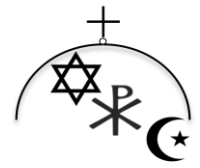




Newsletter for



Parish Ecumenical Representatives to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

September, 2011

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NOTE: Coming Events:

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Word in Christian Worship...Page 3

→ August 3, 2011 - October 30, 2011

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See Attached Brochures for
more information on coming
events!

Interesting Links:

Southern Baptist Convention-Catholic
Conversations:

http://www.usccb.org/seia/southern_baptist.shtml

Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue:

<http://www.usccb.org/seia/evangelical.shtml>

Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims:

http://www.usccb.org/seia/islam_index.shtml

Buddhist-Catholic Consultations:

<http://www.usccb.org/seia/buddhism.shtml>

Sikh-Catholic Consultations:

<http://www.usccb.org/seia/sikhism.shtml>

Hindu-Catholic Consultations:

<http://www.usccb.org/seia/irother.shtml>

Hello...

Again, unexplained computer "events" delayed publication & lost me several days! SIGH! This time it was losing the Outlook .pst file that included my content for this newsletter. This was supposed to be the August issue. Sorry for the delay (data still lost since July).

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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Bringing Jews to Church

From posting on May 10, 2011 by Rabbi Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, Ph.D on the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Wyncote, PA website <http://www.rrc.edu/multifaithworld> (check this out)

Leslie Hilgeman (Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, class of 2013) spent her one year Multifaith Internship at the Interfaith Center of Philadelphian during 2010-2011. Many of us met her during that program. Here are some of her reflections from working with us:

Here's a moment I never expected to encounter when I entered rabbinical school – inviting Jews to come to church!

This year as a rabbinic intern at the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia, I found myself coordinating a program called Gateway to Religious Communities.

Each Fall and Spring members of the public sign up to visit a series of congregations over a few months' time. Most recently we visited the Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, in Bryn Mawr.

At each congregation we visit, we attend a worship service. We meet with a leader before hand who explains the service, and then afterwards there's a Q & A where we talk about what we saw and experienced. And we talk about faith.

We've entered into all kinds of subjects – silence and speech in Quaker communities; ethnic and racial diversity in the Mormon faith; honoring human rights in the Jewish tradition. At Bryn Mawr Presbyterian recently, we discussed the Christian concept of Original Sin as a way to face tragedies such as the Tsunami and nuclear fallout in Japan. The conversations range from interesting to powerful – and they're never dull!

We will tell you of the program for this year as soon as it is firmed up. ...*Sam*

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April 2011 PER meeting was fascinating

We listened to a very interesting and lively topic on ecumenical movement since 1910 by *Rev. Dr. Norman A. Hjelm*, during which he shared many of his personal experiences and views. His helpful and enlightening presentation resulted in several

questions. Dr Hjelm is an executive of the Lutheran World Federation, Director of the Commission on Faith & Order National Council of Churches; charter member of the Philadelphia Liturgical Institute, an ecumenical liturgical group.

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Several Interfaith Remembrances of 9/11 occurred in the area

Arch Street Friends Meeting House: An ecumenical and interreligious remembrance of 9-11 took place with participation of Arthur Larrabee of the Religious Society of Friends, Bishop Claire Schenot Burkat of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Imam Anwar Muhaimin of Quba Masjid, Archbishop Charles Chaput of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Rabbi David Straus of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. An Interfaith Service Candlelight procession to LOVE Park, 17th & JFK, followed

Israel; Tenth Presbyterian Church and Liberti Church; and Trinity Memorial Church and sponsored by the Center City Residents' Association (CCRA) and the Mayor's Office of Faith Based Initiatives.

CCRA is a non-profit, volunteer-led organization devoted to making Center City a better place to live, work and play. It serves the neighborhood from Market Street to South Street between Broad Street and the Schuylkill River. Organized originally as an ad hoc citizen group in 1947 to resist plans for an underground garage below Rittenhouse Square, CCRA has worked to protect the community's unique historical and residential character while encouraging responsible development. We work on projects, large and small, including parks, schools, tree planting, clean streets, neighborhood safety, recycling, and community events, among other things.

