 2005

www.associatedministries.org

Vol. 36, No. 2

Faith and Belief:
What is Sufism?
... see page 5

CommUniversity speaker invites multifaith perspectives and dialogue

Keynote address will discuss "Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Dialogue and Dissent"

CommUniversity 2005 will welcome a Jewish Islamic scholar as its keynote speaker. Rabbi Reuven Firestone will present the convocation address, "Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Dialogue and Dissent: Abraham and Covenant in Three Scriptures," on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Chris Knutzen Hall in the University Center on the Pacific Lutheran University campus. The lecture will be followed by a question period and group discussion.

Rabbi Reuven Firestone is Professor of Medieval Judaism and Islam and Director of the Edgar F. Magnin School of Graduate Studies, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles. He previously taught at Boston University and was Yad Hanadiv Research Fellow at the Hebrew University. In 2000, Professor Firestone was awarded a fellowship for independent research from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2002 he was chosen to be a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Rabbi Firestone's academic specializations are early Islam and its relationship with Jews and Judaism, scriptural interpretation of the Bible and Qur'an, and the phenomenon of holy war. His books include *Journeys in Holy Lands: The Evo-*

lution of the Abraham-Ishmael Legends in Islamic Exegesis (SUNY Press), *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam* (Oxford University Press) and *Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Judaism for Muslims* (Ktav). He is also the author of dozens of articles on Judaism, Islam, and comparative studies between Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Having traveled extensively in the Middle East, Rabbi Firestone served on the international "Voice of Peace" radio project, lived on an Israeli kibbutz, and has been involved in a variety of committees and commissions exploring Jewish-Muslim and Jewish-Arab relations in the United States.

Rabbi Firestone joins the CommUniversity faculty through an educational partnership with Tacoma's Temple Beth El, where he will be a visiting scholar-in-residence during the weekend of Feb. 25-27. Temple Beth El invites the general public to attend any of the following programs with Rabbi Firestone; all are free of charge. On Saturday, Feb. 26, "Informal Reflections with Rabbi Firestone," co-sponsored by Wild Hope PLU student organization, will be held at 2:00 p.m. in the Temple Social Hall. At 7:30 p.m., Rabbi Firestone will speak on "Islam and the West: Is There Really a Clash of Civilizations?" The talk will be followed by a dessert reception in the Temple Social Hall. On Sunday, Feb. 27, at 10:00 a.m. in the Temple Chapel, Rabbi Firestone will speak on "Fundamentalists and Liberal Expressions of Islam: Where Are They



Jewish Islamic scholar Rabbi Reuven Firestone will give the keynote address for CommUniversity 2005 at Pacific Lutheran University on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 1:30 p.m.

and What Do They Say About Each Other, Israel, and Dialogue?" Temple Beth El is located at 5975 South 12th, Tacoma. For information about Temple Beth El programs, call (253) 564-7101.

Admission to Rabbi Firestone's convocation address is free to registered CommUniversity participants; \$10 to the general public.

For information or reservations for Rabbi Firestone's CommUniversity lecture, call Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or email channel@associatedministries.org.

Associated Ministries seeks nominees for 2005 Ecumenical Service Award

Our community is blessed with many dedicated and compassionate people who make Pierce County a place worth living in. Associated Ministries would like to recognize this dedication and compassion by awarding Ecumenical Service Awards to members of our community. The Board of Directors of Associated Ministries is now seeking nominations for the 2005 Ecumenical Service Awards. Nominations may be submitted by any person, congregation, organization, or agency.

The award recognizes individuals of all ages, groups, congregations, or agencies who have significantly improved the quality of life in our region. The quality to be recognized is best described by the Hebrew word, *shalom*. The word is often simply translated as peace, but that does not do justice to the fullness of *shalom*. *Shalom* conveys a sense of health and wholeness within individuals and groups. More than just the absence of violence, it denotes the presence of justice. Those singled out for this award are actively engaged in the pursuit of God's *shalom*.

The board will accept nominations through March 8, 2005. Simply send a letter with your nominee's name and the reason for your choice. There is a special youth category to recognize those 21 years and younger, and people from all faith communities are eligible. Send nominations to Ecumenical Service Awards, Associated Ministries, 1224 South I St., Tacoma, WA, 98405 or email to maureenf@associatedministries.org.

The awards will be presented at Associated Ministries' annual Spring Celebration Dinner and Auction on the evening of Saturday, April 23, 2005 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish Social Hall in Tacoma.

Pacific Lutheran University will host CommUniversity 2005 classes Mar. 5-6, 12-13

Annual adult education program offers affordable short courses and workshops

With a theme of "Dialogue and Dissent: Living in the Tension," CommUniversity 2005 will offer a wide range of short courses and workshops at Pacific Lutheran University on Mar. 5-6 and Mar. 12-13. Classes vary from half-day workshops to four-session short courses.

CommUniversity offers something for everyone. This year's classes in world religions will look at Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Bahá'í faith, Sufism and Native American spirituality. Other classes will offer opportunity for dialogue on fair trade, Middle East peacemaking, distributive justice and spiritual parenting. Workshops will offer experience in biblical studies, healing touch and spiritual direction.

Participants can experience a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, enjoy laughter therapy, try Sumi painting, learn American sign language or even receive tips from a professional organizer on uncluttering one's life.

A long-standing tradition in Pierce County, CommUniversity is a unique adult education opportunity presented by Associated Ministries in partnership with the University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University. Utilizing university faculty and other local scholars, CommUniversity offers affordable short courses and workshops with a spiritual dimension. General topics include arts and humanities, theology and religious studies, public policy and social justice, spirituality and prayer, and biblical studies.

CommUniversity fees vary with the

COMMUNIVERSITY course length, ranging from \$20-\$50. Early

registration deadline is Feb. 18; there will be an additional \$5 fee for each class registration after that date. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged to guarantee class availability. Required and recommended course textbooks will be available at special CommUniversity displays at Borders stores in Tacoma, Puyallup and Federal Way and at Pacific Lutheran University during both CommUniversity weekends.

Class descriptions and registration forms are available online at www.associatedministries.org. For printed copies or additional information, call the Associated Ministries office at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or email channel@associatedministries.org.

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Know a house that needs painting?

BY SALLIE SHAWL, DIRECTOR, PAINT TACOMA-PIERCE BEAUTIFUL

As strange as it sounds, we truly need your help to find people to receive free house painting jobs. That is especially the case in the City of Tacoma, where we have been painting for 20 years and where many of the homeowners who are "in the loop" for this sort of information have already had their homes painted. Now we need to reach the people who don't read the newspapers or have connections in the community that tell them about such programs.

Here is your assignment for the month of February: find at least one home that needs painting and that possibly belongs to a low-income senior or disabled person, and call us with their address. If you see a house that desperately needs paint but you don't know anything about the owner, call us with their address anyway; if they're not eligible, they won't apply.

We'll send them an application with a letter that says, "You are receiving this application either because someone gave us your name or address or you called us and asked for it." Then they can choose whether or not to apply. If they do, they may be lucky enough to be one of approximately 100 people who get their homes painted for free this summer.

Their home will be freshly painted, and you will have helped make that happen.



You will have helped both the homeowner and his or her neighborhood. This amazing gift will be from volunteers organized by Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful, a program of Associated Ministries, now beginning its 21st year.

Applications are now available for this summer's program. There is absolutely no cost to the homeowner since the painters are volunteers, and the paint is purchased with donated funds.

The deadline is April 1, so now is the time to apply.

