

Interfaith News



Nov/Dec/Jan - 2009/2010

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2009 Tables of Faith to Focus on Youth

The Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council (GKCIC) will host a lively celebration of the interfaith youth of the Greater Kansas City community at this year's 2009 Table of Faiths luncheon, to be held on Thursday, November 12th, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel.

This year's event will include exhibit booths of 15 faith traditions, a delicious lunch, and the presentation of awards, as well as inspiring music, an interfaith youth choir, drumming and audience participation. The Steve Jeffers Interfaith Leadership Award will be presented to Ahmed El-Sherif for his interfaith work in the community, and the annual Table of Faiths award will be given to All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church for its commitment to interfaith work.

Exhibits representing the various faith traditions will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the lunch events will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. Individual tickets are \$50, and sponsorship options ranging from \$300 to \$5,000 are available to individuals and organizations and include advertising opportunities.

Table of Faiths is the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council's primary annual fundraising event, typically attracting 500 people or more. Honorary chairs this year are Alvin Brooks, The Honorable Peggy Dunn, and Bill Tammeus.

For more information, please visit www.kcinterfaith.org or call 913-548-2973.

Mission: We are growing a sustainable, pervasive culture of knowledge, respect, appreciation, and trust amongst people of all faiths.

“Take It to the Park,” A Day of Prayer and Celebration

On Saturday, August 22, “Queen Mother” McFarlane and community outreach volunteers invited the GKCIC to join in a “Prayer and Praise” event at the Bernard Powell Memorial Park, 28th and Brooklyn. Participants from a number of religious communities came together to celebrate all the good that is going on in the community, the programs that are helping to turn the community around, and to pray for the problems that continue to vex the community, particularly the violence, drugs, availability of weapons, health issues, abandoned property and litter.

One event was a walk with Steppers, who promote healthy life-styles by going to different areas of the community each month and inviting residents to come and walk with them in hopes that regular walks will continue in that community after the Steppers move on to another area.

Attendees, including lots of children, heard about programs to mentor youth, such as One Hundred Black Men, with the motto “Each one, teach one,” and dinner and dialogue events where frank issues regarding marriage and family are discussed. Scouts in uniform presented the flags.

Barnard Powell’s widow shared the story of his shortened life. He started four businesses in the community and employed many people. With the profits, he opened a community center focused largely on providing training and recreational activities for youth. When he learned about an employee who was dealing drugs from the center, he fired that employee, who later shot and killed him. Powell was only thirty-three and had three children.

The “Extreme Team,” a group of young, very hefty men entertained by breaking concrete blocks with legs, arms, and heads; but before they did, each one shared his story of redemption out of crime, prison, gangs and addictions with the help of their faith and mentors.

The day was interspersed with times of prayer and inspirational stories. One person shared how a young mother noticed drug activity on her block and prayed daily that each person involved, the dealers, and the addicts, were all children of God, and that they could not violate the neighborhood. Soon the drug activity stopped and the house vacated. She later learned that the woman who ran the house had decided to change her life and quit dealing drugs.

Everyone enjoyed the music provided by a live band with various singers, and the great food that was provided.

Reported by Pam Peck



Queen Mother McFarlane invites children to share a verse from Scripture at “Take It to the Park” Prayer and Praise Celebration.

ALLAN ABRAMS (1939-2009) Worked for Mid-East Peace



He is shown at left with his good friend Ahmed El-Sherif offering a prayer at a recent Peace Meditation at the Rime Center.

Allan Abrams, 70, a volunteer for and friend of the Council and tireless worker for Middle East peace passed away Friday, October 2, 2009 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

He had a career as a tax attorney, investment advisor and professional arbitrator/mediator. He lived for a time in Washington, D.C., New York City and San Francisco, amongst other cities in the U.S. and Europe. He returned to the Kansas City area in 1974.

