



Many Neighbors, Many Faiths: Being Faithful in the 21st Century

**Soup, Study & Prayer on
Five Sunday Evenings in Lent**

St. John's Episcopal Parish, Clayton

“Who is my neighbor?” In a challenging story, Jesus teaches that neighbors need not be the same nationality, from the same community, or even of the same faith tradition. Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan could have been told to a 21st century audience, as we find ourselves in an increasingly multicultural and multifaith society and world.

What do we know about the faiths of our neighbors, coworkers and friends?

What misunderstandings prevent us from respecting others' faiths?

What do other traditions and beliefs have to teach us?

How can we talk and work with people of other faiths to serve our communities?

These and other questions will be the focus of our Lenten Soup, Supper and Prayer series, which begins February 26th. In our opening presentation, an experienced interfaith advocate will tell us what we can learn from those of different faiths and why we need to talk with those different from us. In the following weeks, speakers from Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism will introduce us to their faiths, answer questions and share their experience of interfaith dialogue and action.

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Simple Supper

Join us for a simple supper of homemade soup, salad and bread, and for lively conversation.

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Programs, Questions & Answers

Each evening, one of our speakers will introduce us to his or her faith and tell us why it is central to their life. Join us as we think about how different faiths can learn from and work together.

8:00-8:30 p.m.

Evening Worship

End the day with a time of quiet gratitude and prayer. We'll use a variety of worship experiences to connect with each other and the Divine.

**Our Programs are Designed for Older Youth and Adults
Childcare for Younger Children is Provided During Programs
Come for Any or All Parts of the Evening!**

**Suggested Donation for the Series: \$25.00/person
Scholarships Available**

To Register, or for More Information, contact us:

**St. John's Episcopal Parish, 5555 Clayton Road,
Clayton, CA 94517 ● 925.672.8855
saintjohnsparish.org ● saintjohnsparish@sbcglobal.net**

(More Information on Back)



Many Neighbors, Many Faiths: Being Faithful in the 21st Century

Weekly Programs

Sunday, Feb. 26th

Interfaith Relations and Why We Need Them

Fr. Tom Bonacci, C.P. is the founder and director of the Interfaith Peace Project, located in Antioch. A Roman Catholic priest with The Passionist Religious Community, Tom is a scriptural scholar who has developed adult education and deacon formation programs around the U.S. He taught sacred scripture and was campus minister at Carlow University, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he founded The Interfaith Sanctuary for students. Along with his interfaith ministry, Tom is dedicated to serving victims of poverty, people dealing with HIV/AIDS, and those recovering from drugs and alcohol. Tom serves on the Board of Directors for The Interfaith Observer and the Catholic Diocese of Oakland, CA.

Sunday, March 4th

Understanding and Learning From Islam

Dr. Amer Araim was born in Iraq. He earned his B.A. in law in Baghdad and his M.A. and Ph.D in New York. He teaches at Diablo Valley College in the East Bay. He served in the Iraqi Foreign Service and served for more than two decades as a foreign policy specialist with the United Nations, focusing on global movements against Apartheid and Colonization. Dr. Araim serves as Imam at the Walnut Creek Islamic Community, director of Islamic Outreach, and on the Executive Committee of Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. He has devoted his life to improving Americans' understanding of Islam and US relations with Moslem countries, and authored *Understanding Islam: 50 Questions*, (Big Hat Press, 2010).

Sunday, March 11th

Understanding and Learning From Judaism

Rabbi Raphael W. Asher was a founder of B'nai Tikvah, (a Reform Congregation located in Walnut Creek, in 1981), where he serves as Rabbi. He encourages the exploration of a variety of spiritual paths to Torah, whether through deeds of kindness, study, or prayer. A model of rabbinic scholarship, he encourages Jewish learning at every stage of life. Rabbi Asher has a widespread reputation for outreach to intermarried couples and families. He sits on the Board of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. His efforts have led to a greater support system for elders, a higher priority for Pastoral Care in local hospitals, and a strong advocacy for those struggling with mental illness in the community. Rabbi Asher is President of the East Bay Council of Rabbis.

Sunday, March 18th

Understanding and Learning From Buddhism

Rev. Ryushin Andrea Thach came to Buddhist practice in 1994 and was ordained in the Soto Zen lineage of Shunryu Suzuki, the founder of the San Francisco Zen Center, in 2005. She is a senior practice leader at the Berkeley Zen Center. Her professional life is in serving those marginalized in the health care system, primarily in Alameda County. Currently she is practicing geriatrics and hospice and palliative care at Over 60s Health Center. She directs the Bridge Service, a community based palliative care program, and serves on the Chaplaincy Board at Alta Bates hospital in Berkeley.

Important Note: Rev. Thach is very sensitive to scented items such as candles, perfume and incense. Please honor her presence by coming "scent free" this evening.

Sunday, March 25th

Understanding and Learning From Hinduism

Ms. Prabha Duneja was born in India and spent her childhood in a small town of Punjab (India). Her devotion to Lord Krsna and her fascination for the study of Geeta started when she was eight. She graduated from the Sanskrit University of Kurukshetra as a teacher of English and Music. After coming to the U.S., she taught junior high school. The founder and President of the Geeta Society (www.holygeeta.com), she is an active member of the Tri-Valley Interfaith Council, the Women's Federation for World Peace, and the United Nations Association USA. She is also a recipient of the Global Citizen award, given by UNA-USA East Bay, for her tireless efforts on behalf of schools and orphanages in India and Mozambique, and for promotion of world peace through her educational activities in California. She teaches yoga and meditation at several locations in the East Bay, has written many books and articles, and lectures and travels extensively.

(More Information on Front)