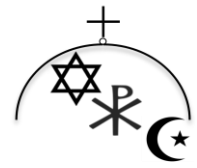




Newsletter for



Parish Ecumenical Representatives to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

Late October, 2011

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Hello...

A last minute receipt of the Gateway program flyer prompted this "Late October" issue, just as the **postponement of the *The Living Word in Christian Worship* workshop** until March 24th prompted the emergency issue of the previous October, 2011 issue (with inevitable flaws in content). I apologize for that.

Until they are on the Diocese website, I added an archive for the previous newsletters on: <http://www.JAOMAD.com/PER-ArchNewsletters.htm>

➔ I heartily encourage notice requests, but ask that they be sent at least two months in advance so that I have a chance to create another "as needed" issue.

➔ We encourage you to share this newsletter within your parish, among your parish council, and perhaps have copies of this included with the literature available for all your parishioners. Short excerpts can be included in your parish bulletins to promote understanding among others in your congregation. Consider sharing this as well among your neighboring congregations of other faiths, perhaps through your local ministerium.

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Archbishop's New Year letter to the Philadelphia Board of Rabbis

September 19, 2011

Rabbi Elisa Goldberg, President

Philadelphia Board of Rabbis

7607 Old York Rd.

Elkins Park, PA 19027

Dear Rabbi Goldberg,

As the solemn observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is celebrated, on behalf of the faithful of the archdiocese of Philadelphia, may I extend to you in the Jewish community are prayerful best wishes for peace, hope, and a joy filled New Year.

How good it is to hear again the words of Isaiah, "Seek the Lord while he may be found, call him while he is near." How beneficial it is to remember the goodness of God's creation and to renew the sacred covenant in a spirit of atonement and cleansing. Yom Kippur reminds all of us of our needs to pray daily for reconciliation.

As we praise God for his surpassing goodness and mercy, let us pray for each other that we may continue to be signs of hope and instruments of God's peace.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

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Obituary: A founding member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility Dies

Horace Gail, 92, was the former executive in the Valley Forge headquarters of the American Baptist churches USA died of respiratory failure on Sunday, October 9. Mr. Gail was treasurer of what is now Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester New York from 1962 to 1970. He moved to Valley Forge to be treasurer of national ministries for the Baptist denomination, which he was from 1970 to 1986. During those years he represented his denomination at board meetings of the National Council of Churches in Manhattan. In 1971 he was a founding member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility which remains the pioneer

coalition of active shareowners who view the management of their investments as a catalyst to promote justice and sustainability in the world. Now comprising nearly 300 organizations with collective assets totaling over \$100 billion, ICCR members help shape corporate policy on a host of environmental, social and economic justice concerns. In 1980 he took a three-month leave to work with the missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's agency in Calcutta India. Mr. Gail retired in September 1982. Memorial services were held at Central Baptist Church in Wayne.



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Gateway to Religious Communities



The Interfaith Center's upcoming 'Gateway to Religious Communities' program provides an opportunity for you to visit your fellow Council members' communities. It includes a visit to Kol Tzedek synagogue in October, Imam Anwar's mosque in November, the Sikh community in December, and Rev. Lawrence's church in January! See list below. Each visit includes an orientation, an opportunity to observe and/or participate in a worship experience, and a safe space for asking questions of community leaders afterwards.

We've found this congregational visitation program to be a really rewarding 'first step' for inter-religious beginners as well as an opportunity to go deeper and meet a new tradition for some of our more experienced inter-religious bridge-builders.

It would be wonderful to have you and / or members of your community participate! Youth and adults are welcome, and they may participate in just one session or all four. Please feel free to share this invitation widely within your networks.

Attached you will find the flyer with dates, times, etc.

Registration is available on-line at: <http://www.interfaithcenterpa.org/involved/gateway-reg.php>.