He lectured and published nationally, primarily on the Middle East peace process. Allan spent much of his life in the non-profit sector, most recently as an active national board member of Brit Tzedek v’ Shalom, The Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace, whose mission is to bring peace to Israel. He had served as National Trustee for the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), was a long-term member of its Kansas City chapter, was a chairperson of the Christian- Jewish-Muslim Dialog Group of Greater Kansas City, principle advisor to Kansas City’s Minority Museum, president of the Kansas City chapter of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), on its International Relations Commission in Washington, D.C. and as co-founder of the Greater Kansas City Diversity Coalition (KCDC). He was also a long time board member of CRES.

Swami Sridharananda on Spirituality and Meditation

Swami Sridharananda, a monk of the Ramakrishna Order of India, who serves areas of Australia and New Zealand, spoke at programs hosted by the Vedanta Society on Friday and Saturday, September 11 and 12.

Friday evening, he gave the premier Arjun Kumar Sharma Memorial Lecture at Regnier Hall, KU Edwards Campus. His topic was "Spirituality: What It Is; Its Practice; and Its Goal." In his talk he frequently pointed out that the goal of life, the practice of spirituality, and spirituality itself were all one: Knowing our true nature, which is spirit.

He stressed having an integrated view of life, with no distinction between the spiritual and the mundane. "We have," he said, "formed a habit of misconceiving our true nature and that of the world around us. We have to re-educate ourselves to be aware of the divine spirit within and without."

He explained how to convert everyday actions to worship of the divine. "We can do this," he said, "by being aware of the presence of God at all times. If we offer our every action to God, we will want to make our best effort. We will then become pursuers of excellence in

daily life, and in this way we will harmonize spiritual efforts with daily responsibilities. This will help prepare us for our quiet periods of meditation practice."

He told his audience: "You are divine! Our faults and foibles have such a hold on us that we dare not think we are divine, but we are. Spirituality means slowly weaning ourselves away from identifying with our body and mind instead of our true divine Self. This is the real purpose of spiritual study. Common sense, rationality, and infallible logic will give us conviction about our true nature, and bring about unstoppable motivation to realize and manifest the divine within. There is neither a speck of space nor an iota of time that is not saturated with the divine!"

On Saturday morning, at the Vedanta Society, the swami taught from the Sixth Chapter of the Bhagavad Gita on how to achieve the three states of meditation: initial (concentration), intermediate (meditation), and ultimate (absorption in God). He pointed out how the human mind is constantly stimulated by the five senses, which if not managed, can force God out of consciousness. The goal is to obtain a state of mind where all activity is infused with divine guidance, and thought has no capacity to disobey or depart from the spiritual without our consent. He suggested preparing by daily disciplining thought to admit only pure ideas from God, developing a deep and abiding relationship with God, and re-educating ourselves to be aware of God's ever-presence.

He offered some practical steps:

- Maintain a clean, quiet, inviting prayer space for God
- Assume an upright, comfortable posture with spine naturally curved and quiet rhythmic breathing.
- Set aside time just for meditation; early hour recommended.
- Use descriptive words in a rhythmic pattern (mantra) to reach a meditative state, leaving time in between to remember the meaning.
- Let the divine operate within our being so that we are not aware we are meditating.

Regular meditation, the swami said, enables alignment with the divine presence, and makes the best use of wisdom and ingenuity so that life is an endless joyful adventure. There is no monotony in the meditative life. He pointed out the importance of spiritual instruction, for both teacher and student, and stated that it is criminal to take wisdom to the grave without sharing it.

Reported by Linda Prugh and Pam Peck



Congregations Continue Efforts to End Violence Through Prayer

On Monday, October 26, at 7 p.m., Congregations United in Prayer (C.U.P.) will hold its first follow-up event to the June event on healing violence in the community. At that time over eighty people from various congregations signed up to be on a prayer team to combat

this troubling issue. It will begin by identifying the various elements that contribute to the violence, and then praying intentionally and regularly about each one over the next year, expecting not only measurable results, such as a reduction in homicides, gang and drug activity, domestic abuse, school and ethnic violence and other acts of hatred, corporate exploitation, vandalism, and neglect of property, but also other positive outcomes, such as a safer, greener, cleaner, and more beautiful

environment, more community fellowship and cooperation, and healthier lifestyles.

