

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration: Exploring Social Action Through Religious Diversity

Conference Schedule

- **8:30-9:00am: Check-In, Student Services Center, Room 212**
- **9:00-10:15am: Welcome and Keynote Presentation, SSC 212** — 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions, Melbourne, Australia as experienced by members of the Southern California Committee for a Parliament of the World's Religions
 - **10:30-11:20am: First Session — Concurrent Panels**
 - **11:30am-12:20pm: Second Session — Concurrent Panels**
- **12:30pm-1:00pm: Closing, SSC 212** — musical performance by musician and author Stephen Fiske and remarks by Rev. Dr. Richard Rose, Professor of Religion and Philosophy, University of La Verne

First Session — Concurrent Panels

Title: Workshop on the Parliament of World Religions

Description: Members of the Southern California Committee for a Parliament of the World's Religions will hold an in depth session on the Parliament of World Religions, building on the keynote address and presenting aspects of the Parliament not discussed in the opening address.

Location: BGS 200

Participant biographies:

Rev. Dr. Richard A. Rose is a Professor of Religion and Philosophy at the University of La Verne. He is an ordained Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and currently serving as an Associate Minister at Christ Our Redeemer A.M.E. Church in Irvine, CA. Dr. Rose completed the Doctor of Philosophy degree at the Claremont Graduate School. Dr. Rose's dissertation is titled *Howard Thurman's Life and Thought: Implications for Religious Pluralism and Interfaith Dialogue*. In addition to his faculty position, Dr. Rose serves as the University of La Verne's Coordinator for the Ecumenical Center for Black Church Studies Program. Through classes held in Los Angeles and Orange County students earn their B.A. degree in an ecumenical setting where they meet and study with ministers from various denominations. Dr. Rose often presents public lectures on topics related to Religious Diversity and Martin Luther King, Jr. Highlights include the city of West Covina's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration lecture entitled "Turning Dreams Into Reality: Are We There Yet?" The Claremont School of Theology's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. lecture entitled "Religious Pluralism: A Challenge for the Contemporary Church." Occidental College lecture entitled "Beyond the Man and Onto the Message: From Civil Rights to Spirituality." Dr. Rose has presented papers on religious diversity at conferences in New Delhi, India, Cape Town, South Africa, and Barcelona, Spain. Dr. Richard Rose represented the University of La Verne in Amritsar, India at the Goldin Institute for International Partnership and Peace. The conference theme was "*Reconciliation: Creating Partnerships for Building Peace*." Dr. Rose also participated in the Parliament of the World's Religions: Make a World of Difference-Hearing Each Other, Healing the Earth, held in Melbourne, Australia this past December.

Honored internationally for her interfaith activism, **Ruth Broyde Sharone** is a documentary filmmaker, journalist, and popular public speaker. She travels frequently to college campuses to lead interfaith programs and screen her award-winning film *God and Allah Need to Talk*. In 1993, together with a black minister, she co-founded the Festival of Freedom, a world movement to create bridges for friendship and peace. People of diverse religious, racial and ethnic backgrounds were brought together on annual peace pilgrimages to share their faith stories and re-trace the steps of the Exodus, from Cairo thru the Sinai to Jerusalem. Ruth recently served as a Partner Cities Associate for the Parliament of the World's Religions and is Co-Chair of the Southern California Committee for the Parliament (SCCPWR) in Los Angeles. She is also Co-Director, with Jerusalem peacemaker Eliyahu McLean, of the Rodef Shalom School for Peace which teaches peace building skills to clergy and lay people. Her new book, *Minefields and Miracles: Adventures In Interfaith* will be published this year.

Rev. Jan Chase is the minister of Unity Church of Pomona, where she has served for seven years. A Return Peace Corps Volunteer, Jan has been passionate about serving the larger community since her work in Venezuela and Zambia over 30 years ago. She sees the Sacred Presence that connects all people and the Truth that connects all religions at their core. Raised a Protestant, now a New Thought minister, Jan has found own spiritual journey deepens by exploring the unique gifts of other religions. As national coordinator of Unity Church's Peace Team, Jan is convinced that the way to world peace is through building understanding and working relationships between people of all the religions of the world. She is involved in five Interfaith groups in the LA metro area and recently attended the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia. For the last two years Jan has coordinated over twenty Interfaith events in the Pomona Valley during September's "11 Days of Global Unity". She is working on bringing the Pomona Valley Interfaith Community together with the entire com-

munity for activities that promote peace this February and March during “A Season for Peace and Nonviolence.” Jan is also a part-time graduate student at Claremont School of Theology, where she is studying courses applicable to Interfaith work.

