



Interfaith News

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4TH ANNUAL TABLE OF FAITHS--NOV 13

The Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council's fourth annual Table of Faiths luncheon will take place on Thursday Nov 13 from 11AM to 2PM. As with previous luncheons, each of the 15 faiths represented on the Council will sponsor an information booth for attendees to visit and learn about the various faith paths present on the Council.

The theme for this year's luncheon is "Spirituality & Health." Booth exhibits will focus on each faith's treatment of that theme. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 11AM-2PM on Thursday, Nov 13.

The luncheon will honor the Rev Bob Hill, senior pastor at CommunityChristian Church with the first Steven L Jeffers Award for individual achievement in interfaith work. The Shawnee Mission Medical Center will also be honored for its work in the interfaith community. (Continued on page 2)

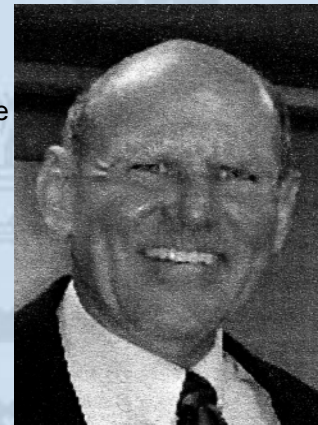
In Memoriam

The Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council lost an important member on August 14, 2008 when the Reverend Steven L. Jeffers died in an automobile accident. Steve Jeffers was a member of the Council for a relatively short period of time but his devotion to the cause of interfaith dialogue and understanding left a strong impression on all of his fellow members.

He was Director of Spirituality in Health for the Shawnee Mission Medical Center and in that capacity was editing a Physician's Desk Reference of religions for doctors to use in more sensitively treating patients and families in relation to their spiritual beliefs. The Council took an active part in helping Steve in this work and hopes to see the book published soon.

Steve was pastor at several Kansas City area churches and taught at the Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a member of Park Hill Christian Church. He is survived by his wife, Jan.

Quoting from a remembrance service by the Council, "The light of Steve's life radiated his gifts of enthusiasm, humility, intelligence, service, generosity, patience, curiosity, kindness and laughter. Our memory's eye still sees him and out mind remembers the power of his being."



Steve Jeffers
1948-2008

Mission Statement of the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council

We are growing a sustainable, pervasive culture of knowledge, respect, appreciation and trust amongst people of all faiths and religious traditions in the greater Kansas City community.

The Joy of Vital Conversations

by David Nelson /
www.humanagenda.com

I remember being told years ago that it is not safe to discuss religion or politics with people who might have different opinions. That made me sad. As a young adult and throughout my life so far, religion and politics have been two of my favorite things. I have been active in my church and involved in interfaith activities that have brought much meaning and satisfaction in my life. I have been active in several political campaigns and have both celebrated and grieved defeats.

Learning From Differences

Several years ago, I made the decision to reject the notion that these were topics that could not be addressed unless you had agreement ahead of time. What value is there in only talking with people who think and pray just like me? What wisdom is to be gained when I only hang out with people who have already reached the same conclusions I have about a political or social issue? I know what most other Lutheran Christians feel about the historical Jesus or the Holy Spirit. But I don't understand what Muslims do five times a day when they prostrate themselves facing Mecca. I can understand why we Democrats desire to expand Head Start, but I want to hear more from those of other persuasions about why social programs only slow economic development.

NOTES FROM VITAL CONVERSATIONS

by David Nelson

What a joy to gather with over 20 people (10/8) to listen to and interact with Lewis Diuguid of the *The Kansas City Star*. Lewis shared with us the five media functions and the inequality that remains in coverage. He offered three diversity formulas: 1) Talent x Diversity = Productivity; 2) Talk x Diversity = Social Capital 3) (Hope/Prayer + Work) x Diversity = Change. I left having been challenged and given new hope. The positive comments others have shared remind me how important these conversations are.

Gayl Edmunds of Wichita and Spiritual Teacher in the Life Connections Program at USP Leavenworth shared some of his stories (11/12) and information about Native Americans. His culture invites us all, for we are all relatives, to live in balance and harmony. He helped us see the story of our nation through the eyes of those who had lived here for centuries when Columbus landed. "In the process of learning another culture, you learn just as much about yourself and your own culture."