If you or members of your congregation would like to be a part of this effort, please contact Ruby Hartsfield-Smith at 816-923-3689, hruby359@aol.com.

Reported by Pam Peck

GKCIC

Presents:

A Neighborhood of World Religions

Fifty three clergy, chaplains, teachers, students, and other caregivers met together on September 30 and explored the cultural views and spiritual wisdom of some of the faiths in our community at a workshop entitled *Kansas City: A Neighborhood of World Religions*. Hosted by the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, and sponsored by the GKCIC, the one-day workshop was facilitated by Rev. Dr. Vern Barnet who led the group in an exploration of what world religions value most; whether these values are universal; and how the wisdom of the various faiths might help to address today's environmental, personal, and social problems.

As participants gathered that morning, they enjoyed meeting one another over break-

fast and visited interfaith booth displays of American Indian Spirituality, the Baha'i Faith, Hinduism, and Unitarian Universalism, and a table offering information on other religions, information on the GKCIC, and copies of *Interfaith News*, interfaith resources, and other information featuring interfaith programs and upcoming events.

Rev. Russell Brown, Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection, welcomed the gathering, as did Shannon Clark, Executive Director of the GKCIC, who outlined for the group the GKCIC's mission and goals as it moves toward its vision of Building the most welcoming community for all people.

Following a breakout of small group conversations exploring each individual's faith journey, Dr. Barnet, presented *Three Families of Faith*, an overview of how Primal, Monotheistic, and Asian faiths approach the Sacred in Nature, Personhood, and Community, respectively. Through understanding each faith's approach to the sacred, Dr. Barnet said, one can begin to fit the confusing details of the world's faiths into a pattern of wisdom for our environmental, personal, and social troubles. As one studies and understands another faith, he maintains, one will achieve a more enriched understanding of one's own.

Mahnaz Shabbir, shared her personal faith journey of Islam, conveying the meaning of the word Islam, which comes from the Arabic *Sal'm*, literally meaning peace. Ms. Shabbir referred to an article she wrote which was published in *The Kansas City Star*, January 9, 2002, "I Am an American Muslim Woman." The article described her struggle as a first generation American Muslim woman and her need to clear up misunderstandings about her faith following the events of September 11, 2001.

The afternoon presenters were Kris Krishna from the Hindu faith and Rev. Dr. Kara Hawkins from the American Indian Spirituality faith. Though Susan Choucroun was unable, due to illness, to present her faith, (Judaism), a Jewish participant graciously filled in on very short notice to present an overview.

Evaluation forms from the attendees came back extremely positive. The main drawback was that there was just not enough time! Each of them were asked if they would be interested in attending another workshop with different faiths and the replies were all "Yes!" The council will look into planning another workshop for either the Spring or the Fall of 2010.

See photo on page 7.

White House Hosts Iftar Celebration

On September 1, US President Barack Obama hosted an iftar dinner beginning the month-long Muslim observation of Ramadan. He said, "It is my great pleasure to host ... you here at the White House to mark this special occasion -- Ramadan Kareem. ... (it) continues a long tradition of ... iftars here at the White House.

He continued, "Tonight's iftar is a ritual that is also being carried out ... at kitchen tables and mosques in all 50 states. Islam, as we know, is part of America ... with families that stretch back generations and more recent immigrants; with Muslims of countless races and ethnicities, and with roots in every corner of the world.

"Muslims are ... interwoven into the fabric of our communities and our country. (They) are successful in business and entertainment; in the arts and athletics; in science and in medicine. Above all, they are successful parents, good neighbors, and active citizens." He praised Muslim citizens' community who have contributed to America in many ways. One of those was former heavyweight champion boxer Muhammad Ali", (who) "could not join us tonight," he said, "(but) it is worth reflecting upon his remarkable contributions, as he's grown from an unmatched fighter ... to a man of quiet dignity and grace who continues to fight for what he believes -- that includes Ali's idea that people of all faiths

hold things in common." Obama quoted Ali, saying: Rivers, ponds, lakes and streams -- they all have different names, but they all contain water. Just as religions do -- they all contain truths."