Hands Across the Square: Area congregations hosted hospitality tents with food, drink and displays of diverse traditions and common values of the religious groups that worship within walking distance of Rittenhouse Square and elsewhere in the City. That afternoon interfaith service for the public was conducted including Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist prayers and readings. The service concluded by inviting those present to join hands creating a human chain of togetherness and community with a carillon will sound its bells in memoriam to the 9/11 tragedy. The event was hosted in partnership with the Church of Holy Trinity (Rittenhouse Square); Council on American-Islamic Relations Philadelphia; Dialogue Forum – Turkish American Community; First Baptist Church; First Church of Christ Scientist; First Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia; Lutheran Church of the Holy Communion; Philadelphia Shambhala Center; St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church; St. Mark's Church; Temple Beth Zion-Beth

St Peter Celestine Roman Catholic Church, Cherry Hill: Interfaith Commemoration Service had speakers, candle lighting prayers and hymns

Society Hill Synagogue: Hosted Old Philadelphia Congregations of Old City & Society Hill joined in an Interfaith Ecumenical Prayer Service with reading of names, prayers, reflection, and music.

Interfaith Service Candlelight procession to LOVE Park, 17th & JFK, follows at 7:30 p.m. 4th & Arch Meeting House; 215-241-7003. 5:30 p.m. 9/11.

Main Line Reform Temple-Beth Elohim, Wynnewood: Hosted Multifaith Commemoration Service, candle lighting, readings & music, time for personal prayer & meditation, silent reflection, reflections from local residents who lost family members.

St Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church, Lansdale: Hosted North Penn Ministerium Interfaith prayers, readings, & singing with sign language interpreted.

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Coming Events:

→→ Saturday, October 15, 2011 – The Philadelphia Liturgical Institute invites you to a Day of Ecumenical Conversations on *The Living Word in Christian Worship*

At Archdiocesan Office Center 222 North Seventeenth Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
(This was an extremely well done event last year at Rosemount College

– worthwhile for your parish ministries to attend!) ...*Sam*

Schedule

8:30 a.m. Arrival, Registration and Coffee
9:30 a.m. Prayer and Welcome
10:00 a.m. Keynote Address: Dr. Gail Ramshaw
11:15 a.m. Interactive session with Dr. Ramshaw
12:00 noon Lunch (*included in registration fee*)
1:00 p.m. Afternoon Conversations:

The Living Word: Exploring the Three-Year Lectionary
with Dr. Gail Ramshaw
The Living Word: Proclaiming and Hearing the Word
with Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens
The Living Word: The Singing Assembly
with Normand Gouin
2:30 p.m. Closing Remarks and Prayer

Dr. Gail Ramshaw is a scholar of liturgical language and professor of religion at LaSalle University, Philadelphia.. She is a graduate of Valparaiso University (BA), Sarah Lawrence College (MA), The University of Wisconsin-Madison (PhD) and Union Theological Seminary (MDiv). She is past president of the North American Academy of Liturgy and member of Societas Liturgica.

Dr. Ramshaw has published books on the meaning of liturgical language, including *A Three-Year Banquet: The Lectionary for the Assembly* (Augsburg Fortress 2004); *The Three-Day Feast: Maunday Thursday, Good Friday, Easter*; (Augsburg Fortress 2004); *Reviving Sacred Speech* (OSL Publications 1999) and others. Her works on liturgical spirituality include *A Metaphorical God* (LTP) 1995) and the Words series: *Words Around the Fire, Words Around the Table, Words Around the Font and Words That Sing* (LTP 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995). Her children's books include *1-2-3 Church, Everyday and Sunday Too*, and *Sunday Morning*. Gail has prepared numerous liturgical helps, including *Richer Fare for the Christian People* and *Between Sunday*. She collaborated with Paivie Jussila on *Koinonia*, a worship resource published by the Lutheran World Federation, and with Gordon Lathrop on inclusive language revisions of the Sunday lectionary texts, in *Psalter For the Christian People* and in *Readings for the Assembly, Years A, B, C*.

Rev. Dr. Deborah Rahn Clemens is currently Senior Pastor of New Goshenhoppen United Church of Christ, East Greenville, PA, as well as former adjunct professor of Worship and Preaching at Moravian Seminary. Dr. Clemens received a PhD as well as a Master of Philosophy from Drew University, an M. Div. from Moravian Theological Seminary, B.A. from Ursinus College. She serves as President of Mercersburg Society and was former Moderator of the NE Region Princeton Center of Theological Inquiry—Pastor Theologian Program. She is Chairperson of Hope for Families: Substance Abuse/Recovery Support and a member of PA Families of Addiction.