And so with some trepidation and lots of hope I started "Vital Conversations." I wanted these to be vital, important for living fully. I desired intentional conversations, which means listening to others and sharing personal thoughts. The Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council has been seeking to expand our programming so I offered this idea. After several months we got an agreement from Mid Continent Library to be a collaborative partner. The Antioch Branch is only a half-mile from my home. I can ride a bike to attend if I decide to. We need intentional interfaith activities North of the river in Kansas City.

Win Friends, Not Arguments

And then a real light came on when my friend Dr. Vern Barnet in one of his columns used a phrase that has taken on a whole life of its own in my life. I added the words "vital conversations" but Vern gave me permission to use the quote. "The purpose of a Vital Conversation is not to win an argument but to win a friend and advance civilization."

We were off and running. The second Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. a dozen or so individuals gather to discuss books, religion, politics, and the meaning of life. We value the diverse ideas and intentionally invite people to attend who can add a new perspective to our circle. We have read about Gandhi, Jesus, Buddha, and Muhammad. We have studied the Jewish Kabbalah and the visions of Black Elk. We have talked about the politics of the left, right, and center.

MORE ON BOOKS

Here is a listing of upcoming books and discussion groups over the next three months. Included are both **Vital Conversations** and the **Interfaith Council Book Club**.

Nov. 3: Interfaith Council Book Club. Lynne McTaggart: *The Field: the Quest for the Secret Force of the Universe and the Intention Experiment*. Christian Science Center, Red Bridge Shops, 111th & Holmes, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. 913-268-6212,

Nov. 12: Vital Conversations, 1:00 p.m., Mid-Continent Library, Antioch Branch. *Muhammad*, by Karen Armstrong and "Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet" video.

Dec 10: Vital Conversations, 1:00 p.m. Mid-Continent Library, Antioch Branch. *In Search of the Miraculous*, by P.D. Ouspensky.

Jan. 14: Vital Conversations, 1:00 p.m. Mid-Continent Library, Antioch Branch. *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*, by Jon Meacham.

Feb 2: The Interfaith Book Club's next meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 2, 2009. The book selection will be *Mitakuye Oyasin: We Are All Related*, by Dr. A. C. Ross. This book is based on the oral traditions of thirty-three pre-Columbian Native American tribes. This book will tie in well with our Nov. 3 selection. Contact: Pam Peck, pcpeck99@hotmail.com, 913-268-8212.

Table of Faiths

(Continued from page 1)

The luncheon will once again be part of the 10 day Annual Festival of Faiths. The purpose of this interfaith meal and meeting is to tell the KC community about the work of the Council, generate funding for administration and programming and to celebrate the many and varied traditions that grace our community.

We seek to expand our exiting programs such as the Speaker's Bureau, initiate new youth programs which are so very important, and to collaborate with other organizations to fulfill our mission to make Kansas City the most welcoming community for all people.

Call 913 548 2973 for reservations.

Contact Us

If you have any input for the Interfaith News please contact us via e mail.

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We would be happy to hear your, feedback, suggestions and criticisms

Sacred Texts - The Upanishads

by Linda Prugh

The most important Vedic scriptures which form the basis of Hindu thought and practice are the four Vedas: Rig, Sama, Yajur, and Atharva. Each of these Vedas is composed of two major sections: the Karmakanda and the Jnanakanda. The Karmakanda consists of hymns, mantras, and sacrifices which are concerned with material prosperity here on earth and happiness after death. The Jnanakanda is concerned with Knowledge through which one is liberated from spiritual ignorance and enabled to realize God.

Another way in which the four Vedas are set up is that each Veda has two sections: Mantra and Brahmana. The Mantra is also called the Samhita, which is a collection of hymns, mantras, and sacrifices. The Brahmana section deals with rules and regulations for carrying out the sacrifices, and also reveals the meaning of the Mantra. Another section of the Brahmana is the Aranyaka, ("forest treatise."). The Aranyaka section prescribes symbolic worship and describes various meditations to use as substitutes for actual ritualistic acts. The idea of the Aranyaka is that after fulfilling one's duties as a householder, one should retire into a secluded place and perform mental worship and meditation.