"Among those truths, Obama continued, "are the pursuit of peace and the dignity of all human beings. That must always form the basis upon which we find common ground. And that is why I am so pleased that we are joined tonight not only by so many outstanding Muslim Americans but people of many faiths -- Christians, Jews, and Hindus -- along with so many prominent Muslims."

He also said: "Together, we have a responsibility to foster engagement grounded in mutu-

White House Hosts Iftar Celebration (cont.)

al interest and mutual respect. And that's one of my fundamental commitments as President, both at home and abroad. That is central to the new beginning that I've sought between the United States and Muslims around the world. And that is a commitment that we can renew once again during this holy season."

He concluded: "So tonight, we celebrate a great religion, and its commitment to justice and progress. We honor the contributions of America's Muslims, and the positive example that so many of them set through their own lives. And we rededicate ourselves to the work of building a better and more hopeful world.



Council Helps Educate Ministers on World Religions

GKCIC member, Karta Purkh Khalsa (third from right) was guest speaker at "SCS 604 World Religions", which is one of the required core subjects in Unity Institute's Master of Divinity and Certificate in Unity Ministry programs at Unity Village. He spoke about his religion, Sikhism or Sikh Dharma.

PAGANISM

Paganism is an umbrella term that encompasses many traditions and personal belief systems. There is no one founder, nor individual point of origin for paganism. The paganism of today draws on the wisdom of both modern and ancient teachings. However, a specific tradition may trace its lineage back to a particular place or person (examples provided below). The term "tradition" (or path) in paganism refers to either a pre-established set of beliefs that provide spiritual meaning and structure (e.g. Druid, Wiccan, Dianic) or an individualized set of beliefs that provide spiritual meaning. Many traditions of Paganism are "reconstructionist" faiths of their ancient historical counterparts. For example: Druids= British Isles; Kemetic Orthodox = Egypt; Hellenic = Greece; Asatru = Germanic region; Gardnerian Wicca/Alexandrian Wicca = England; and Eclectic = beliefs inspired from many sources. The understanding of deity in Paganism is dependant upon the particular tradition. Individuals may be polytheistic (believing in many gods), monotheistic (believing in one god), monistic (believing in a single guiding force), animistic (animism is defined variously: 1. belief in the existence of individual spirits

that inhabit natural objects and phenomena that may be separable or separate from bodies (including all naturally occurring objects; stones, water, trees, animals etc.); pantheistic (belief that God is in all things), pantheistic (belief that God is all things); duotheistic (belief that "the divine" is made up of both male and female counterparts; often called: "The God and The Goddess" or "The Lord and The Lady").

From the author's experience and study of Paganism, the following are the most broadly and commonly-held tenants. However, it should be noted that not all Pagans follow all of these teachings.

- All is Sacred. All individuals, plants, animals, tools, items; everything is sacred and has inherent value and worth.
- Harm none. Simply put, one should live life in such a way that it does not cause harm to another including oneself.
- The Three-Fold Law. Any action a person takes will come back to them three fold.
- Magic. This concept is a kin to prayer but often uses specific tools or techniques and may also be called, energy work, spell work, or magick. (Pagans sometimes spell magic as magick to differentiate their spiritual practice from slight of hand tricks). Because of the

laws of "harm none" and the "three fold law", Pagans typically only use magick for positive ends, such as healing, prosperity and self actualization.

- Immanent Divinity. The divine, is not to be worshiped from afar. They reside within us and around us.

Chant: We all come from the Goddess, and to her we shall return, like a drop of rain, flowing to the ocean. (by Z. Budapest)

- Personal Searching. It is expected that individuals will either identify with a specific established tradition or develop their own personalized path. Personal responsibility is highly valued and promoted. Paganism and its many traditions are non-evangelical.