Noor-Malika Chishti became involved in interfaith work as a result of her training as a student of the Sufi way through the Sufi Order International [SOI] over the last thirty-seven years. The SOI is an order that welcomes people from all religious backgrounds, and that offers an interfaith approach to spiritual practice. Noor-Malika serves as an authorized Representative of Pir Zia Inayat Khan, head of the SOI. His grandfather, Hazrat Inayat Khan, is Founder of the Order (tarîqa); his father, Pir Vilayat Inayat Khan, was Noor-Malika's first Sufi teacher. One of the offerings of the SOI is the Universal Worship Service which Hazrat Inayat Khan created in the early 1900s. The first services were held privately and not advertised since it was such an unusual idea – to represent the world religions on one altar. Not to merge them into one religion, but to be able to offer gratitude and homage to the many ways in which inner life is realized. Noor-Malika is ordained as a Cheraga, or minister of Light, in the Universal Worship.

As a member of the Executive Committee for the Los Angeles Chapter of the Council for a Parliament of World Religions [SCCPWR], Noor-Malika lends energy to unfolding this committee's work of bringing local interfaith communities together, developing programs for the local community, and looking into the possibility of hosting a future Parliament in Los Angeles. Noor-Malika also serves as a volunteer interfaith chaplain for Muslim's in a women's prison and is a member of The World Council of Muslims for Interfaith Relations.

As a youth, **Renée De Palma** became interested in ancient wisdom traditions, and entered a collegiate path of Comparative Religious Studies. In her third year at University, Renée was accepted by the International Honors Program to study world religions, belief systems and ethnicity in England, France, Spain, Italy, Israel, Egypt, India, Nepal, Thailand, China, and Japan. Upon landing in Nepal at age 20, Renée was first introduced to Mahayana Buddhism, and felt a profound spiritual calling to begin a sincere Buddhist practice. Renée has studied and practiced Buddhism for 25 years, including teachings in the United States and abroad from Lama Thubten Zopa, the Dalai Lama, peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh, Japanese Zen Buddhist monks, the 17th Gyalwa Karmapa Orgyen Trinley Dorje, and the Karma Kagyu Buddhist lineage. In 2006, Renée met teachers Gen Kelsang Lekma, Caroline Green, and Angie Kane at Khandakhapala Buddhist Center in Los Angeles, and began an intensive study program under Tibetan scholar Geshe Kelsang Gyatso, Spiritual Director of the New Kadampa Tradition-International Kadampa Buddhist Union. Renée is currently a Buddhist meditation teacher in Los Angeles, as well as a member of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Clergy Council. She serves on the Executive Board as Treasurer and Buddhist representative of The Southern California Committee For A Parliament Of The World's Religions, an Interfaith organization committed to promoting dialogue, mutual respect and understanding between the varieties of faith traditions. In addition, Renée's professional background includes 23 years as a professional writer, director, producer, editor, multi-media developer, university lecturer, peace activist, and award-winning documentary filmmaker.

Title: What my Worldview Means to Me

Description: Students from different religious traditions and worldviews will give short (7 minute) personal reflections about their faith/values and its importance in their lives. Q and A to follow.

Location: *BGS 232*

Participant biographies:

Tenji Takino is from Hyogo prefecture, Japan. I came to the US right after graduating Kansai Soka high school in Osaka to attend Soka University of America (SUA) in Aliso Viejo, CA. Tenji was born in a Soka Gakkai International (SGI) family. His mother joined SGI when she was twenty something years old in Santa Monica, CA. He is from single mother family and has one older brother who also attended SUA and now works in Nagoya, Japan. I speak Japanese, English, and Spanish. My brother speaks Japanese, English, and Chinese. I am outgoing but also like to have private time. I like talking and interacting with people. I am graduating SUA this May, 2010, and aiming to become an English teacher in Japan. Ultimately, I would like to contribute to the development of international education quality based on Soka Education founded by Tsunesaburo Makiguchi.