To be eligible, applicants must: be a senior or have a disability (including disability income), own their own home in Tacoma/Pierce County, and be low-income. People may apply for themselves or request an application in order to help someone else fill it out.

The painting done by this program is exterior house painting only. Locations range from Buckley to Gig Harbor, from the north end of Tacoma to Lakewood and all the way out to Elbe and Ashford. The volunteers come from churches, service clubs, businesses, unions, local government offices, schools, military bases, etc. For further information, visit www.paintbeautiful.org or call Sallie Shawl at (253) 383-3056, ext 105.

Scholar on racism to speak at University of Puget Sound for Black History Month

Preeminent evolutionary biologist Joseph L. Graves hopes to change the way people think about race. The author of *The Race Myth* (Penguin Group) will speak at 4:00 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 3, at the University of Puget Sound's Thompson Hall, Seminar Room 126. His lecture, "Racism without Race: Contradictions in Scientific and Social Policy," is free and open to the public.

A professor of biology at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J., Graves argues that science cannot account for the racial categories used to classify people. In *The Race Myth*, released last summer, he goes a step further

to describe racism as an unintended consequence of evolution and offers creative, innovative ways to bring true equality to America. Graves' previously published book, *The Emperor's New Clothes: Biological Theories on Race at the Millennium* (Rutgers University Press) won critical acclaim. In that book, Graves maintained that debunking the idea of race as biologically determined is an essential first step to eliminating racism.

For information about other Black History Month events being held at the University of Puget Sound, please call (253) 879-3373.

ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES'

Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Holy Cross Catholic Church, 5510 North 44th St., Tacoma

Please join the Associated Ministries board and staff for a light lunch and meeting where we will honor outstanding volunteers and stewards, welcome new board members and celebrate accomplishments of the past year.

For information or reservations, contact Maureen Fife at (253) 383-3056 ext. 107 or maureenf@associatedministries.org.

Film festival will focus on justice issues

The second annual City of Destiny Faith & Film Festival, "Films that Invite a Conversation about Justice," will be held on the weekend of Feb. 25-27 at the School of the Arts (SOTA), 1117 Broadway in downtown Tacoma.

The festival will feature four films that encourage conversation about justice issues. The tentative schedule of films to be shown includes *Dead Man Walking*, (Friday evening), *Erin Brockovich* (Saturday afternoon), *Far From Heaven* (Saturday evening) and *The Power of One* (Sunday afternoon). The exact time of each viewing will be announced.

Contemporary movies raise many themes central to living a life of faith in our time. The City of Destiny Faith & Film

Festival will provide a chance for folks from varied faith backgrounds or congregations to gather in downtown Tacoma to view a quality movie and reflect together about what the movie might be saying about the lives we share. Please join us for this unique Lenten opportunity.

The City of Destiny Film Festival is sponsored by a group of Pierce County Presbyterian congregations: Lakewood, Trinity, Skyline and Westminster Presbyterian Churches. Discussion will follow each screening. There is no fee. A donation of \$5.00 per film or \$15.00 per series is recommended.

For more information contact Rev. Dave Brown (253) 472-4795.

State's religious leaders continue to debate same-sex marriage legislation

Group of clergy and religious leaders will rally in Olympia to support civil and legal rights for all couples

BY JUDITH JONES

The debate over same-sex marriage and civil rights protection for sexual minorities has reached fever pitch in recent years, and it shows no sign of abating.

In November 2004, 11 states passed laws prohibiting same-sex marriage, bringing to 39 the total number of states with such laws in place. The current administration has made it a goal to pass a constitutional amendment restricting marriage to heterosexual union, in the administration's view thereby defending the institution of marriage.

The topic has been especially difficult and divisive for religious leaders. Many denominations and faith groups have publicly supported marriage protection legislation; a few, including the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association, advocate extending marriage rights and benefits to all couples regardless of sexual orientation. But faith groups on both sides of the issue remain deeply divided among themselves.

The debate continues among religious leaders here in Washington state, and some are taking action.

At noon on Monday, Feb. 14, 2005, the Religious Coalition for Equality, a group of Washington state clergy and religious leaders, will rally on the steps of the State Capitol in Olympia to show support for marriage equality and for legislation to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation.

The group has published a "Statement of Faith-Based Support for Same-Sex Marriage" which bears the signatures of more than 200 clergy and religious leaders across the state, including several from Pierce County. Some of the signers self-identify as members of denominations that oppose same-sex marriage, reflecting locally the divisions at the national level.

One of the signers is Pastor Jon Short of Tacoma's Mason United Methodist Church. In an article for his church's latest newsletter, Short writes: "What intrigues me is the basis for such prohibitions. In a country where law-abiding citizens are allowed 'life, liberty and the pursuit of

happiness," how can we deny these freedoms to select individuals? As far as I have been able to determine, the only basis for denial of same-sex marriage is rooted in religious beliefs, and since ours is a country that separates church from state, I believe there is no civil legitimacy to this discrimination."

Noting that the state already has a Defense of Marriage Act in place, Short adds: "It seems to me, however, the only true way to defend marriage, from a civil standpoint, is to provide equal treatment for all couples regardless of sexual orientation. You and I may not agree from a religious standpoint about same-sex marriage, but from a civil perspective how can we continue to defend discrimination?"

Pastor Dennis Hollinger-Lant of Wayside United Church of Christ also signed the Religious Coalition statement. He says, "I believe that people who are in committed relationships should have the same rights and privileges afforded to me because of my marriage. I think they should have the right to jointly own property, benefit from their partner's health benefits, be able to visit their partner in the hospital and be authorized to make medical and legal decisions for their partner. I think it is important to have these relationships legally recognized, so there will be a standardized set of rights and obligations of the parties involved."

Other local religious leaders reflect the official stance of their respective faith groups. Pastor Mark Toone, of Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church in Gig Harbor, writes: "The official stance of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is that sexual expression belongs only within the bounds of marriage between one man and one woman. In fact, our constitution does not allow us to ordain persons to the offices of our church who do not abide by those standards, a position that has been affirmed and reaffirmed by our denomination three different times. Chapel Hill is in complete concurrence with our denomination's

Continued on page 4

Franciscan chaplain is new chair of national pastoral care committee

Rev. Art Schmidt, a member of the Franciscan Health System pastoral care staff and president of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, is the new chair of the group that ensures collaboration among six national organizations governing professional chaplains and pastoral counselors in the United States and Canada.



Rev. Art Schmidt

and the Canadian Association for Pastoral Practice and Education.

Combined, these six organizations represent more than 10,000 individuals who currently serve as chaplains, pastoral counselors and clinical pastoral educators in specialized settings such as hospitals, counseling centers, the military and prisons throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Trained, certified chaplains come from every faith and denomination. They never proselytize to patients or their families. Instead, their job is to listen respectfully to the spiritual worries, fears or anger of those they serve.

Although the various professional chaplain associations have operated with similar principles in the past, they agreed in November at their annual conference in Portland, Maine, to abide by identical standards that include a common code of ethics and certification process. The standards were produced by the Council on Collaboration of which Schmidt has been a member for three years and for which he now serves as chairman.

"The acceptance of the common standards defines chaplaincy and pastoral care as a profession, not just a group of organizations," says Schmidt, who is coordinator of Mission Services and Work Life Quality for Franciscan. He works out of St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way.

"I am honored to serve in this position and to be associated with such a talented, dedicated and compassionate group of individuals who are doing important work," says Schmidt, who has begun a one-year term as chair of the Council on Collaboration.