The Upanishads

In most cases the concluding portion of the Aranyaka is the Upanishad, also referred to as the Vedanta. Veda means knowledge; anta means culminating. In it the Vedic wisdom reaches its culmination. It shows the seeker the way to Liberation and God.

A point to realize about the Vedas is that they have no known authors. They are considered to contain records of the experiences of sages who wanted to know Truth. Through intense meditation and other spiritual practices, these sages realized many truths and had visions which they revealed to their own children or disciples. Their highest experiences are found in the Upanishads.

Age of the Vedic Scriptures

It is impossible to ascertain the exact age of the Vedic scriptures. Swami Nikhilananda, a monk of the Ramakrishna Order and a respected translator of the major Upanishads wrote: "One reason for the obscurity [of the age of the Vedas] is that the ancient Hindus lacked the historical sense. They seldom kept records of the dates of their literary, religious, or even political achievements. The Vedas, furthermore, which had been handed down orally for so many centuries, were never believed by them to have had human authorship: they had either been taught to the sages by God or had become manifest of themselves to the primordial [sages], who were the seers of the mantras. Hence in India the tendency has always been to regard the Vedas as eternal, rather than as compositions of a certain historical moment."

Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902) brought the message of Vedanta to the West in 1893. In an address he gave at the Parliament of Religions he stated about the Vedas: "By Vedas no books are meant. They mean the accumulated treasury of spiritual laws discovered by different persons in different times. Just as the law of gravitation existed before its discovery, and would exist if all humanity forgot it, so it is with the laws that govern the spiritual world."

Meaning of "Upanishad"

The word Upanishad comes from upa (meaning near); ni (meaning totality); and sad (to loosen or attain). So the etymological meaning of the word is: the Knowledge which, when received from a competent teacher, totally loosens the bondage of the world, or enables one to realize one's true divine nature. In Vedanta, the concept of God is Absolute Existence; Absolute Consciousness or Knowledge; and Absolute Bliss. God is referred to as Brahman – the One without a Second. The inner meaning of the word Upanishad is: When one hears or studies the Upanishad, he or she is sitting very close to God.

There are at least 108 Upanishads, but ten are considered major, as they were commented on by the great Shankaracharya. It is the Upanishads, or Vedanta, that form the philosophical foundation of Hinduism. Hinduism itself is a vast collection of diverse sects, with varying beliefs and social and spiritual practices. However, at the basis of Hinduism lies the Vedanta.

It is Vedanta, with its emphasis on spiritual principles that are universal in application and independent of any culture, that is taught in the Vedanta Societies of the West.

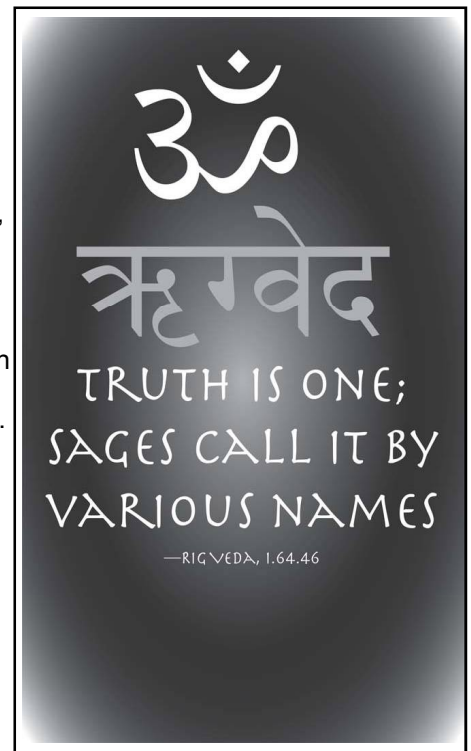
Other Vedanta Scriptures

The teachings of the Upanishads, the Brahma Sutras, and the Bhagavad Gita constitute the Vedanta. The subject matter of the Upanishads can be very confusing to unwary students. So the Brahma Sutras (also known as the Vedanta Sutras) were composed in concise aphorisms which give the teachings of the Upanishads in such a way as to reconcile apparent contradictions.