Lexi Wong is currently a sophomore at Saddleback College, majoring in European History and Art History. A growing cultural historian, Lexi wishes to focus on domestic life, primary education, and child-rearing practices in metropolitan London, c. 1880-1920, and strives to study in England in the future. In regards to her art history studies, Lexi seeks to participate in the Kunstwetenschappen (artistic research) exchange program at the Universiteit van Amsterdam in the Netherlands, where she will focus on seventeenth century Dutch genre painting. Apart from history, she has a strong passion for foreign languages, philosophy, and literature. Lexi is interested in transferring to San Francisco State University to complete her undergraduate studies in the near future.

Lacey Alexis Trytten is currently a sophomore at Saddleback college majoring in Cell and Developmental Biology. Today (January 16th) is her birthday. Here's a taste of her life: Her favorite color is blue, She is a fan of World Peace, and coffee is my cup of tea. She believes failure is fuel for success, chocolate is not what its all cracked up to be, and love is real . She has faced numerous obstacles in her life, and all have been overcome with optimism and the support of her family. Every day she lives may not be the greatest, but I do the best I can with what I have. because her life, in her eyes, is not to re-create herself, but makes the best of what God has created.

My name is **Ernest Raheb**, I am a Christian and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. I belong to the Christian Orthodox faith which is apostolic, it was started by St. Mark, on his see to Alexandria, He had 4 sees, Alexandria, Antioch, Rome and Chonstantanople. Officially I am Coptic Orthodox, The word coptic basically means means egyptian, but it is the spoken word of Hieroglyphics. Since Hieroglyphics is not used because it takes too long, so we adopted the greek letter and switched a couple letters. We carried the tradition of the Orthodoxy and the Scripture till today from the teachings of Christ himself and we have kept it for basically 2000 years.

Adam Williams was born on April 17th, 1988 at the San Jose Hospital in San Jose, California in Santa Clara County (Silicon Valley). I lived there until I was eight, then our family moved northeast to a developing town called Livermore in Alameda County. After my Mom got re-married in July 2008, I decided to make a new start at Saddleback College in Spring of 2009. I really can't complain about my life condition or the community I reside in because I see how privileged I am and I am so grateful for where I am today, so I enjoy being passionate about what I'm learning, and strive to identify all the degrees of any particular viewpoint. The ideals that resonate with me; I will empathize with, and I do my best to understand the rest.

Sarah Kreuz is a second year student at Saddleback College. She was born in Arcadia and lived in Orange County all of her life. Sarah's major is Philosophy and hopes to double major in accounting. She plans on transferring to Berkeley or John Cabot University. Her religious views have varied from Christianity to Buddhism to unknown resulting in a very unique worldview. She is also a member of the Free Thinkers Club at Saddleback College.

Title: Social Justice and Action from Multiple Perspectives

Description: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s religious values deeply influenced him in his pursuit of social justice. This panel will explore how religious and humanistic values continue to influence the struggle for equality and social justice.

Location: BGS 235

Participant biographies:

Roy Whitaker, Claremont Graduate University, Ph.D. Candidate

Roy Whitaker is a graduate student at Claremont Graduate University. He's a native of Los Angeles and presently lives in San Diego. He's earned graduate degrees from institutions on the east coast (Princeton Seminary and Harvard Divinity School respectively). He's traveled and studied abroad in Germany, India, and Jamaica. At CGU, in the School of Religion, Roy's in the Philosophy of Religion and Theology doctoral program; specializing in religious pluralism. His present research interest – drawing from current scholarship in comparative religions, cultural theory, and sociology of religion – focuses on how marginalized groups construct and navigate their identity (and individuality) in American religious history – particularly, from the 1960's to the present – and how scholars of religion think through their theories and methods on this topic in a world becoming increasingly interdependent and interconnected.

Sheikh Yassir Fazaga, Orange County Islamic Foundation

Yassir Fazaga is an inspiring, multi-lingual speaker sought-after from USA through Canada to the Middle and Far East. He was born in Eritrea in Northeast Africa and moved to the United States at the age of 15; has a Bachelors Degree in Islamic Studies from the Institute of Islamic and Arabic Sciences in Virginia; has completed all coursework for his Masters Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling from the California State University of Long Beach; is currently undertaking his Masters in Theology at Loyola Marymount University. He serves as the Religious Leader of the Orange County Islamic Foundation (OCIF) in Mission Viejo, California. He is involved as a therapist at FACES, where he helps families with different challenges in life which include: domestic violence issues, communication problems, marital matters, generational gap, difficult teens, some mental and personality disorders, divorce, grief, and single parenting, among others.