The council's membership is comprised of the three top leaders (president, president-elect and executive director) from the Association of Professional Chaplains, the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, the American Association of Pastoral Counselors, the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, the National Association of Jewish Chaplains,

Stewards in the Spotlight

Each month, The CHANNEL features individuals, congregations and organizations who truly exemplify the spirit of stewardship in their day-to-day lives and work. This month Gina Breukelman interviews Rabbi Bruce Kadden of Temple Beth El in Tacoma. To suggest a candidate for a Stewards in the Spotlight profile, please contact The CHANNEL at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120.

Congregation Name: Temple Beth El

Location: 5975 S. 12th Street, Tacoma, WA 98465

Phone/Email: (253) 564-7101 / info@templebethel18.org

Website: www.templebethel18.org

Meet the Rabbi: Rabbi Bruce Kadden began his rabbinate at Temple Beth El on July 19, 2004. Bruce Kadden was born in Berkeley and grew up in Oakland, California. He received his B.A. in Religious Studies from Stanford University with honors in Humanities. He was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1981. After serving as Assistant Rabbi at Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul, Minn., he served as rabbi of Temple Beth El in Salinas, Calif. for 20 years. He taught interfaith Bible study classes for many years and served as Jewish Chaplain at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad. Rabbi Kadden has been active in community activities, serving on the boards of many organizations including the Franciscan Workers of Junipero Serra, Planned Parenthood, and Salinas Valley Hospice. He is currently First Vice President of the Pacific Association of Reform Rabbis.



Rabbi Bruce Kadden

He and Barbara met at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem in 1976; they were married in 1978. They have written extensively in the area of Jewish education, including co-authoring three books: *Teaching Mitzvot: Concepts, Values and Activities*; *Teaching Tefilah: Insights and Activities on Prayer*; and *Teaching Jewish Life Cycle: Traditions and Activities*. The Kaddens have two children: Alana, who graduated from UCLA in June 2004, and Micah, who is a freshman at UCLA.

Staff: Nancy Pullen, Director, Religious Education; Andrea Mauer, Administrator; Brad Smith, Cantorial Soloist; Wendy Katz, Program Director; Rebecca Underhill, Administrative Assistant; Debbie Ball, Religious School Assistant

Worship: Services are held every Shabbat, and are open to all. Men and women participate in our services; *kipot* (head coverings) and *tallitot* (prayer shawls) are worn by preference. Erev Shabbat services are 7:30 p.m. Friday evenings. On the last Friday of each month, services are held at 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. Shabbat morning services are 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Family services are held once a month at 7:30 p.m., usually in conjunction with a family potluck dinner (6:30 p.m.). Tot Shabbat services are held once a month at 6:00 p.m., usually in conjunction with a family potluck dinner (6:30 p.m.). Monthly Havdalah healing services are held on the third Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Number of members: Temple Beth El is the spiritual home to about 325 families from Tacoma, Pierce County, and the surrounding area.

History: Temple Beth El was created in 1960 with the merger of Temple Beth Israel and Sinai Temple. However, the history of Temple Beth El goes back more than one hundred years. The Temple Beth El synagogue was built in 1968.

Creed/Mission/Vision: Temple Beth El is a caring community devoted to the ideals of Judaism. As the primary focus of Jewish communal activity in Pierce County, our mission is to help Jews build and strengthen their Jewishness. Through it all, we hope to create a warm, safe, comforting atmosphere at Temple Beth El imbued by our love for one another. Our primary tools for creating committed Jews are study, worship, and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). As Jews, our job is to do whatever we can to help make this world a better place.

Temple Beth El needs to continue to be a place where its members can bring the presence of God into their lives. When we can instill the lives of those in our community with a sense of *k'dushah*, then we will have succeeded in fulfilling one of our greatest missions as a congregation.

What special programs does your congregation offer? Religious School is offered for kindergarten through 8th grade, Hebrew School for grades 3 through 7, and the Yad b'Yad program for grades 9-12, along with a wide variety of adult education programs and courses. Temple Beth El also has a monthly Sunday morning book club, a quilters group, Sisterhood and Brotherhood and a well-stocked gift shop. Temple Beth El offers two summer day camps: Kaytana for preschoolers (held in July) and Machaneh for kindergarten through sixth grade (held in August).

With what other organizations is your congregation involved? Temple Beth El runs the Jackson Street Food Bank along with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. We are a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the organization of Reform synagogues from throughout North America.

How does your faith call you to action? Judaism teaches that we are partners with God in the ongoing creation of the world. We live in an imperfect world and we are called upon to participate in *tikkun olam*, in working with others to repair the world.

What is your biggest concern for the world/community? We are quite concerned about the potential development of nuclear weapons by Iran. The instability in the Middle East remains a significant concern. We are glad that the world is beginning to understand the threat of terrorism and hope that by working together we can deal with this threat.

What is your biggest hope for the world/community? We are very hopeful that with new Palestinian leadership, Israel and the Palestinians will move forward to achieve a just and lasting peace.

What is your message to the Associated Ministries community? We are delighted to be a part of a group of caring, religious congregations and organizations which come together to make our community a better place. We invite our Christian brothers and sisters to learn more about Judaism to better understand the roots of Christianity and encourage everyone to learn about each other's faith and traditions to promote understanding and peace.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



I wonder what the political scene in Washington will be like by the time you read this column. Will we have the same Governor? Will our elected representatives have found a way to be more civil with one another? Will our government have come to grips with our continuing fiscal crisis?

I don't know about you, but one of the things that troubles me most about politics is the way the ground rules seem to be evolving. Civility and good manners seem to be losing out. Now I realize that many of our legislators behave very appropriately and are doing their very best in these difficult times, but my experience tends to bear out that we still have a problem. Many years ago I remember watching two political giants debate on the floor of the United States Senate. Senators Goldwater and Humphrey were both eloquent and assertive in presenting their positions. Their rebuttals to one another were very direct and clear. When they finished they shook hands and embraced one another. While it may not have actually happened, it is quite likely they may have then gone to lunch together following their debate. We need a lot more of this type of behavior in Olympia.

Then I think about my work and the behavior of so many of us who make up the membership of the religious institutions here in the Pacific Northwest. Doesn't the rubric, "people in glass houses should not throw stones," apply here? My chosen career and current job description are a clear indication that I, of all people, should be open and receptive to people of other faiths or of very different theological perspectives. But I, like so many others, fall short. I may not be rude or uncivil, but I do not go out of my way to engage certain people. Their ways of thinking and believing are so different. Their positions are so far distant from mine. That is what we would all like to think about those with whom we seem to disagree. What I have found regarding differences within the Christian community is that our points of agreement far outweigh our disagreements. Indeed, differences are often political and not theological. When it comes to interreligious dialogue there are very real differences, but there is also a lot of common ground. As people of faith we need to find ways of encountering one another in productive ways. It goes without saying that we must find ways to demonstrate the love that has been revealed to us.

While our legislature and our faith communities have a long way to go, we also have solid foundations on which to build. It is time to get back to basics and learn what can happen when we play well together. We all learned about it in kindergarten. A lack of civility in that classroom was simply not tolerated.

It is not enough to pray for unity and understanding, we have to work at it. Of course we must pray for one another, but we must also truly *be* with one another. My prayer for all of us is that we will all be able to reach deeper within ourselves to find those God-given resources that will enable us to share with and learn from one another. The agenda is too full and the problems before us are too large. God expects a great deal of you and me. Let's get on with it.

