

2005

Interfaith Council of Washington's 19th Annual

Praise & Thanksgiving

Interfaith Worship Celebration

Thursday, November 17th, 2005

We grew closer through this collaborative experience of interfaith worship and celebration giving thanks and praise to the Ultimate Reality we call by many names:

Absolute, Allah, Brahman, Dharmakaya, Elohim, Father, Great Spirit, God, Goddess, Kami, Lady, Lord, Love, Mother, One, Perfection, Savior...



Father Pat Clark welcomed all and offered a prayer.

Betsey Beckman offered a "Dance of Creation" with the talented piano accompaniment of Music Director, **Laura Ash.**



Interfaith Council of WA planning team members, Brother Jim de Caire and Alain Aridj honored Greg & Nancy Eisen with the 2005 Praise & Thanksgiving Appreciation Award.



Rev Karen Lindquist, Praise & Thanksgiving Coordinator invited all to speak the many names of God



Interfaith Youth Voices, YES-U (Youth Exploring Spirituality) and Uncommon Bonds offered an original song: "**One Voice,**" representing the building of bridges between faiths and the crumbling of the barriers that discourage honest communication, understanding, and love:

**"We are one, but we are many
And from different faiths on earth we come
We share a dream and sing with one voice
I am, you are, we are, on Earth as one."**



FAITH & SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS



THE BAHÁ'Í FAITH ~ presenter, Nancy Coleman.

Nancy is a member of the Bahá'í Faith Community of Seattle and a long time member of the Interfaith Council of WA planning team. Nancy offered the "Prayer for Humankind" from the Bahá'í Sacred Writings.

BUDDHIST (ZEN) ~ presenter, Greg Eisen

and members of Dharma Sound Zen Center offered the Chinese chant, "Kwan Seum Bosal," calling upon Kuan-yin, the bodhisattva of compassion, "to hear the sound of suffering in the world, and respond with compassion."



FAMILY FEDERATION for WORLD PEACE ~

Sun Hak International Children's Choir presented "*Al Shlosha D'varim*" (Hebrew), "*Dry Your Tears*" (Africa), and "*Chariots a'Comin*" (Spiritual).

HINDU (VEDANTA) ~ presenter, Brahmachari David Oliver, a monk of the Vedanta Society of Western WA, narrated a parable often told by Sri Ramakrishna, entitled, "**The Chameleon.**" This story explains why so many different perceptions and interpretations of god have evolved, and shows the advantage of living a God-centered life.



ISLAM ~ presenter, Imam Abdulah Polovina of the Islamic Community of Bosniaks of WA state, offered a Surah (verse) or chapter from the holy book of Muslims, the Qur'an. This Surah is known as **Sab'a Mathani** (Seven Oft-Repeated Verses.) It is also called **Umm-ul-Kitab** (Mother of the Book), foundation and essence of the Qur'an. Imam Abdulah also offered a Nasheed or Ilahija (traditional Islamic song) in Bosnian language "**Od Masrika do Magriba**" ("From the East to the West").





JUDAISM ~ presenters, **Jon & Tova Ramer**, interfaith leaders, invited us to sing:
 “I AM Alive” by Rabbi David Zeller;

“Yi, da, da....I AM Alive (4x)
 And who is this aliveness I AM (3x)
 Is it not, the Holy Blessed One?”



QUAKER ~ presenter, **Leyla Welkin**, member of the Agate Passage Friends Meeting of Bainbridge Island, WA invited us to join her in a few minutes of silence as a way of centering ourselves and opening ourselves to the divine light, a central practice of the Religious Society of Friends

SIKH ~ **Gurudwara Singh Sabha of WA** offered a prayer. The English translation of the first few lines of the prayer appear below:

“First, Allah created the Light; then, by His Creative Power, He made all mortal beings. From the One Light, the entire universe welled up...”



SUFI ~ **The Whirling Dervishes of the Mevlevi Order of America** presented sacred music and prayer-dance from the 700 year old spiritual tradition of Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi. The Zikr (Remembrance of God) chant offered, “**Esta’furullah,**” is derived from one of the Divine Names meaning “*The All Forgiving.*”

FINALE:

Father Clark sent us off with an inspiring message of support and Betsey Beckman danced us from the Sanctuary to the Social Hall where we visited with one another over delicious homemade cookies provided by the Bahá’í Faith Community of Seattle with tea and coffee provided by St Patrick’s Catholic Church.

We used this opportunity to meet someone new from a tradition different from our own. The person-to-person contacts we made during our time together became our joy.



Musicians offered a final participatory song, “**Heart of the Earth,**” concluding our evening together.

*We appreciate the sound technicians and musicians
 who added exquisite support to all of the presenters, deepening our spiritual experience;
 Jon and Tova Ramer, Laura Ash, Yana Devi, Steve Flynn, Talia Toni Marcus, Lauren Burrei...*