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Coming Events:

Important Notice: New Gateway program begins October 22, 2011

→→ First of this season will be held Saturday 9:15 AM – 1:15 PM at
Kol Tzedek Reconstructionist Synagogue, Calvary Center for Community and Culture,
801 S. 48th Street Philadelphia, PA 19143
[\[http://www.kol-tzedek.org/home/about/location-and-directions\]](http://www.kol-tzedek.org/home/about/location-and-directions)

Registration for all four Gateway programs:
[\[http://www.interfaithcenterpa.org/involved/gateway-reg.php\]](http://www.interfaithcenterpa.org/involved/gateway-reg.php)

Future Gateway visits:

- **Sunday, November 13, 12:30-2:30pm – Quba Institute (Islamic Congregation)**
4637 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131-4619
- **Sunday, December 4, 12:00-3:00pm – Sikh Gurdwara of Philadelphia**
6706 Garden Court Rd, Upper Darby, PA 19082-1827
- **Sunday, January 8, 10:15am-2:15pm – White Rock Baptist Church**
5240 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19139

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→→ **Wednesday, November 16th 7:00 PM – Old St. Joseph's Church –**
4th & Walnut Streets, Philadelphia – Rabbi Winokur speaking about
Judaism's God: A God of Strict Judgment or a God of Love?

→→ **Sunday, November 20th at 3:00 PM – Sixteenth Annual Thanksgiving Service**

– Contact Peter Hughes (AMDGpfh@yahoo.com) for details.



This service of thanksgiving that has become a tradition in the Upper Southampton community. Clergy and people of all faiths and organizations are sincerely invited to join in prayer. Clergy will join in procession and reading of Sacred Scripture. Each person attending is asked to bring items of non-perishable food or infants and toddlers needs. All foods and a plate collection are donated to local charities.

→→ **Wednesday November 23rd at 7:30 PM – Chal-Brit Ministerium will join together with their clergy and combined choirs to observe Thanksgiving** as they have for over four decades as

recognition of their common belief. Chalfont United Methodist Church, Chalfont, Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church, New Britain, New Britain Baptist Church, New Britain, New Life Assembly of God, Chalfont, St. Jude Catholic Church, Chalfont, will be hosted by Pleasantville United Church of Christ, 3424 Limekiln Pike, Chalfont, PA 18914-3608 [<http://www.pleasantvilleucc.org/>]. For many years, they have shared in regularly supporting the community Food Larder located in the New Britain Baptist Church, which provides food for both individuals and families in need of assistance in Central Bucks County. The Food Larder is a designated food distribution site of the Opportunity Council of Bucks County.

→→ **Contact your Archdiocesan Vicariate Coordinator (see below)**

for possible other Ecumenical Thanksgiving Events in your area.

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From: <http://theinterfaithobserver.org/>



The Interfaith Observer

Friday Oct. 14, 2011

Ten Excellent Internet Sources for Interfaith News & Commentary

Information overload is a problem for interfaith-interested readers. Discovering useful, trustworthy news about religion is complicated. For more than a decade, major media’s interest in religion has been steadily growing. Newspapers may be in decline, but not religion reporting or multifaith stories. A big slice of religion stories today involve more than one tradition, and often Christianity, which once owned most of the American religion page, is not one of them. Most of us have a confusing view of a huge arena.

That said, hundreds of web-engaged journalists, academics, activists, and artists are making interreligious news and reflection more accessible. Dozens of sectarian publications are posted, many with excellent content. But a distinctly interfaith-friendly, independent set of resources is emerging. Compelling new content is arriving every day, and aggregators are helping shorten the needle-in-the-haystack searches to find the good stuff.

This month we’re looking primarily at news sources. Next month we’ll consider interfaith magazines and journals.

The list below is not comprehensive. We’d love to hear about your favorites, but we think these ten represent a good starting point. They are not listed in order of excellence. Rather, they come in different flavors, serve different constituencies, and bring a variety of achievements to the religion table.

1. The [Religious Diversity News Feed](#) at Harvard’s Pluralism Project includes 25 different religious news feeds. One of these is an [interfaith feed](#) that aggregates 50 linked stories every two weeks, each link showing a headline, date, and source. Half an hour on this site offers a quick journey through the plenitude of issues on the interfaith global agenda.