Grace and peace,

Rev. David T. Alger
Executive Director, Associated Ministries



Associated Ministries is a Christian organization representing more than 200 congregations, religious groups, and interfaith partners in Tacoma-Pierce County. We are compelled by our faith to build community that is humane, compassionate and just.

CHANNEL

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The Channel is Pierce County's only ecumenical and interfaith newspaper, reaching more than 10,000 people each month.


Readers are invited to submit news items, letters, articles, opinion pieces and photographs of interest to the faith communities of Tacoma/Pierce County. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication. Materials may be submitted via mail, fax, e-mail or delivery, but must include a contact name and phone number or e-mail address. Submissions will be published at the discretion of the editor, and may be edited for space and clarity. Submissions will not be returned but may be kept on file for future use. Photos will be returned upon request.

For advertising information, contact Dorothy Moe at (253) 460-1443 or Judith Jones at (253)383-3056, ext. 120.

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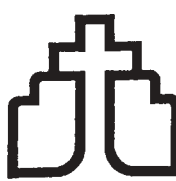


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6-8th Grade Tour
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Continued from page 2

position on this matter and, for that reason, could not support any effort to redefine the historical and biblical view of marriage as something other than a covenant between one man and one woman. Not only do we view efforts to do so as unbiblical and unfaithful, we consider them to be a dangerous assault on the essential social unit in our society, one that is already at great risk because of the recklessness with which so many make and break their wedding vows."

Amir Abdul-Matin, Islamic chaplain at the Washington Corrections Center, says that the Islamic faith opposes same sex marriages. "It states throughout the Qur'an that marriage is between man and woman and it is a holy and spiritual bond."

In March 2004, Seattle's Catholic Archbishop Alexander Brunett issued a statement on the definition of marriage, reflecting the policies of the national bishops' conference. He noted that the archdiocese opposes "all unjust discrimination against any individual" but called upon public officials "to honor the

normal processes of government and to reaffirm the long-cherished definition of marriage as the union between a man and a woman that has served throughout history as both a building block and mortar for church and society."

Pastor Gary Jepsen of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Puyallup cautions against what he calls "a rush to relevance." He urges churches to slow down and practice careful discernment, looking closely at the tools of Scriptural interpretation being used by both sides. Noting that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, "seems to be pushing toward normalization of homosexuality," he has written an extensive commentary and critique on the ELCA's most recent sexuality study, *Journey Together Faithfully*.

Associated Ministries has taken no position on same-sex unions, but has a long-standing policy supporting full civil and human rights for sexual minorities. The organization encourages ongoing dialogue among all faith groups.

Associated Ministries invites ongoing dialogue among the county's religious communities on this complex issue. For further discussion and study, consider the following resources:

www.religioustolerance.org seeks to present the breadth of religious opinion on many topics, including same-sex marriage.

www.religiouscoalition-wa.org offers a variety of background resources along with the Religious Coalition's Statement of Faith-Based Support for Same-Sex Marriage and information on the Feb. 14 rally in Olympia.

www.wordalone.org/resources/jepsen/index.htm presents Pastor Gary Jepsen's extensive commentary on the ELCA's recent sexuality study.

www.protectmarriage.org offers background resources from the Family Research Council and more.

Community Forum

On Monday, Feb. 7, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., Interfaith Works will present "Faith Perspectives on Traditional and Same-Gender Marriage: A Public Conversation." This community forum will be held at the Ramada Inn, 621 Capitol Way South in Olympia; the evening will include a multifaith panel and small group discussion. For more information call (360) 357-7224.

The CHANNEL invites reader feedback. What are your views on traditional marriage, same-sex marriage, civil unions? What are the issues for your faith group? Let's open the conversation. Email channel@associatedministries.org.

Faith and Belief: Learning about the practice of Western Sufism

BY REV. FARISHTA KAREN LINDSAY

[Ed. Note: The faith communities of Pierce County are many and varied. The CHANNEL offers *Faith and Belief* as an occasional series looking at basic beliefs and customs of our diverse traditions. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future columns; email channel@associatedministries.org.]

"An attempt to describe the Sufi message will always remain inadequate. Sufism is much more than what can be put into words and ideas, for it is not a theory, it has no dogma. It is a way of life, an attitude. It is characterized by a certain atmosphere of peace, of a deeper reality." (from Dr. HJ Witteveen, author of *Universal Sufism*, Element Books, Inc., 1997, p. x)

Sufis have primarily been followers of the Prophet Mohammed who, especially when Islamic hierarchy seemed too worldly, called for a return to the spiritual center of Islam. They longed for mystical union with the Divine Presence. Over the years the spiritual insights of various Sufis were shared, and contemplative techniques developed among initiatic lineages. One such lineage was the Chisti Order, brought to India in the 1300s. This order was known for its promotion of "Peace with All," as well as ecstatic music and dance (music and dance are not permitted in all Sufi Orders).

In 1910 master musician and Sufi Master Hazrat Inayat Khan arrived in the United States from India to bring a message of Sufism, of inner wisdom, to the West. Inayat Khan taught that Sufism predated its Islamic expression and could be considered the mystical underpinnings of the human religious enterprise. As he sought to give his message to students in the U.S. and Europe he made changes to fit Western culture and sensibilities, expanding it into a more universal expression. Unlike most Sufi teachers, he did not require his *mureeds* (students) to be practitioners of Islam. Among his innovations was the creation of "Universal Worship" which honors all major religious traditions. The service, inspired in part by Anglican worship, includes the ceremonial lighting of candles and reading of scriptures from seven different religious traditions. Inayat

Khan taught a message of the Unity of Religious Ideals—he believed that divine inspiration comes to humanity at different times, in different places, and in different forms reflecting the needs of a certain people at a certain time. While the forms differ, the essential truths remain the same. The prophets, saints and sages of all traditions are revered as messengers of divine Truth. Someone on the Sufi path, at least in this Western or Universal Sufi tradition, may also be a practitioner of other religious traditions.

Sufism is a path of the heart, a path of spiritual experiences and practices designed to be transformative. The goal of this path is deep surrender to, and union with the Divine. Most corporate Sufi worship and practice is done in small communities that gather around a teacher. *Mureeds* (students) engage in individual spiritual direction with their guide (*Sheik(a)* or *Murshid(a)*) who give their students prayer, meditation, and breathing practices. Sufis meet in homes of various teachers to engage in spiritual conversation or learning, Universal Worship, and to practice *zikr* (remembrance). *Zikr* involves chanting names or qualities of the Divine, and the phrase "*la illaha il allaha*" which can be translated "there is no reality but the One." It also often includes beautiful music, movement, turning (as in whirling dervishes), and sometimes recitation of spiritual writings or poetry, especially the Persian mystics Rumi or Hafiz, who have been so widely translated in the last 10 years. (Rumi has been the most popular and published poet in the United States for the past few years.)

In the late 1960s one of Hazrat Inayat Khan's students, Murshid Samuel Lewis, was inspired by his study and practice of several religious traditions, his experience of *zikr* and folk dance to create the practice now known as the Dances of Universal Peace. It was his vision that if people would "eat, dance and pray together" and especially to pray using the mantras, chants and hymns of others' religious traditions, that both the unique aspects and the unity behind the different traditions could be known and appreci-

For further study ...

Interested in learning more about Western Sufism?