The most commonly recognized pagan symbol is the pentacle. It is often used as a symbol of protection. It also is widely recognized as representative of the elements: earth, air, fire and water with the top most point representing spirit. (a pentagram refers to the same star discussed above, without the surrounding circle)

Thank you for reading this brief introduction to modern paganism. And as many pagans say upon parting: "Blessed Be. Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again!"

Fort Osage High School Senior on “Peace and Understanding”

2009 marks the third year of the Syed Farrukh Shabbir, M.D. Memorial Scholarship. This is a 500-word essay contest for graduating high school seniors from the greater Kansas City area on the importance of peace and pluralism in today’s world. It is sponsored by the Crescent Peace Society and commemorates the life of Dr Shabbir who died in 2006 after completing his pilgrimage to Mecca.

The winners of the scholarship were: 1st Place: Shelby Strodtman from Ft. Osage High School, Independence, Missouri now a freshman at Central Methodist University (\$500 Scholarship); 2nd Place: Jennifer Carney from North Kansas City High School, North Kansas City, Missouri now a freshman at William Jewel College (\$250).

The judges were The Rev. Vern Barnett; Elizabeth Alex, anchor, KSHB TV 41; Syed Ali Shabbir and Syed Adil Shabbir, eldest sons of Syed Farrukh Shabbir. The Crescent Peace Society is a not for profit organization. Anyone interested in making a tax deductible donation for next year’s scholarship, can mail a check payable to CPS PO Box 23175, Overland Park, KS. 66283. More information about the scholarship can be found at www.crescentpeace.org.

The winning essay by Shelby Strodtman appears below.

PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING IN A PLURALISTIC WORLD

Pluralism is, according to Webster, “the existence within a nation or society of groups with distinct ethnic origin, cultural patterns, religion.” This certainly describes our world today. In Emma Lazarus’ poem, *The New Colossus*, which appears on the Statue of Liberty, she cries, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free . . .” Lazarus, a Jewish American poet, saw the Statue of Liberty as a light beckoning to the world, and her words represent freedom for thousands of immigrants coming to America. People came here from all cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds, bringing with them their beliefs and faith.

Early colonists developed political and social practices that influenced our history. The Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution represent their moral values: freedom of religion and to assemble, as well as the dignity and worth of each individual in our country. Early immigrants were glad to be here and ready to adapt. Many came because of religious persecution or a desire for a new life; some were indentured servants or prisoners. Today, America has become a

mixture of many races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds, each struggling for recognition and acceptance.

To have peace and understanding in a pluralistic world does not mean everyone has to think and act the same. Pluralism allows for differences in beliefs and personalities, but pluralism is more than just existing together. Pluralism embodies moral values common to all religions such as the Golden Rule. Pluralism doesn’t mean everyone needs to be the same. Diversity is healthy. To achieve peace and understanding, individuals with diverse backgrounds need to recognize their differences and work towards the common good of all. Unfortunately, all too often an effort to bring fairness to one minority brings discrimination to other ethnic or religious groups.

One doesn’t have to be a Christian and believe in Jesus to have high moral standards. There is more than one way to solve a problem, more than one viewpoint. Today, there are diverse religious communities in America, and many of them work together to help the homeless or fight hunger—here and abroad. Many denominations operate food pantries, send money and supplies to third world countries, and help with disaster relief throughout the

world. Helping our global neighbors encourages peace and understanding.

One Webster definition for peace is “freedom from war”; understanding is “comprehension or sympathetic awareness.” My definition for peace is harmony. If people live in harmony and have a sympathetic awareness of the opposite viewpoint, there would be “peace and understanding in a pluralistic world.” Unfortunately, mutual understanding is often absent. People have their own viewpoints and are closed-minded. In a pluralistic world, it isn’t necessary to adopt the opposing viewpoint; it is merely necessary to recognize it and let those viewpoints exist, opening our minds to new ideas, thinking outside the box. Pluralism does not intend to mesh people into one mold but rather to acknowledge each other as members of a civil, moral society. Peace and understanding in a pluralistic world does not mean uniformity but rather a give and take, each unique group recognizing the uniqueness of each other.