2. The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life [Weekly Update](#) is focused on religion's involvement in major national, international issues. The free newsletter features important polls, research on particular issues, analytic articles, and a linked list of the ten most important religion news stories each week. To be fair, the Gallup Poll's [religion section](#) provides similarly important information and analysis, but its scope is the whole world and primarily focused on polls, where Pew's Forum explores all sorts of news and commentary regarding the many facets of religion and public life.
3. Religion & Ethics is best known for its television program, America's only national religious news show. R & E also maintains an electronic [Newsweekly](#) that provides an engaging but not overloaded combination of weekly religious news, commentary, and archived programs.
4. [BBC Religion](#) feels like a British version of Religion & Ethics. Their websites both have bells and whistles (calendars, educational modules, and much more). BBC Religion doesn't have its own weekly television show. On the other hand, it can lean into its enormous archives to enrich its schedule. Another BBC gift is making available various kinds of religious/spiritual music to listen to while you're reading interfaith news.
5. Faith in Public Life (FPL) sponsors a free [Daily News Reel](#) that aggregates ten or 15 of the most interesting religion news stories of the day, five days a week. It's quick, free, and useful. Each link has a headline, its source, and a one-sentence summary. FPL is an independent multifaith publication. Along with a passion for the news, its staff clearly share a commitment to religion, spirituality, peace, and justice.
6. Fifty years ago American newspapers had large religion sections, mostly gone today. Yet with a computer, you've infinitely more access to religious news than your grandparents could have imagined. It's delivered in different ways. The New York Times does not have a separate section on religion, but its writers cover religion when it connects with their particular bailiwick, those stories are gathered, a story or two each day, under the name [Religion and Belief](#). As you might imagine, these are lengthy, well-written, engaging stories covering dozens of different traditions.
7. The Washington Post went a different direction, sponsoring an interfaith blog called [On Faith](#) that provides one of the most engaging religious forums in America media. Where religion is part of the news at the NYT, On Faith maintains a handful of different religious arenas where edgy, provocative blogs appear each day. Recent postings include "Saudi women's vote great news – if this were 1911," "'Atheism is cool,' says Archbishop of Canterbury," "The Case for a Day of Rest," and "Booing a gay soldier?" It provides a rare forum for on-the-ground leaders from across the culture to write seriously about religious matters and get heard above the pundits' din.
8. Despite its reputation as a left-wing tabloid, the Huffington Post offers the most far-ranging and engaging religious news and commentary on the web today. Former Princeton University chaplain Paul Rauschenbush recently became HuffPo's senior religion editor, and a good thing became better. He is grandson of Walter Rauschenbush, whose "social gospel" of the early 20th century gave Christians a new sense of peace and justice.

[HUFFPOST RELIGION](#) has a large stable of writers from all sorts of backgrounds in addition to aggregating good material from numerous sources. It may not be the Times, but it's always interesting. Dozens of photographs change from day to day illustrating stories about religious festivals, ceremony and ritual, vestments, food, personal spirituality, ethics and justice, peace and violence, the ancient and new age, theology and practice – all that, and more. Thin gruel, perhaps, if you read nothing else, but a feast for those who've been hungry for more vital religious dialogue in the culture and not found it elsewhere.

9. Alltop, known as a virtual magazine rack, is a web news aggregator of staggering proportion. Each week their [religion site](#) posts five featured headlines from approximately 100 religious publications, each directly linked to the story. Perusing their site, you'll recognize all the familiar traditions and probably bump into ones you've near heard of. Anyone who thrives on the multiplicity of religious stories has a cornucopia here. Remember, it is not comprehensive, leaving out as much as it includes. Such is the volume of religious, interreligious dialogue on the web today.
10. [Religion News Service](#) (RNS) moves us to the professional level, a 78-year-old service providing content by subscription to more than a hundred newspapers, starting with the New York Times. With 35 reporters, correspondents, columnists, and stringers, RNS may well be the world's largest religious content provider. Their daily [Religion News Roundup](#) arrives

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for free each morning, a brief summary of yesterday's news cloaked in a wry sense of humor. Kevin Eckstrom, editor-in-chief, reports that increasingly RNS' original content will be available for free on their website, a service to us all.

TIO 2011. Credit The Interfaith Observer for reproduction of any materials from TIO. If TIO credits additional sources, do so as well.

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→→ Mark all the above dates on your calendar ←←



Editor: Sam Herb – SamHerb@comcast.net

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'Honor thy father and thy mother,' she asked, 'Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?'

Without missing a beat, one little boy answered, 'Thou shall not kill.'