Dr. Mike Hagan, Saddleback College

Dr. Hagan holds a Ph. D. in Humanities from the University of Louisville. His areas of specialization are postmodern philosophy, Zen Buddhism, and Pragmatism. His areas of concentration are creativity, continental philosophy and comparative religion, including Indian and Japanese Buddhism and East Asian Religions. He has taught introductory courses in World Religions (2003-2007), Introduction to the Study of Religion, and Eastern Mysticism. He is currently a part-time faculty member at Saddleback College.

Margaret Henke, co-founder of the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment and founding chairperson of the Aldersgate UMC Environmental Ministries Committee. Margaret was born in Iowa, and graduated from Iowa State University. She taught English and Home Economics in Texas, Ohio and Iowa and then started and ran a volunteer program for the Linn-Mar school district in Iowa for 12 years. She then went back to school to earn her Master's degree in Environmental Studies and worked as a naturalist at Oak Canyon Nature Center for 13 years. Margaret started an Environmental Ministries program at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in 1989 which continues to be active. Her main interests are environmental issues and interfaith activities, which she combined in 1997 when she founded the Orange County Interfaith Coalition for the Environment. This organization became an official non-profit group in 1999. Margaret is also on the Board of STEP (Sisters together Envisioning Peace) which is a group of Muslims and Christian that was started after 9/11, and is active in the American Association of University Women.

Rajinderjit K. Singh is a woman who lives the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev ji and Sikhism as a whole. She is a retired teacher and has raised two wonderful children to adulthood who each have children of their own. She is an active board member for each of the two Sikh gurdwaras (Sikh temples) on Long Island, both the one in Glen Cove nearby her residence and the one in Plainview. Raj established the North American Sikh Women's Association, and in addition, she was a founding member of the Long Island Multifaith Forum and a member of the council of Trustees for the Temple of Understanding. She is also on the Religions for Peace—International Women's Committee. She has been a participant at the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, and is known around the world and internationally sought out to speak about Sikhism and issues of equality and peace at both women's organizations and universities. Every year, on the International Day of Peace in September, she sponsors a peace event that links thousands of individuals who collectively pray for peace on earth.

Title: Interpreting the Words “Separation of Church and State”

Description: Many people believe that “Separation of Church and State” is a good concept, but disagree about what it actually means. Does “under God” belong in the Pledge of Allegiance? Is it ever acceptable for civil law to be based on religious principles? In this panel discussion we seek to explore how the concept of “Separation of Church and State” is interpreted by people from a variety of religious/nonreligious traditions.

Location: BGS 244

Participant biographies:

Canon Peter D. Haynes, Rector/Senior Pastor of Saint Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Parish Church in Corona del Mar. Rev. Haynes came to Saint Michael & All Angels' in December 1987... after fifteen years of being the Episcopal Church's campus minister at Cal (U.C., Berkeley). He chaired the World Mission Ministry Program Group of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles for a decade and currently chairs the Board of Canterbury Irvine (the mission of ministry of the Episcopal Church with the University of California, Irvine) and serves on the Board of the Interfaith Center at UCI. With members of his congregation, he has also been active with the annual Religious Diversity Fair at UCI in past years.

Shabbir Mansuri, Founding Director, Institute on Religion and Civic Values (IRCV)

Shabbir Mansuri has maintained a lifelong interest in studying the American institutional apparatus and policymaking system that has helped position the United States as a beacon of freedom, democracy and opportunity. In 1991, Shabbir founded the Council on Islamic Education (CIE), a non-advocacy research institute dedicated to improving coverage of world history and world religions in the American K-12 education system through analysis of history-social studies curricula and standards, development of supplemental materials, and teacher training. Through this experience, Shabbir was able to test his understanding of American institutional mechanisms, demonstrate a model for advancing the public good, and confirm that the system at large accepts contributions that strengthen America and reinforce core values. In 2007, the organization's name was changed to the Institute on Religion and Civic Values to better reflect its mission to address issues of faith, citizenship, and pluralism, with particular focus on questions of religious liberty, religious pluralism, and religious literacy. Shabbir sets the direction for IRCV, serves as the organization's liaison with institutional partners and leaders, develops new high-level projects and relationships, and represents IRCV on advisory boards and working groups.