A CIVIL DISCUSSION: Faith Conversations on Health Care Reform

On Sunday, August 30th at 3:00 p.m. a two-hour "health care Sabbath" was held with more than 300 in attendance. The event was hosted at Community Christian Church and was organized by senior pastor, the Rev. Bob Hill, along with the Rev. Diane Nunnelee (retired United Methodist Pastor) in response to the recent vitriol and wrath seen at many town hall meetings held by various political leaders. Bob and the Diane both felt the need for an open forum to be held where leaders of various faiths along with health care experts could discuss the topic in a civil manner.

Moderator for the panel was Bill Tammeus, former columnist for The Kansas City Star, and author. The faith panel included: the Rev. Eric Williams, Calvary Baptist Temple; the Rev. Dr. Tarris Rosell, Center for Practical Bioethics; Rabbi Alan Cohen, Jewish Community Relations Bureau/ American Jewish Committee - Kansas City Chapter; the Rev. Dr. Heather Entrekin, Prairie Baptist Church; and Lama Chuck Stanford, Rime Buddhist Center. Health Care Responders included: Andrea Routh, Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance, and Dr. Susan Hinck, 2007-2010 Robert Wood Johnson Fellow, Senate Finance Committee Health Team.

The event began with opening comments by the Rev. Bob Hill followed by remarks from moderator Bill Tammeus. Each panel member also made an opening statement followed by a question and answer period from the audience. The event was covered by WDAF television and by Michael Mansur, a reporter from The Kansas City Star. The event was co-sponsored by 12 local religious and civic organizations.

All of the panelists agreed that equal access to quality health care is a fundamental moral issue. The U.S. is the only western democracy that doesn't provide health care for all of its citizens. It has been estimated that as many as

46 million Americans are uninsured and even more are underinsured. Many of the panelists expressed the opinion that our current health care system is broken due to the built-in profit motive inherent in a system run by for-profit companies.

Lama Chuck Stanford related his own very personal health challenges that resulted in his being uninsurable at any price. As a result he joined the other 46 million Americans who are also uninsured. However, he was thankful to his wife for returning to work so that he could be insured through a group plan that can't reject a person for a pre-existing condition. He is dependent upon treatments that cost \$15,000 per month (\$180,000 per year).

Lama Chuck commented that some things you simply can't put a price tag on - such as a quality education or quality health care. However you can place a value on them in terms of a society that wants to care for all its citizens equally.

The event was a tremendous success and made a very positive contribution to the on-going discussion about health care reform in this country - one of the most important and pressing social issues of our time. Community leaders praised the event, not only for its tone and content but also for providing much needed information and insights about the complex array of issues that are part of this on-going discussion.

World Religions Workshop please see page 4 for complete story



The Rev Vern Barnet, standing, facilitated the day long workshop guiding participants on a path of inquiry and discovery.

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2009 Table of Faiths
November 12th
"Celebrating Interfaith Youth"

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 2: Sikh: Birth of Guru Nanak, 1st Sikh Guru.
- Nov. 4: Baha'i Faith: Qudrat (Power), the 13th month of Baha'i year.
- Nov. 12: Baha'i Faith: Birth anniversary of Baha'u'llah, founder of Baha'i Faith.
- Nov. 17: Buddhism: Amitabha's Birthday.
- Nov. 23: Baha'i Faith: Qawl (Speech), 14th month of Baha'i year.
- Nov. 24: Sikh: Martyrdom of Guru Teg Bahadur, 9th Sikh Guru.
- Nov. 26: Baha'i Faith: Day of Covenant: anniversary of appointment of Abdul-Baha as Center of Covenant.
- Nov. 27: Islam: Expected Day of Eid al-Adha in celebration of completion of Hajj.