In Print:

- Dr. H. J. Witteveen, *Universal Sufism* (Element Press, 1997)
A history of Sufism and Hazrat Inayat Khan's time in the West.
- Dr. H. J. Witteveen, *The Heart of Sufism* (Shambhala, 1999)
Selected quotes from the works of Hazrat Inayat Khan.
- The Essential Rumi*, trans. by Coleman Barks, (HarperSanFrancisco 1997)
This is a compilation of the best of Barks' renditions of Rumi poetry from his numerous publications.
- Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, *Awakening* (Tarcher/Putnam Books, 1999)
Pir Vilayat, Inayat Khan's son, shares practices and meditations involving breath, light, and the divine qualities to effect transformation.

On the Web

<http://world.std.com/~habib/sufi.html>—lists hundreds of Sufi-related websites from orders around the world

Orders following the teachings of Hazrat Inayat Khan:

- www.ruhaniat.org/—Sufi Ruhaniat International
www.sufiorder.org/—Sufi Order International
www.sufimovement.org/—Sufi Movement International

At CommUniversity 2005

Course No. 30: Awakening, Practice and Transformation: The Way of Western Sufism

Instructor: Rev. Farishta Karen Lindsay
Meets Saturday, Mar. 12, 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Fee: \$30 before Feb. 18, \$35 after Feb. 18

ated by the participants. Through this joyful, inspiring practice of circle dancing and chanting people could experience our common humanity creating peace, both within the individual and radiating out to the world.

In the last three years of his life, Samuel Lewis created and taught about 30 "Sufi dances" along with a practice of meditative walks, mostly in the San Francisco Bay Area. His followers have created hundreds of dances reflecting and honoring a wide number of religious traditions. With the intent of not being exclusively "Sufi," the Network for the Dances of Universal Peace was established about 25 years ago. This network has developed a process for certifying teachers, publishes some of the dances, and provides opportunities for spreading the dances worldwide. There are now dance meetings held

all over the United States, in Europe, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and parts of the former Soviet Union. The Dances of Universal Peace are a unique and important expression of Universal Sufism.

Only a few of the Cherags (ministers of Universal Worship), Murshids, Sheiks or Mentor Teachers of the Dances of Universal Peace derive their livelihood from these leadership positions; most are also employed in secular jobs. The leadership in this tradition is comprised of both men and women.

Farishta Karen Lindsay, M.Div., is ordained a Cheraga in the Sufi Ruhaniat International. She teaches the Dances of Universal Peace in Tacoma and will present a workshop on Western Sufism at CommUniversity 2005.

Thank You ... from the staff of

Project Interdependence

Project Interdependence (PIP), a program of Associated Ministries, says a big THANK YOU to all those who helped provide toys, gifts and essential services during the holiday season.

In 2004, PIP received a record number of calls from families seeking help for Christmas. But every year we are amazed at the incredible generosity displayed by individuals, families, businesses and organizations throughout our community, and this year was no exception: 45 families were connected to community sponsors through our "Adopt a Family" program. Several of these generous sponsors even recruited other friends, neighbors and colleagues to adopt families.

With help from World Vision, Tacoma Community College and Pierce County Central Labor Union, we were also able to hold a Christmas toy giveaway for families not matched with a particular sponsor. Overall we were able to help 75 families in some way for Christmas toys and/or dinner, and you made it happen. Thank you for sharing your gifts and making a real difference in the lives of our neighbors.



Individuals/Families

- | | |
|--|--|
| Sharon Coleman | Tracy Keil, Redeemer Lutheran Church |
| Denise Drevdahl | Jim LeGro |
| Becky Fontaine, First Place for Children | Janice Laakso |
| Joe Foss and family | Coy Priest |
| Vicky Gawlik and family | Deanna Robson and family |
| Rochelle Hayden | Patty Roth, St. Charles Borromeo School/Parish |
| Jean Jackman | Nita Sell |
| Gen Johnson | Patrick Steel |
| Jeannie Johnson | |

Businesses/Organizations

- Associated Ministries Staff
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- Creator Lutheran Church
- Davies Pearson Law Offices
- Loan Network
- Meadow Park Nines
- Pierce County Central Labor Council
- Resurrection Lutheran Church
- Skyline Presbyterian Church
- St. Leo's Youth Group
- Tacoma Motorfreight Services
- TCC Community Services Club
- World Vision, Gifts In-Kind program

Reflections: Dialogue and Dissent—How Do We Talk About Differences?

by Rev. K. James Davis

Since our national experience of September 11, 2001, there has been an undeniable change in the awareness of difference. Persons are often labeled as patriot or “foreigner”, ally or enemy, safe or suspicious. Although it has been more than three years since that consciousness-changing day, more and more Americans and citizens of other nations alike are screened and categorized in some way or another in the name of safety and “the fight against terrorism.” We exist today as a nation and world deeply divided along religious and political lines, with judgments of others often prevailing over not only a state of tolerance but indeed precluding embracing our differences and dissent with a healthy sense of respect and vigor.

However, this is not a new phenomenon, is it? Christians, Jews, Muslims and Buddhists have all been described more in terms of stereotypical differences than for similarities and shared humanity. I recall well how, as a child growing up in the heart of the Midwest, I somehow learned a perspective that said that Lutherans or Presbyterians were “different” than my faith and to be encountered only on the church league basketball courts! And during the presidential election of 1960

The million dollar question seems to be: How do we get beyond mere stereotypes which may feed our fears, ignorance and need for a feeling of safety to reach a deeper understanding of persons and personal beliefs which are different than ours?

distrust of Catholics was heightened to extraordinary levels of angst for those who were not Catholic in fear that a “Catholic president” would be more loyal to Rome than the U.S. In present times that distrust has been transferred to “Fundamentalists” or Muslims or Jews or Gays or Lesbians or even “liberal” or “conservative.” And we all recognize the insidious persistence of racial stereotyping which leads to judgments based on the color of skin.

The million dollar question seems to be: How do we get beyond mere stereotypes which may feed our fears, ignorance and need for a feeling of safety to reach a deeper understanding of persons and personal beliefs which are different than ours? How do we embrace those particularities of our own faith, cultural traditions and personal identity while also learning from others? In teaching classes on the

subject of dialogue around difficult issues I have found it essential to begin with a recognition that this human being cannot possibly know everything there is to know about the rich diversity of beliefs, cultures and ethnic/racial heritages. To deepen my own faith and understanding of who I am as a creation of God among a world of such creations requires learning as much as I can about not only what I believe and why, but also all that I can learn from those with whom I am different or disagree.

CommUniversity 2005 is offering a unique and vital opportunity for our community and its diverse members to come together to engage these very issues. “Dialogue and Dissent: Living in the Tension” will kick off with a keynote address by Rabbi Reuven Firestone, Professor of Medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles. Rabbi Firestone’s presentation, “Judaism, Christianity and

Islam in Dialogue and Dissent: Abraham and Covenant in Three Scriptures,” will address ways in which Jews, Christians and Muslims share a common heritage as “Abrahamic faiths” but also differ in some significant areas.

The CommUniversity Planning Committee has chosen to offer a fresh and new approach to the opening session of the program. The keynote address will begin a process of dialogue and discovery for participants, with opportunities provided to gather for exchange of ideas, responses, disagreement, dissent and affirmation following the lecture. We do this in the belief that our society and our religious communities must find meaningful ways to connect with each other in respectful, searching ways to learn from each other and to deepen our faith experiences.

How do we engage in this kind of dialogue? How do we dissent or disagree and remain respectful members of our community and society? How will we live with these tensions among ourselves and in our world? Come to CommUniversity 2005 and join in this significant interface of our faith communities together.

Rev. K. James Davis is Chaplain/Director of the Center for Spirituality & Justice at the University of Puget Sound. He is a member of the Planning Committee for CommUniversity 2005.