The Bhagavad Gita (literally "Song of God") is considered the practical scripture containing the essence of the Upanishads in 700 verses. At the end of each of its 18 chapters or Yogas (Paths to Union with God) the Gita states: "Thus in the Bhagavad Gita, the essence of the Upanishads, the Science of Brahman, the scripture of Yoga, the dialogue between Sri Krishna and [his disciple] Arjuna, ends this discourse." It is the most widely-read Vedanta scripture in the world.

Three main schools of Vedanta thought are: Dualism (Man thinks God is separate from him, and that the world is real); Qualified Nondualism (God is the whole, we are

(Continued on next page)



Sacred Texts

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Three main schools of Vedanta thought are: Dualism (Man thinks God is separate from him, and that the world is real); Qualified Nondualism (God is the whole, we are the parts); and Nondualism (Brahman is the all-pervading Ultimate Reality, without name, without form, and the goal of life is to realize one's own divinity and to see the divine in every being and in every thing). The principal propounders of these three schools were, respectively, Madhvacharya (1199-1276 a.d.); Ramanujacharya (1017-1137 a.d.); and Shankaracharya (788-820 a.d.). Madhva wrote commentaries on some major Upanishads according to doctrines of Dualism, and some disciples of Ramanuja did so to prove that Qualified Nondualism is the underlying philosophy of Vedanta. However, it was Shankara, regarded as the Father of Nondualism or Advaita Vedanta, who through his defeating of all other schools of Vedanta, won wide acceptance and prestige.

Later, Swami Vivekananda taught that these three schools of thought are not contradictory, but rather complementary, representing stages of spiritual development. If one takes photographs of the sun from morning to evening, the sun will appear to be different in each photo, though the sun is always the same. One all-pervading Reality is the source and support of the universe. It manifests on the relative plane through various incarnations. The true nature of every being and every thing is divine. Life's purpose is to realize this divinity within and without. Aids to realization are: unselfish action, devotion, meditation, and discrimination between the Real and the unreal (the Unchanging and the changing). All religions are different paths to the same Reality.

Going Beyond the Scriptures

Two other points should be emphasized about the Vedanta scriptures: First, Vedanta teachers always remind their students that the scriptures have a literal meaning which one can grasp by study, but the inner meaning may be very subtle and difficult to extrapo-

late by oneself. A teacher who knows the inner meaning of the scriptures is very important. Second, one needs to see the living scriptures in a human exemplar. By themselves, one can get only certain ideas from reading the scriptures. One needs to read or hear about or actually be near holy people whose lives exemplify the scriptures.

Swami Vivekananda once remarked about his teacher, Sri Ramakrishna: "He was the living commentary to the Vedas and to their aim.... A single word of his is to me far weightier than the Vedas and the Vedanta." He also referred to Ramakrishna as "the embodiment of the Vedas."

There is something else about Vedanta scriptures which should be emphasized: They always remind the student that even they need to be discarded when one realizes one's divine nature. The Bhagavad Gita (2:46) states: "To the enlightened one, the Vedas are of as much use as a pond when there is everywhere a flood."

Sri Ramakrishna likened the process to having a shopping list for groceries. When one has gotten each item on the list, one no longer needs the list.

And Swami Vivekananda emphasized to his many audiences: "It is very good to be born in a church, but it is bad to die there."

Approaching the Scriptures

A story is told about a boy in ancient times who went to his father and said, "Please teach me the Vedas, Father."

The father replied: "First, go out and find something that is inferior to you and bring it to me."

The boy left home and began walking. Soon he saw a dog. He thought, "Why a dog is certainly inferior to me."

But the dog read the boy's mind and spoke to him, saying: "You think you are superior to me. Can you sense a rainstorm five days ahead of its appearance?" The boy said, "No." "Could you remain faithful to a master who might beat you and even forget to feed you?" ("No.") "Can you walk many miles and find your way back home by following your own scent?" The boy answered, "No," and realized that the dog was in many ways superior to himself. In a similar way a bird also convinced the boy that he was not inferior to him.