DECEMBER

- Dec. 8: Buddhism: Sakyamuni's Enlightenment.
- Dec. 12: Baha'i Faith: Masa'il (Questions), 15th month.
- Dec. 12-19: Judaism: Hanukkah, Festival of Lights.
- Dec. 13: Vedanta: Birth anniversary of Sri Sarada Devi (1853-1920), spiritual consort of Sri Ramakrishna.
- Dec. 18: Islam: Islamic New Year. Expected to be first day of Muharram. www.moonsighting.com.
- Dec. 25: Christianity: Anniversary of the birth of Christ.
- Dec. 27: Islam: Ashura commemorates martyrdom of Husain (Prophet Muhammad's grandson) in 680 CE.
- Dec 31: Baha'i Faith: Sharaf (Honor), 16th month.

JANUARY

- Jan. 1: Buddhism: Maitreya's Birthday.
- Jan. 5: Sikh: Birth of Guru Gobind Sing, 10th Sikh Guru.
- Jan. 10: Vedanta: Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902), famed disciple of Sri Ramakrishna.
- Jan. 17: Vedanta: Birth anniversary of Swami Brahmananda (1863-1922), spiritual son of Sri Ramakrishna.
- Jan. 19: Baha'i Faith: Feast of Mulk (Dominion).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

Oct. 26, Mon., Congregations United in Prayer (C.U.P.) meets at 7:00 pm, at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. Focus: Many aspects of violence, and prayerful approaches to healing it. Info: Ruby Hartsfield-Smith, 816-923-3689;hruby359@aol.com.

NOVEMBER

- Nov. 2: Sikh: Full Moon Meditation, 7 pm 3HO Ashrama, 3525 Walnut, KCMo. 816-561-5337.
- Nov. 9: Festival of Faiths: Women Drumming the Beat of Their Faith, 6:30-8:30 pm, House of Menuha, 801 E. 77th St.
- Nov. 10: Festival of Faiths: Dr. Eboo Patel addresses Kansas City area high school students at Notre Dame de Sion at 10:00 a.m.
- Nov. 10: Festival of Faiths: Dr. Eboo Patel is keynote speaker, 7:30 pm, Congregation Beth Shalom, 9400 Wornall Rd.
- Nov. 11: Festival of Faiths: Vital Conversations: Acts of Faith, The Story of an American Muslim, the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation, by Eboo Patel. 1:00 pm, Antioch Branch, Mid-Continent Library,

Nov. 12: Festival of Faiths: Table of Faiths Celebration, sponsored by GKIC. Luncheon 12:00 to 1:30. Faith Exhibit booths open 11:00 to 2:00. Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

Nov. 19: Festival of Faiths: "Voicing the Spiritual Self: The Language of Doubt and Belief" (prose and poetry readings), 7:00 pm at The Writers' Place, 3607 Pennsylvania.

Nov. 22: Festival of Faiths: Interfaith Thanksgiving Sunday Family Ritual Meal, sponsored by CRES, 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Islaic School of Kansas City, 10515 Grandview Rd.

Nov. 23: Festival of Faiths: "The Hindu and the Cowboy" at 7:00 pm, Rockhurst High School Rose Theatre.

DECEMBER

- Dec. 2: Sikh: Full Moon Meditation, 3HO Ashram, 3525 Walnut. 816-561-5337.
- Dec. 9: Vital Conversations: Wisdom Walk: Nine Practices for Creating Peace and Balance from the World's Spiritual Traditions, by Sage Bennet. 1:00 pm, Antioch Branch, Mid-Continent Library.
- Dec. 31: Sikh: Full Moon Meditation, 3HO Ashram, 3525 Walnut. 816-562-5337.
- Dec. 31: World Peace Meditation at 6 AM at the Rime Center. Please contact the Rime Center for details.

JANUARY

- Jan. 13: Vital Conversations: Read a book about or by Martin Luther King, Jr. Archie Williams, a local scholar and good friend, will recite one or more of King's famous speeches and help facilitate a discussion about this great American. 1:00 pm, Antioch Branch, Mid-Continent Library.
- Jan. 30: Sikh: Full Moon Meditation, 3HO Ashram, 3525 Walnut. 816-561-5337,