University of Puget Sound will host lecture on "Women and Islam"

Former BBC reporter Yvonne Ridley and University of Louisville Professor Riffat Hassan will speak on the subject of “Women and Islam” at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 3, at the University of Puget Sound Schneebeck Concert Hall. The lecture, which is free and open to the public, is the latest in the university’s series of Swope Lectures on Ethics, Religion, Faith, and Values.

A reception and book signing will follow the lecture in Wyatt Hall Atrium. The events also are free and open to the public.

Veteran journalist Ridley was working for Britain’s Sunday Express in September 2001, when she was captured by the Taliban for illegally entering Afghanistan; she was held captive for 10 days. Upon her



Yvonne Ridley

release, Ridley turned to the Qur’an in an attempt to understand her experience. She has since converted to Islam, a religion she calls the “biggest and best family in the world.” Ridley wrote about her experience in *In the Hand of the Taliban: Her Extraordinary Story* (Robson Books, 2003). She also penned the mystery *Ticket to Paradise* (Dandelion Books, 2003), which tells the story of a British reporter searching for truth in the Middle East before and after 9/11.

Riffat Hassan, chair of religion at the University of Louisville and founder of the International Network for the Rights of Female Victims of Violence in Pakistan, will join Ridley at the podium. Born into a Saiyyad Muslim family living in Lahore, Pakistan, Hassan is part of a 30-member delegation of Americans of Indian and Pakistani origin currently traveling through India and Pakistan to generate goodwill for the peace and reconciliation process now seen to be underway in the two countries. Hassan has written a number of books including: *Selected Writings*

of Riffat Hassan (International Coordination Office, 1993), *Women’s Rights and Islam: From the I.C.P.D. to Beijing* (NISA Publications), 1995), and *Woman and the Qur’an* (Forum, Instituut Voor Multiculturele, 2001). She also



co-edited *Riffat Hassan Women’s and Men’s Liberation: Testimonies of Spirit* (Greenwood Press, 1991). Hassan frequently lectures and writes about women in Islam, human rights in Islam, and peace education.

The Swope Endowed Lectureship was established at Puget Sound through a gift from Major Ianthe Swope in honor of her mother, Jane Hammer Swope. The lectureship is intended to promote broad discussions, critical thinking, and ethical inquiry about matters of religion, such as its role in public life, issues in contemporary spirituality, ethics, and world religions. Past speakers in the series have included the Rev. Peter Gomes of Harvard, the Rev. Burchell Taylor of Jamaica, civil rights leader the Rev. James Lawson, author and professor Michael Barnett, Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Oscar Arias, author James Carroll, Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, and Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Schneebeck Concert Hall is located in the center of campus to the east of Thompson Hall, which fronts Union Avenue. Wyatt Hall is located a short walk from Schneebeck Concert Hall, on the west side of campus near Union Ave. and N. 13th.

Recommended parking for both venues is in the Thompson Parking Lot, located on the east side of North 14th and Union Avenue, or along the east side of Union Avenue. Schneebeck Concert Hall and Wyatt Hall Atrium are wheelchair accessible.

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IN BRIEF

Irma Gary House needs household supplies

New Connections, which provides transitional housing and case management for women newly released from prison, seeks a partner congregation willing to donate supplies of the following items to its Irma Gary House on a monthly basis: household bleach, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper and disposable gloves. For its first year the Holy Cross Altar Society adopted the program; now Irma Gary House is seeking another church or church group to keep the house stocked with basic household supplies. If you can help contact Mary Plante, Program Director, at New Connections at (253) 572-1561 or irmagaryhouse@newventure.com.

Workshop will focus on aging and long term care issues

When a loved one needs long term care, will you be ready? When that someone is you, will you be ready? Catholic Community Services and Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care will present "Looking Long Term," a free workshop for seniors and adult children, on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Catholic Community Services' Tahoma Family Center, 1323 Yakima Ave. in Tacoma. The workshop

will focus on topics of concern to seniors, their families, caregivers, and community professionals: caring for the needs of an aging parent; paying for long term care; changes in Medicare including the new Medicare Part D; home care and other long term care options; and long term care insurance. All participants will receive a resource packet and will have an opportunity to obtain a free benefits screening through BenefitsCheckUp. For information, contact Tim Cashman at Catholic Community Services, (253) 502-2748.

Food bank volunteers needed in Tacoma

St. Leo's Food Connection needs volunteers in general warehouse work, data entry, food distribution and driving. The Food Connection is located at 1323 S. Yakima in Tacoma's Hilltop. For more information or to volunteer, contact Cari at (253) 383-5048.

Collecting health supplies for tsunami victims

To help victims in the tragic aftermath of the deadly tsunami in southeastern Asia, the Puyallup School District is joining with faith organizations, businesses, and the greater Puyallup community to collect items for "health kits." Schools will

serve as drop-off points for donations, being collected from Jan. 24 through Feb. 4. The goal is to fill 10,000 health kits, which will be assembled by students from each of the district's 31 schools. Items needed include: hand towels, washcloths, combs, metal nail files or nail clippers, bath-size bars of soap, toothbrushes, 4-7 ounce tubes of toothpaste, standard size Band-Aids, and one gallon zip closure plastic bags. Financial donations are also being accepted; checks should be made out to Communities in Schools of Puyallup. All donations are tax-deductible, and 100 percent of the donation will go to the relief effort. The health kits will be transported by Church World Service, which has already distributed 35,000 basic health and hygiene kits to the region. This is an opportunity for students and the community to work together to help serve their world neighbors as people of the devastated region begin to rebuild. For more information, contact Chris Loftis, Communities in Schools of Puyallup, at (253) 840-8917, or Karen Hansen, Puyallup School District, at (253) 841-8703.

Join a writing circle for personal healing

Sandra Sarr MacDonald offers an eight-week "Healing Writing Circle" in Tacoma's North End. All are welcome; no previous writing experience is required. This is writing for renewal, healing and self-discovery. Your stories are for you; you are invited but not required to read. Tools are also provided for you to continue writing on your own and resources if you are interested in writing for publication. Classes currently meet from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. Other groups may be forming; each is limited to eight people. Cost is \$10 per session or \$80 for the series. For more information please call Sandy at (253) 759-6633.

Literacy program needs volunteer tutors

Help one of the 24 percent of Pierce County residents in need of basic literacy education by becoming a volunteer tutor. The Tacoma Area Literacy Council, which provides free basic literacy education and English as a second language (ESL) assistance to adults, is seeking volunteers for its next three-day training session. Volunteers need not be professional teachers, just have a desire to help others learn to read. Training and ongoing support are provided. Training will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday, Feb. 7, 9, and 11 from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Basic literacy requires the first two days of training; ESL requires the third day in addition. For information call (253) 272-2473.

Support group offered for grieving adults

MultiCare Hospice and Palliative Care Services will offer "Strong at the Broken Places," an eight-week support group for adults grieving the death of a loved one.

The group will meet Wednesday evenings, Feb. 16-April 5, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Space is limited. There is no fee; donations will be accepted. Call for group location and information: Kathryn McBride, M.A., Bereavement Coordinator/Counselor, (253) 403-4341.

Interfaith workshop explores traditional practices

Explore the practices of fasting, prayer and alms giving common to the Abrahamic traditions of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. On Sunday, Feb. 13, from 12:00-3:00 p.m., St. Madeleine Sophie Parish in Bellevue will host an interfaith panel: Sanaa Joy Carey, Ph.D, Islamic scholar and Sufi master; Rabbi Rick Harkavy, former executive director of the American Jewish Committee; and Libby Goldstein, M.Div., editor of *Prism*, the ecumenical/interfaith newsletter of the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle. Moderator will be Sister Joyce Cox, BVM. A light lunch will be served; a free will offering will be accepted. St. Madeleine Sophie Parish is located at 4400 130th Pl. SE in Bellevue.