Then he spied human feces on the

ground. "Finally," he thought, "that is certainly inferior to me!" But the feces spoke up: "You think I am inferior to you. But do you understand that without me you would be dead? I was once delicious, fragrant food which you ate. Part of me went to build your bones, muscles, and blood; part of me went to your mind and enabled you to think and reason. And the rest of me left your body so that you would not be poisoned."

The boy was amazed. Returning empty-handed to his father, he admitted, "Father, there is nothing inferior to me." The father smiled and putting his hand on the boy's head said, "Now you are ready to study the Vedas."

Impact of the Upanishads

The Upanishads were translated from Sanskrit into Persian in 1650, and from Persian to Latin in 1801-02. Schopenhauer read and studied the Latin translation and declared: "In the whole world there is no study so beneficial and so elevating as that of the Upanishads. It has been the solace of my life; it will be the solace of my death."

Mahatma Gandhi once declared about the first verse of the Isa Upanishad: "If all the scriptures of the world disappeared and this one verse remained, that would be sufficient." That verse is: "All this – whatever exists in this changing universe – should be covered by the Lord (or Spiritual Force). Protect the Self through renunciation. Covet not anybody's wealth."

The Mahatma said: "This mantra tells me that I cannot hold as mine anything that belongs to God, and if my life ... has to be a life of perfect dedication, it follows that it will have to be a life of continual service of our fellow creatures."

This verse tells us that we do not own anything; we should renounce the idea of ownership. All belongs to God. We are only stewards of this earth and we must take good care of it, seeing the divine in everything, inside us and outside us. We should not covet in others such things as wealth, power, ideas, talents, or beauty, because these things belong only to God. The illumined soul regards the whole universe as God.



FESTIVAL OF FAITHS
Fostering Interfaith Experience

The Second Annual Festival of Faiths, which includes the GKCIC's Table of Faiths luncheon on Nov 13 (See story on page 1.), begins on Nov 7 with "What Is Sacred?" an art exhibit by Kansas City adult and teenage artists at the Rime Buddhist Center. The exhibit, which includes a slide show, will be part of the Crossroads Art District's First Friday and will be open from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. Admission is free. The address is 700 West Pennway.

"Voicing the Spiritual Self: The Interfaith Language of Doubt and Belief" is set for 7 PM, Nov 11 at The Writers Place (3607 Pennsylvania). Local writers will read their work. Donation is \$5.

Vital Conversations on Nov 12 will discuss Karen Armstrong's book, *Mohammed* at the Mid Continent Public Library Antioch Branch, 6060 North Central in Gladstone at 1 PM. Free

The "19th Annual Harmony Interfaith Choir Concert" on Sunday Nov 16 will be held at the Concord Fortress of Hope, 11050 W Longview Parkway at 6 PM. Admission is free but donations are accepted.

The Kansas City Star FYI Book Club will hold a discussion of *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson by an interfaith panel at The Writers Place (3607 Pennsylvania) at 3 PM. Listeners are welcome and admission is free.

There will be a presentation of the locally written, produced and acted play, "The Hindu and The Cowboy" at the Metropolitan Ensemble Theatre, 3604 Main at 7 PM. The play is based on interviews with Kansas Citians of diverse faith traditions. Admission is free but donations are accepted.

CRES will hold the 24th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Meal at St Paul's Episcopal Church, (40th and Main) on Sunday, Nov 23 at 6 PM. The meal is a longstanding celebration and ritual. Reservations are required. Contact CRES at www.cres.org.

The final program of this year's Festival of Faiths will happen in 2009 on Jan 26 at 7 PM at Yardley Hall on the Johnson County Community College campus. Jon Meacham, editor of Newsweek Magazine will speak about religion, politics and the media. He is the author of *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation*.