Normand Joseph Gouin currently serves as the Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Music at Old St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia. For the past 20 years, Mr. Gouin has engaged in full-time pastoral ministry, specifically in the areas of liturgy and music ministry. He has served as liturgy and music director in a variety of church settings. As a composer of liturgical music, he has been commissioned to write works for churches and religious communities throughout the country. Most recently, he has worked as lead composer and editor for the *Liturgy of the Hours* project, a joint effort of St. Norbert's Abbey in DePere, WI, and Daylesford Abbey in Paoli, PA. GIA Publications has published Mr. Gouin's music and he is a contributing writer for the *GIA Quarterly*. He has served on several diocesan liturgical commissions and has been a member of the Philadelphia Liturgical Institute. He is a graduate of The Catholic University of America (BM in Composition and Theory) and the University of Notre Dame (MA in Liturgical Studies).

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→→ Do not miss: Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus August 3, 2011 - October 30, 2011

at The Philadelphia Museum of Art; see more info: <http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/409.html?page=1>

Living in Amsterdam amid a growing Jewish community that included large numbers of Sephardic Jews who found asylum from the Spanish inquisition, followed by The level of sympathy the artist exhibited for his Jewish neighbors has been the subject of considerable debate

Ashkenazi refugees from eastern Europe, Rembrandt took an enormous interest in Jewish history to inform his art.


in the last century. Sources closer to Rembrandt's time confirm that he indeed sketched the Jews on his street,

and details of clothing distinguish some of his subjects as Jewish. Amsterdam's Jewish community provided Rembrandt not only with subjects but also with patrons, who commissioned him to produce portraits and book illustrations. His work for the Portuguese-born rabbi


and scholar Menasseh ben Israel is well known. Rembrandt was closely connected to an extraordinary project of Jewish-Christian rapprochement taking place in Amsterdam in the seventeenth century, one that finds an echo in the heads of Christ.

➔ **Includes programs:**

A Rembrandt Bundle: Music and Culture of Rembrandt's Time

Location: Second floor galleries, starting in Gallery 255  [Free after admission](#)
Enjoy music in the galleries with a performance by students from the Curtis Institute of Music. Immediately after each set, join us for a conversation about a work of art in the Dutch galleries.
Concerts begin at 1:30, 2:15 and 3:00 p.m., with conversation immediately following.
Saturday, October 8, 2011, Starts at 1:30 p.m., and 2:15 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 15, 2011, Starts at 1:30 p.m., and 2:15 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.

A Sephardic Journey: From Amsterdam to Philadelphia (and Places in Between)

Sunday, October 9, 2011 Starts at 2:00 p.m.
Location: National Museum of American Jewish History  **Reservations required**
\$8 (FREE for members of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the National Museum of American Jewish History and students with valid ID).

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For tickets, please visit www.nmajh.org/publicprograms or call the National Museum of American Jewish History at 215-923-3811, x 110.
Lecturer: William Pencak, Professor of American History, Pennsylvania State University
Rembrandt's Jewish neighbors in Amsterdam would largely have been Sephardic families (from Spain and Portugal) who settled in the region seeking religious tolerance. This lecture looks at the history of the Sephardic diaspora as it crossed Europe to Amsterdam in the 16th century and then to the Americas. It also spotlights Philadelphia's Mikveh Israel, a Sephardic Jewish congregation founded in 1740.
Co-Presented with the National Museum of American Jewish History

Book Discussion: Coffee with *The Coffee Trader*
Friday, October 14, 2011
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Location: Seminar Room, first floor
 **Paid tickets required** \$30 public (\$24 members); includes Museum admission
Rembrandt's Amsterdam was the cradle of both religious tolerance and modern capitalism. As this fall's exhibit focuses on the artist's deeply human depiction of Jesus, find out more about the social and cultural context that made Rembrandt's transformative work possible. Join Janine Utell for coffee and conversation about the historical novel *The Coffee Trader*, by David Liss.
Private tours also available: See <http://www.philamuseum.org/exhibitions/409.html?page=7&events=1>

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➔➔ **Mark all the above dates on your calendar** ←←



Editor: Sam Herb – SamHerb@comcast.net

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, 'What do you think about all this Satan stuff?'

The other boy replied, 'Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad.'