Interns sought for teen outreach nightclub

Club Friday is a weekly outreach hip-hop nightclub for teens ages 16-20 opening in downtown Tacoma. The club offers a safe, clean, alcohol-free, drug-free, smoke-free environment. Kids from all walks of life come to dance, hear the latest music, express artistic gifts, create new trends, and hang out in their peer community. Club Friday also contains a mentorship component and partners with ProTeen, which mentors long-term suspended and expelled kids. Club Friday is currently seeking candidates for the following paid internships: Entertainment Coordinator, Event Coordinator, Operations Coordinator, Production Coordinator and Security Coordinator. Interns are responsible for both an area of the club, as well as maintaining a mentor relationship with volunteers. Deadline is Feb. 9. For information contact (253) 572-3794 or dneidlin@worldvision.org or

Women's Justice Circle forming in March

A Women's Justice Circle will begin on Tuesday, March 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Hillside Gardens located at 1708 South G St., Tacoma. Meet women from different economic backgrounds, learn about the justice issues of low-income women, and build relationships to take action for social change. Circles meet once a week for two hours in an eight-week series. There is no cost to participate. To register contact Lillie Byrd at (253) 627-5783. For more information contact the Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center at (206) 223-1138 or ipjc@ipjc.org, or see www.ipjc.org.

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Needs & Wants

POSITION AVAILABLE: LIVE-IN CARETAKER—First Baptist Church in downtown Tacoma is looking for a live-in caretaker. Offers apartment plus some salary, negotiable. Responsible for general cleaning of the building and security. Contact (253) 272-2184 or fbcnewtacoma@yahoo.com.

POSITION AVAILABLE: CHILD CARE PROVIDER—First Baptist Church in downtown Tacoma is looking for a Child Care provider for infants thru age 5 for the Church School program, 9:15 a.m.-11:45 a.m. each Sunday. Wage is \$12/hr. Contact (253) 272-2184 or fbcnewtacoma@yahoo.com or send a resume to 902 Market St, Tacoma, WA 98402. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. M-Th.

POSITION AVAILABLE: CHURCH SECRETARY—Part-time position (16-20 hrs/wk); secretarial experience and computer skills required. For further details contact Rev. Cathy Kernan at Grace Baptist Church, (253) 752-6643 or gracepastor@harboret.com.

POSITION AVAILABLE: MUSIC DIRECTOR—Peace Lutheran Church, in the Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma, is seeking a part-time Music Minister/Gospel Musician to coordinate and lead worship. Salary DOE. Please send resume and cover letter to: 2106 S. Cushman Ave Tacoma, WA 98405 by Feb. 18. For

more information call (253) 383-1317 or email admin@peacetacoma.org.

POSITION AVAILABLE: NURSERY CARE PROVIDERS—Sumner Presbyterian Church is looking to hire two Nursery Care Providers to begin working in February. Hours include but may not be limited to: Sundays 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 5:45-7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays 6:15-8:30 p.m.; Thursdays 6:15-9:00 p.m. Applications are available at the church office. For more information please contact Nursery Supervisor Kara Harris at (253) 863-5101 or kbcharris@yahoo.com.

AVAILABLE: CHURCH PEWS—Bethany Presbyterian Church has 9-10 old oak pews, 10-12 feet in length, available free. You haul. If interested call the church at (253) 752-1123.

AVAILABLE: PIANO—A console, full-keyboard Wurlitzer is available for donation to a church to be used for the Lord's work. The piano is a light oak color and is in beautiful condition. If interested, call Carol Baarsma at (253) 988-9069.

Items for *Needs & Wants* are due by the fifteenth of the month preceding publication. Each must include a contact name and phone number. Information may be faxed to (253) 383-2672 or emailed to channel@associatedministries.org. Items will be published as space permits.

Tax Time:

A note from Associated Ministries' Development Office

As tax time approaches, please again accept our thanks for your donations to Associated Ministries in 2004.

Associated Ministries' standard practice is to send receipts for each gift as it is received. If you would like a cumulative year-end donation receipt, please contact Gina Breukelman in the Development Office at (253) 383-3056, ext. 115 or email ginab@associatedministries.org.

— Gina Breukelman, Development Director

Pierce County Happenings - February 2005

2/3 Thursday

The Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry will present "**Liberating the Laity: Pursuing Vatican II**" from 11:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Paul Lakeland, Chair and Professor of Religious Studies at Fairfield University, on "*The Liberation of the Laity: In Search of an Accountable Church*" and Rev. Brett C. Hoover, CSP, on "*Unlikely Signs: Looking for Hope in Our Time.*" The symposium will be held in Campion Ballroom at Seattle University. Cost is \$55; lunch and social included. To register contact (206) 296-5330 or (800) 578-3118 or stm@seattleu.edu.

2/3 Thursday

A **public witness to abolish the death penalty** will be held from 12:45-1:45 p.m. in front of the County-City Building on Tacoma Ave. S between 9th and 11th. This display takes place on the first Thursday of each month. For more information call John Boylan, Criminal Justice Ministry, at (253) 502-2681.

2/3 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Buddhist prayer and chant** beginning at 7:00 p.m. Jean's House of Prayer is located at 1414 Tacoma Ave. S. Access is through the alley behind the house; enter through the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

2/4 Friday

St. Patrick Church, 1001 North J Street, Tacoma, will host a first Friday **Taizé** service at 7:00 p.m. For more information call (253) 383-2783.

2/5 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer **Lectio: Feasting on the Word**, from 9:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Registration is \$50; please register by Jan. 28. For more information please contact (360) 438-2595 or spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/5 Saturday

Allen A.M.E. Church, 1223 ML King Jr. Way in Tacoma, will host a "**Souper Bowl Party**" from 12:00-2:00 p.m., serving a free meal to those in need. For information contact (253) 627-6855.

2/5 Saturday

First United Methodist Church, 811 Fifth Ave., Seattle will host a **Wave Of Love Tsunami Relief Concert** at 7:30 p.m. Representatives from various faiths will offer prayers and six local musical groups will offer music. A free will offering will be collected to support several international relief agencies helping the tsunami victims. For information call Micki Kent at (206) 622-7278, ext. 24 or email micki@firstchurchseattle.org.

2/6 Sunday

St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows hosts a **Taizé prayer service** every Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m. All are invited. St. Mark's is located at 6730 North 17th St., Tacoma. For directions or more information, see the church website at www.smlutheran.org.

2/6 Sunday

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 10630 Gravelly Lake Drive SW, Lakewood, will host a **Community Compline Service**, directed by Dr. Richard Nance and sung by Men's Compline Choir, at 9:00 p.m. For information call (253) 588-6621.

2/7 Monday

The Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare **Mental Health Mondays** series will present "Dealing with Teens" at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Library, 6300 Wildaire Road, Lakewood. Facilitator Laura Rambo, MA, LHMC, will help

parents, guardians and administrators learn better coping strategies, communication skills and tips for redirecting negative responses from teens. The program is free of charge and reservations are not necessary. For information please call (253) 581-7020.

2/7 Monday

Interfaith Works will present a community forum, **Faith Perspectives on Traditional and Same-Gender Marriage: A Public Conversation**, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, 621 Capitol Way S, Olympia. The evening will include panelists from different faith traditions and small group discussion with trained facilitators. For more information call (360) 357-7224.