Council Donates to Shawnee Mission Medical Center in Memory of Steve Jeffers



Lama Chuck Stanford (left) and Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council Executive Director Shannon Clark donated funds, contributed by individual Council members, to the Shawnee Mission Medical Center in memory of the late Steve Jeffers, GKCIC member. Receiving the donation is SMMC CEO Samuel H Turner, Sr. Jeffers was Director of Spirituality in Health for the center. Turner will speak at the remembrance for Steve at the Fourth Annual Table of Faiths Luncheon on Nov. 13.

Ramadan Occasion for Faith Understanding



CRES Community Chaplain Josef Walker, host Iftekhar Ahmed, and Union Station CFO Akhtar "Art" Chaudry, are shown at the September 14 event (Iftar) breaking the fast during the Muslim month of Ramadan. GKCIC Executive Director Shannon Clark attended, commenting, "This was an evening of learning about the Muslim traditions, friendship, and delicious home-cooked food."

Part of this year's Festival of Faiths is Books for the Planet; an interfaith service project, which provides used books for overseas and domestic

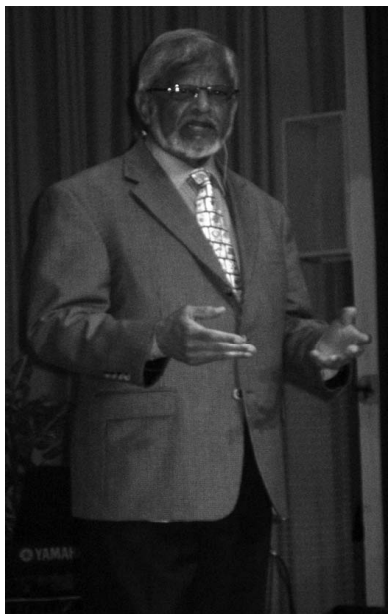
libraries that may be without resources for their readers. Check the website www.questliving.org/booksfortheplanet/ for more information.

“Mystic Core” at Heart of Unity Service

Reported by Linda Prugh
On Wednesday, September 17, at 4:00 p.m. an Interfaith/Interspiritual Service was conducted in the Fillmore Chapel at Unity Village. The Service was part of the 11 Days of Global Unity: An Interfaith Celebration. About 75 attendees were welcomed into the chapel by Unity members.

The program opened with music by J.D. Martin and two singers. During the hour-long program, music was interspersed with a talk by Ministerial Student Kelly Isola. Her theme was religious harmony, and she opened by stating: “Under all the religious trappings, all religions come from the mystic heart.” As an example, she stated: “All religions have an outer path (which manifests as compassion and unselfish service to others, etc.), and an inner path, (contemplation, prayer, etc.). She emphasized the need to not look at the externals of various religions, but to find the treasure which lies at the mystic core, or Divine Reality, which is at the heart of every religion. She stated: “When one lives in the heart of God, the Divine Presence is felt and found to be in our heart. There is this unity in the midst of diversity of expression by the various religions.”

At one point, her theme was underscored beautifully by the song “Living in the Heart of God.”



Arun Gandhi



“Forgiveness is the Way to End Violence,” Arun Gandhi



“Lessons My Grandfather Taught Me” was the title of a discussion on religion and nonviolence conducted by Arun Gandhi, who lived with Mohandas K Gandhi as a young boy.

He shared with the audience some of his memories (lessons) of his famous grandfather. “Forgiveness,” Gandhi told him, “is the way to end violence.”

Arun urged us all to “Take up the friendly study of all religions” as one of the ways to understanding and forgiveness.

At the ashram where Gandhi lived, parents were responsible for the acts of the children. When a child misbehaved, the parents would fast in penance. The children, Arun said, took such punishment very seriously and their behavior usually changed.

He told the story of a boyhood friend whose health was being severely damaged by an addiction to sweets. When the parents of the child appealed to Gandhi to advise the child to give up sweets thinking the power

of this wise and holy man might have an effect on the child. Gandhi did not speak with the boy, instead sending them away telling them to return in 15 days. When the parents brought the boy back, Gandhi spoke with him briefly solving his addiction almost immediately. The parents, of course, were amazed and asked how he had worked such magic. Gandhi simply said that he took the 15 days’ time give up his own predilection for sweets and thus was able “know” the boy’s difficulty. Then he could advise him fairly.