Stephanie M. Campbell is a naturalized U.S. citizen, born in England, and spent part of her childhood in Israel. Having lived in three countries, two with an established religion and one with freedom of religion she is committed to the guarantees of religious freedom in our First Amendment based on personal experience and principle. Ms. Campbell is the president and a founding member of the Orange County Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. She is also a member of the National Advisory Council of Americans United. She is very active in church/state separation issues at the local level in issues of keeping religion out of the schools and city councils and on the national level where she has lobbied our California Senators on a variety of issues including Supreme Court nominations. Ms. Campbell is a certified ACLU speaker on Church and State issues and also speaks on women's issues and gay rights issues. Ms. Campbell has a Masters Degree in Business Administration and an undergraduate degree in Political Science from the University of Washington. She is currently a Senior Project Manager at Apani Networks in Brea, California.

Dr. Gurpreet Ahuja is a Pediatric Otolaryngologist/Head and Neck Surgeon practicing at the Children's Hospital of Orange County. He is also part of the teaching faculty associated with the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of California-Irvine (UCI). Dr. Ahuja was born and raised in India, where he also obtained his medical degree. He moved to New York in 1986 after marrying Jasjit, a pediatrician. Dr. Ahuja received his residency training in Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery at the prestigious Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in New York. He then did a fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Dr. Ahuja moved to the West Coast in 1995. He is currently senior associate with the Children's Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeons of Orange County (CENTOC). Dr. Ahuja plays a leadership role in the Medical field, serving as President-Elect of the Medical Staff of the Children's Hospital County. He also serves as Chairman of the Joint Leadership Committee at that institution. He is the director of Pediatric Otolaryngology training for the residents of the UCI Otolaryngology program. Dr. Ahuja has been elected as a “Physician of Excellence” by the Orange County Medical Association on many occasions including 2007, '08 and '09. Along with his wife, he is an active community leader and volunteer. Dr. Ahuja serves on the board of directors of the Orange County Human Relations Council. He also is a director on the board of the American Red Cross-Orange County chapter, where he additionally chairs the Nominations Committee. He is the President of the California Sikh Council (CSC), a not-for-profit advocacy and awareness organization which was established after the tragic events of September 11, 2001. CSC was created following the violent attacks on Sikh Americans who were targeted because of mistaken perceptions about their identity. CSC's objective is to educate the community about the culture and religious practices of Sikh Americans. Dr. Ahuja has worked with numerous interfaith organizations to foster peace and understanding, and was featured in the 2008 edition of “America's Table”, a publication released by the American Jewish Committee every Thanksgiving, to highlight the cultural and ethnic diversity that enriches our nation's fabric.

Second Session — Concurrent Panels

Title: The Women's Role in Conflict Resolution

Description: Women make up one-half of the world's population but they are often marginalized, even devalued. Yet, they frequently engage in community and world altering activities. This panel will highlight the role of women in resolving and reconciling injustices, fear, and misunderstandings that so often tear down communities.

Location: BGS 200

Participant biographies:

Sande Hart is a mother of 2 and lives in Rancho Santa Margarita. As President of the women's interfaith organization S.A.R.A.H. (Spiritual and Religious Alliance for Hope), is a Board member of The Interfaith Youth Council, the Institute of Religious and Cultural Competency and chair of Orange County's largest single effort of a collaborative weekend of community service mobilizing thousands of members of the faith and non-faith community. Sande recently presented a workshop at the Parliament of The World's Religions entitled The Women's Interfaith Initiative and Grassroots Movement as well as was a panelist on The Role of Women in Conflict Resolution.

Paula Garb is Co-Director and co-founder of UC Irvine's Center for Citizen Peacebuilding. She is a Lecturer in Anthropology, and program director of the Minor in Conflict Resolution at the University of California, Irvine. She is a facilitator and researcher of citizen Peacebuilding projects. She draws on her experiences of organizing, facilitating and promoting peacebuilding activities and research in conflict zones such as Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Middle East, Cyprus and Northern Ireland for courses in conflict resolution that she teaches to Los Angeles gang intervention workers and UCI students. Her work has also led to a number of publications in academic and other journals.