2/9 Wednesday

In the Western Christian tradition, **Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period of prayer, repentance and self-denial that precedes Easter.

2/9 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse). Women in Black is an international network of vigils challenging militaristic solutions to conflict. Women stand in public vigil, in silence, wearing black to mourn for all victims of war. Women in Black vigils take place in Downtown Tacoma on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Vigils are also held in Gig Harbor every Friday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. on the southwest corner of Olympic Dr. and Pt. Fosdick Dr. For more information please contact Alison Loris at (253) 572-5084 (Tacoma) or Terrie Watrin at (253) 265-2356 (Gig Harbor).

2/10 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Taizé prayer and music** beginning at 7:00 p.m. Jean's House of Prayer is located at 1414 Tacoma Ave. S. Access is through the alley behind the house; enter through the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

2/10 Thursday

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1619 6th Ave., Tacoma, hosts a **meditative prayer service** at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Enter into a candlelit hour of quiet music, inspirational readings and prayer, and experience the presence of God for healing and encouragement. For information call (253) 272-2087 or (253) 272-8819.

2/11 Friday

Love Inc. will hold a **Hope For Tomorrow fundraising dinner** at 7:00 p.m. at Bethany Baptist Church, 713 South Hill Park Dr. in Puyallup. Tickets are \$20 per person; for information contact Sherry Phinisey at (253) 468-6236 or shephinisey@aol.com.

2/12 Saturday

The Interfaith Council of Washington will present the second of six classes in its 2005 **World Religions series** from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Seattle University. The topic will be "Mennonite Faith," presented by Rev. Weldon Nisly, in Wyckoff Auditorium, Engineering Bldg. Classes are \$120 for the series; \$25 per class. For more information please call (206) 522-7052 or email eisengn@aol.com.

2/12 Saturday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a one-day workshop, **Centering Prayer Basics and the Psychology of the Spiritual Journey**, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Refresh your experience of Centering Prayer. This retreat includes a brief look at the basics of Centering Prayer, so beginners may also benefit from a preliminary introduction to contemplative prayer practice. Registration is \$50; please register by Feb. 4. For

information contact (360) 438-2595 or spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/12 Saturday

Exodus Housing will host a "**Big Band Bash**" at the Liberty Theater in Puyallup from 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m. The evening will include buffet dinner, silent and live auctions, live music and dancing to the Savoy Swing Band. All proceeds support Exodus Housing's program for homeless families and victims of domestic violence. Tickets are \$25; for reservations contact Wendy Sonnemann at (253) 862-6808 or wendy@exodushousing.org.

2/13 Sunday

The 6th annual **Valentine's Benefit Concert** for the Diabetes Association of Pierce County will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Lagerquist Music Hall at Pacific Lutheran University. This showcase of musical styles, including jazz, gospel, swing, Broadway and ballads, will be presented in memory of David Knutson, who founded the concert series. Free-will donation will benefit the Diabetes Association of Pierce County; for information please call (253) 531-0313.

2/15 Tuesday

Deadline for February CHANNEL

2/16 Wednesday

Associated Ministries' annual meeting and membership luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 5510 North 44th St., Tacoma. A light lunch will be served (free will offering). For reservations, contact Maureen Fife at (253) 383-3056, ext. 107 or maureenf@associatedministries.org.

2/17 Thursday

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church will host a **Family Night** beginning at 5:30 p.m. A free meal will be followed by fun, games and entertainment for young and old. All are welcome for Christian fellowship and healthy youth activity. The church is located at the corner of KPN and Lackey Road. For information call (253) 884-3312.

2/17 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host a **Pax Christi prayer service** beginning at 7:00 p.m. Jean's House of Prayer is located at 1414 Tacoma Ave. S. Access is through the alley behind the house; enter through the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

2/18-20 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a **Centering Prayer Intermediate Retreat** from 7:30 p.m. Friday to 2:00 p.m. Sunday. This retreat is appropriate for anyone interested in deepening an understanding of the dynamics of centering prayer. Those new to retreats should already have had an introduction to centering prayer and some experience practicing it. Registration is \$170; please register by Feb. 11. For information or registration call (360) 438-2595 or email spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/18 Friday

All are welcome to join the **Dances of Universal Peace** from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Center for Spiritual Living, 206 North J St, Tacoma. Newcomers warmly welcomed. Donation of \$7-10 suggested. For information contact Farishta Karen Lindsay, (253) 396-9656 or tacomadup@yahoo.com.

2/19 Saturday

The Women's Missionary Society of Allen A.M.E. Church will hold its 6th annual **Prayer Breakfast at the LaQuinta Inn** in Tacoma from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Featured speaker will be Darryl E. Walker, pastor of Turner Memorial A.M.E. Church in Maryland. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 child; for tickets call (253) 846-9106.

2/19 Saturday

V Day Tacoma-Pierce County will present a benefit performance of Eve Ensler's "**The Vagina Monologues**" at the Pantages Theatre from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Proceeds will benefit the Domestic Violence Helpline. Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$100 VIP seating. For tickets, call (253) 591-5894.

2/20 Sunday

Westminster Presbyterian Church, East 54th and B Street, Tacoma, will host the **Blues Vespers** service at 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Rev. Dave Brown at (253) 472-4795.

2/21 Monday

President's Day - Associated Ministries' office will be closed.

2/22 Tuesday

Associated Ministries' Mental Health Chaplaincy hosts **Soul Care**, an open room, participatory worship and prayer service shared with friends who are living with mental illnesses. Now meets every fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 8211 112th Street SW, Lakewood. For information call (253) 383-5755.

2/23 Wednesday

A **Women in Black vigil** will be held from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in front of Union Station (Federal Courthouse). [See 2/9.]

2/24 Thursday

Jean's House of Prayer will host an evening of **Native American prayer and talking circle** led by Joan Staples Baum, director of the Tahoma Indian Center, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Jean's House of Prayer is located at 1414 Tacoma Ave. S. Access is through the alley behind the house; enter through the back door. For more information call (253) 627-4347.

2/25-27 Friday-Sunday

The Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College Street NE, Lacey, will offer a weekend retreat, **The Wilderness Speaks: Lenten Journey**, from 7:30 p.m. Friday to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Take time to deepen your spiritual journey in silence during Lent. Registration is \$130, with spiritual direction, \$165; please register by Feb. 18. For information please contact (360) 438-2595 or spiritualityctr@stplacid.org.

2/25 Friday

The School of Theology and Ministry at Seattle University will present a free lecture, "**The Politics of Religion**," by Rev. Dr. Brian K. Blount. The lecture will be held in the LeRoux Conference Room, Seattle University Student Center from 7:00-8:30 p.m., with a reception following. Dr. Blount is an ordained Presbyterian minister and professor of the New Testament at Princeton Theological Seminary. For information call (206) 296-5330 or see www.seattleu.edu/theomin.

2/27 Sunday

Associated Ministries will open **CommUniversity 2005** at Pacific Lutheran University. The Opening Convocation address by Rabbi Reuven Firestone will be held in Chris Knutzen Hall in the University Center at 1:30 p.m. For information contact Associated Ministries at (253) 383-3056, ext. 120 or channel@associatedministries.org.

If you have an upcoming workshop or event for *The CHANNEL* calendar, please submit it by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Be sure to include a contact name and phone number. Items may be faxed to (253) 383-2672 or emailed to channel@associatedministries.org. Items will be published as space permits, and may be edited for space and clarity.