Arun Gandhi’s talk was followed by a discussion among GKCIC members (pictured above) of their path’s attitude towards violence. Participating were: from left: E.J. Niles Unity minister and faculty member at Unity Institute; Padma Krishna (Hindu); Susan Choucroun (Judaism); Dr. Kara Hawkins, (American Spirituality) Arun Gandhi; Dr. A Rauf Mir (Islam); Kris Krishna (Hindu) and Karta Purkh Khalsa (Sikh).

Quantum Physics & Metaphysics

On September 15, British Journalist, Lynne McTaggart, spoke on her latest book, *The Intention Experiment*, as a part of the 11 Days of Global Unity Celebration held at Unity Village. McTaggart also wrote *The Field* in 2001, "presenting the hard evidence for what spiritual masters have been telling us for centuries," according to Wayne Dyer. McTaggart's books report quantified evidence from widely respected quantum scientists at MIT, Stanford, Princeton, and global research sites regarding the nature of matter, that promise to change the way we look at science, religion, the world and our own being.

These scientists have found that sub-atomic particles in infinite num-

bers have no material substance, but naturally reflect energy and light they obtain from the "Zero Point Field," the Source of all light and energy, which could also be called "the life force, the collective consciousness, divine Mind, the Holy Spirit or God, the central organizing force governing our bodies and the rest of the cosmos, or the "undercoat of our being." The nature of The Field is invisible, unified, good, eternal and all harmonious, so while we cannot see The Field we can see its effect. The particles are nothing in and of themselves, but exist in The Field, as "one dynamic web of interconnectedness...forever communicating with each other and collecting data and information." They only take on characteristics when they are

American Leadership Conference Provides Perspective on Change for a Peaceful World

The Universal Peace Federation, part of the Global Peace Festival sponsored by the Unification Church, held a discussion among various faith groups as to the most effective way for religious leaders to participate in and lead the earnest desire of many people for a more spiritual and peaceful world.

Held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Overland Park on October 11, some forty participants gathered to discuss the possible paths towards a more peaceful and spiritual political process. The group was comprised of a number of young exchange students from Pakistan, the Philippines, Lebanon and Africa as well as members of different faith groups from the Kansas City area.

While the day-long meeting did not set out a particular path, it did ask us to discuss in small groups, such subjects as: Are there essential principles (values and beliefs) we can all agree on?; What are the conflicts that arise among religious groups resulting from strong faith convictions and how can they be "solved"?; What would happen if people of diverse faiths could come to a consensus on values?; And given the diversity of America today, is it still possible to identify "truths" we can all agree on?

A number of the participants, including the young exchange students, were appointed "Ambassadors For Peace" by the Universal Peace Federation/Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace. (Pictured below.)



observed; then, they reflect the beliefs of the observer, whether that belief is an object in matter, a body, a weapon, a disease, a storm, a planet, or any other element of the material universe. They may be forces for harmony or chaos, good or evil, depending on whether the thought of the observer is aligned with The Field or not. In other words, we create our own individual and collective reality according to what we believe about matter and its laws, or spirit and its laws, which are opposites. When the observer ceases to observe these phenomena materially, they return to The Field of harmony. The experiments are fascinating; and the results are conclusive beyond what scientist might expect from any experiments, making believers out of many scientists who were initially skeptical. Just as pioneer scientists have challenged, often to their peril, that the earth is flat and that the sun revolves around the earth, so have these scientists broken new ground, challenging Darwin, Newton, and Einstein with the concept that thought governs experience, and all reality is mental phenomena.

These two books promise to become classic introductions to a new age of understanding scientifically what metaphysicians of all faiths have demonstrated and recorded in ancient and contemporary scripture. "Science catching up with intuition" holds great promise for a healthier and more peaceful world." *Pam Peck*

GKCIC Officers Attend NAIN

Three members of the Council attended this year's North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) conference in San Francisco, July 24-28, Susan Cook, who was the overall conference coordinator, Shannon Clark, and Chuck Stanford. The organization started in 1988 in Wichita, KS, where 250 religious leaders from 12 faith traditions gathered to make contacts, learn from each other and exchange ideas.