Ruth Broyde-Sharone, film maker and international speaker is passionate about generating grassroots interfaith work and teaching peace-building. Broyde Sharone has spoken twice at UN roundtables in Geneva, Switzerland. She was highlighted on CNN World News, and invited to present her unique interfaith program and film, "God and Allah Need To Talk," Broyde Sharone received a gold medal in Geneva in 2000 for her contribution to "cultural education," from *Fete D'Excellence*, an international organization that recognizes global promotion of justice and peace. Ruth is the Co-Chair of the Southern California Committee for the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Shelly Komer has been interested as a young adult in international communities and in diversity. She selected the field of foreign languages, French and Spanish, as her major and minor, in the university. After touring several countries in Europe, she began teaching those languages and cultures for several years. Shelly then turned her focus to visiting Israel to learn about her own biblical heritage, the country, its people, history, scientific contributions as well as conflicts. After establishing an Israel Information and Resource Center in Detroit, she then became the executive director of the Michigan-Israel Chamber of Commerce, one of a network of like chambers around the U.S. In that capacity, she encouraged business ventures between the Americans, Israelis and Palestinians before the Intifada put a halt to economic, social and cultural interaction. Living in Detroit, which has the largest concentration of Arabs outside of the Middle East, Shelly was determined to concentrate her energies in seeing how bridges could be built between the Jewish and Arab communities with her involvement in the Detroit Round Table of Christians, Jews and Arabs. She subsequently became President of the American Arab and Jewish friends, an affiliate organization of the Detroit roundtable. In that capacity, she also facilitated a traveling exhibition of art and its artists, Israeli, Arab and Druze, to the University of Michigan, a hotbed of unrest between the Arab and Jewish students followed by a seminar between the Muslim student organization and Hillel, the Jewish student organization on campus. After moving to California over 6 years ago, she became a realtor as she had been previously in Detroit for over 5 years, Within a month after arrival, she discovered the existence of SARA (Spiritual & Religious Alliance for Hope) from a friend who was one of the founders, Dassist, and then met Sande Hart, the President. Shelly has since been involved in the myriad activities of SARA to facilitate dialogue and understanding between women of different religious and ethnic backgrounds. Sande and Shelly organized a seminar at UCI to try to address the issues and seek some avenues of cooperation between the Jewish and Arab students on campus. Subsequently, she met Sunny Zia, who was starting a chapter of Humanities Unites in Orange County, which initially focused on the same issues. Sunny was successful in organizing the Olive Tree Initiative bringing students of various faiths to Israel and Palestine to learn first hand of the problems and to seek solutions. These students would then serve as role models and speak to other campuses around the state sharing their story of hope for peace. Shelly has also participated on the organizing committee in Big Sunday, which Sande Hart brought from Los Angeles to Orange County. In addition to community action activities for the first and second Saturday and Sunday in May, the goal was to encourage prior activity and interaction of the myriad of different faith groups. Shelly thanks her inspiration from the wonderful leaders around her, like Sande Hart and other women and men, who have given selflessly of their time and energy to create a more peaceful world in which we live. Shelly is married, the mother of Seth and Ariana, and the grandmother of 3.

Title: The Sacred Art of Listening: Hearing With the Heart.

Description: This workshop focuses on the power of sacred listening - the art of becoming a listening presence, someone who can truly hear what the other is saying. To become that presence takes practice, not only to listen to other, but also to listen to ourselves and to listen to God. We will explore three types of practices in this workshop: cultivating silence, slowing down to reflect, and becoming present. The quality of our listening can make a profound difference in any conversation; it is a sacred art and a spiritual practice. Listening is essential in inter-religious dialogue and cross-cultural communication. It is at the heart of understanding.

Location: BGS 232

Participant biography:

Kay Lindahl, founder of The Listening Center, is recognized as an inspiring teacher and spiritual guide. She offers presentations, workshops and retreats on the power of listening for community leaders, health care professionals, educators, spiritual and religious leaders, businesses around the world. Lindahl serves on the Board of Directors for the North American Interfaith Network and The Immortal Chaplains Foundation. She is a past Trustee for the United Religions Initiative. Kay is the author of "The Sacred Art of Listening," "Practicing the Sacred Art of Listening," and a children's book, "How Does God Listen?"

Title: The Pillars of Peace

Description: This session is concerned with the deep rooted cultural assumptions that keep us from understanding how to create a culture of peace and a deeper connectedness to each other. The Presenter, Stephen Fiske, will outline the ten pillars of peace and through spoken word, music and participatory process, lead us to a deeper commitment to building bridges across our differences, and to peace, both within ourselves and in the world.

Location: BGS 235

Participant biography:

Stephen Longfellow Fiske is an award winning singer/songwriter/recording artist/author/producer and performer. He has recorded nine albums of his music and his songs have been recorded by such well known artists as Luther Vandross and Jose Feliciano. Stephen is author of "The Art of Peace" (New Paradigm Books) and former director of the Institute of Peace Studies. In addition to his performances, Stephen is an accomplished lecturer and workshop leader. A longtime peace and environmental activist dedicated to peace and justice causes, Stephen is a devoted Interfaith advocate. He has performed and presented widely across the US and overseas. He is the founder and producer of the Venice Eco-Fest, the largest free outdoor green festival in the LA area. Stephen has the rare ability to combine original music and spoken word in a colorful, dynamic, inspired and often humorous way.

Title: Interfaith Café

Description: Interfaith Cafes are small group discussions for laity, youth and religious leaders about how faith both impacts their daily lives and allows them to both relate to, and appreciate those from, other faith traditions.

Location: BGS 244

Participant biography:

Gretchen Cooper has been a substantial player in the interfaith movement for over two years. After receiving her bachelor's degree with high honors in philosophy/Religion from the University of La Verne, she decided to implement her studies through the youth committee on the Southern California Committee for a Parliament of Worlds Religions. There, Gretchen helped plan the Pre-parliament event this past April in Santa Monica. At this event Gretchen created a successful workshop designed for youth of different religions backgrounds entitled, "Breaking down Stereotypes." The following summer Gretchen participated in two interfaith Café's in Long Beach, which inspired her to co-host the interfaith café at the pre parliament event at USC on Gandhi's Birthday. This event allowed Gretchen to utilize her studies on Gandhi's non-violent movement from her senior dissertation, by designing debatable and heated questions pertaining to the issue of justifying violence through one's faith. She is excited to help more youth learn about each others faiths today and hopes this work will bring about the much strived for peace and understanding that Dr. King stood for.

Additional workshops of panel discussions may be added and announced at the conference.

Celebration details:

- The Celebration will be held at Saddleback College in both the Student Services Center (SSC) and Business/General Studies Center (BGS) buildings and is free and open to the public.
- Our website is: <http://www.saddleback.edu/asg/Conference.html>
- Parking will be free in lots 5, 13, and 10. A link to a map is available here: <http://www.saddleback.edu/maps/>
- Information about Saddleback College can be found at: www.saddleback.edu
- Light refreshments will be served. Our cafeteria will be open and ready-made lunch items and beverages will be available for purchase.

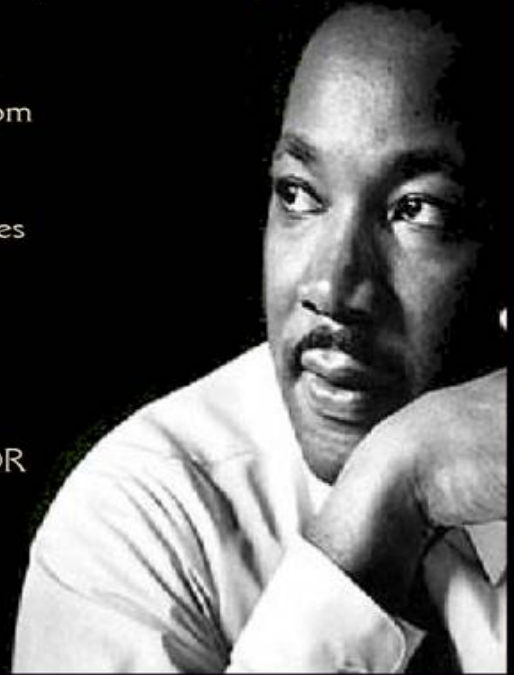
• **Special thanks:**

- The Diversity Student Council of the Associated Student Government (ASG) of Saddleback College for sponsoring the event.
- The planning task force comprised of Saddleback College faculty, staff, and students as well as community members and partnering organizations/institutions.

Orange County King Week 2010

If there is injustice anywhere, there is injustice everywhere!

- ◆ Wednesday, Jan. 13th, "Day of Dialogue between the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Community", 7pm at COR Church
- ◆ Friday, Jan. 15th, King Film Festival "Life and Times of Dr. Martin Luther King", 7pm at COR Church
- ◆ Saturday, Jan. 16th, "Celebration of Religious Diversity", 9am at Saddleback College
- ◆ Sunday, Jan. 17th, "King Service", 10:30 am at COR
- ◆ Sunday, Jan. 17th, "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Gospel Concert", 5pm at Barclay Theatre



COR Church | Rev. Mark E. Whitlock, Senior Minister | 46 Maxwell, Irvine CA 92618 | 949.955.0014