This year's conference was entitled, "Embracing our Interfaith Future." Through plenary sessions and focused workshops, participants learned what groups in various parts of the country are doing to build vital, healthy multi-religious cultures from neighborhood to global efforts. The KC Interfaith Council will host the 2009 conference, which will be held at Unity Village in June. For information, contact Susan Cook, solonia@juno.com, or Shannon Clark, shannon@interfaith.org.

CALENDAR OF OBSERVANCES

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1: Christian – Roman Catholic: Feast of All Saints.

Nov. 2: Hindu: Skanda Shashti, celebrating Lord Kartik.

Nov. 9: Hindu: Nijja Ekadasi (Maha Kartika).

Nov. 12: Hindu: Kartik Purnima.

Nov 24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, beheaded in Delhi by the Moghul emperor. Accession of Guru Gobind Singh

Nov. 30: Christian – Roman Catholic: Advent begins period of prayer.

DECEMBER

Dec 11: Hindu: Full Moon: Sathyanarayana Pooja (Worship).

Dec 15: Hindu: Dhanur Mas begins: Ganesh Abhishekam; Thiruppavai month Pooja.

Dec. 21: Vedanta: Christmas Commemorative Celebration.

Dec. 21: Judaism: First night of Chanukah.

Dec. 25: Christian – Roman Catholic: Feast of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Dec. 28/29: Judaism: Last night & day of Chanukah.

JANUARY

Jan. 1: Christian – Roman Catholic: Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Jan. 1: Vedanta: Kalpataru Day, commemorating January 1, 1886, when Sri Ramakrishna blessed disciples.

Jan. 1: Hindu: New Year's special worship.

Jan 5 Sikh: Birth of Guru Gobind Singh

Jan. 7: Hindu: Vaikunta Ekadasi.

Jan. 11: Hindu: Full Moon day, Sathyanarayana Pooja.

Jan. 14: Hindu: Upparayana Pooja. Pongal Day in southern India.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Nov. 7: Festival of Faiths: First Friday teen art display: What Is Sacred: Rime Center, 700 West Pennway. 630PM

Nov. 11: Festival of Faiths: Voicing the Spiritual Self. The Writers Place, 3607 Pennsylvania, 7PM

Nov. 13: Festival of Faiths: Fourth Annual Table of Faiths Celebration. Hyatt Regency. (Luncheon Program Noon to 1:30; exhibit booths open from 11AM to 2PM.)

Nov. 16: Festival of Faiths: Harmony Interfaith Concert, Concord Fortress of Hope, 11050 Longview Pkwy. 6PM

Nov. 16: Festival of Faiths: Kansas

City Star FYI Book Club discussion: Three Cups of Tea. The Writers Place, 3607 Pennsylvania, 3PM

Nov 17: Festival of Faiths: "The Hindu and the Cowboy." 3604 Main, 6 PM

Nov. 17: An Evening with Deepak Chopra: 7:30PM at Unity Village.

Nov 21: Kirtan Concert, Prof. Paramjeet Singh, 3HO Ashram 816 561 5337 7PM

Nov 22: Naad Yoga Workshop, Prof Paramjeet Singh, 3HO Ashram 816 561 5337 10AM-4PM

Nov. 23: Festival of Faiths: CRES annual interfaith Thanksgiving meal. St Paul's Episcopal Church, 40th and Main, 6 PM

DECEMBER

Dec. 31: 5:30 AM 22nd Annual Meditation for World Peace. Rime Center, 700 W. Pennway, KCMo.

JANUARY

Jan. 14: Vital Conversations, 1PM Mid-Continent Library, Antioch Branch. American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation, by Jon Meacham.

Jan. 26: Festival of Faiths keynote event: Jon Meacham, editor of Newsweek. Yardley Hall, Johnson County Comm College, 7PM

Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council
PO Box 415
Louisburg, KS 66053

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**FOURTH ANNUAL
TABLE OF FAITHS
LUNCHEON
Thursday, 11/13
11am - 2 pm
HYATT REGENCY
HOTEL**

**NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
PAID
PERMIT 3657
KANSAS CITY MO**

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY