



CENTER FOR INTERFAITH PROJECTS

Promoting Understanding and Respecting Differences

E-NEWSLETTER: August 2011 *David B. Myers, Executive Director*

Mysticism: Suffering and Evil—Two Views. What is mysticism, and what does mysticism have to say about a world that seems so full of suffering and evil? Does it treat suffering and evil as illusions, or does it affirm their reality? Does it encourage us to turn away from this world to a higher spiritual realm, or to work to heal what *appears* to be a broken world? Two practitioners of mysticism—Phil Mouch and Reza Saberi—will share their different perspectives. Sunday, August 28, 2pm. Lotus Studio of the Spirit Room 111 Broadway in Fargo. For information: 701 388-7368. A Center project.

Theology Pub. The Project F-M, mentioned in the last newsletter, is designed to reach out to the Christian demographic least likely to show up in churches: young adults. The idea is that they are more likely to show up at a pub: in this case, Usher's House, 700 1st Avenue N. Moorhead. Participants are invited to discuss issues of spirituality and faith, "to join a modern Christian faith community in Fargo-Moorhead committed to curiosity, creativity, and open-mindedness." Facilitated by Adam Copeland, Project F-M Director, the format is open: he comes with some questions, quotes, and ideas to guide discussion, but allows the discussion to go where the participants lead it. The next meeting is Monday, August 15, 7PM. Topic: *What is Sin good for?* Online: www.theprojectfm.org

Women and Spirituality: Young Female Voices. Although still in the planning stage, this all-female interfaith panel will probably include the following perspectives: Native American, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian, Muslim, Atheist and a woman in spiritual transition (exploring Judaism). Women on the panel who profess a particular faith will share their views on the Divine and what it means to be a woman in that tradition. Tuesday September 6, 7PM. Jones A & B. Concordia College. Moorhead, MN. Co-sponsored by the Office of Intercultural Affairs at Concordia College and the Center.

Ramadan: Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar year: one in which observant Muslims fast from sunup to sundown. It began August 1 and ends August 30. Muslims use the practice of fasting to cultivate spiritual purification, to get closer to God, and to identify with the poor and the hungry.

Interfaith Library: We have books on world religions, mysticism, spiritual exploration, atheism, and the interfaith movement. They can be checked out. Each book is an opportunity for interfaith dialogue.

Website: Please check out the Center’s website. See, for example, the Sources of Information page where you can click on images of the cover of each book in our library and on links that will provide you with information on world religions and interfaith dialogue. www.centerforinterfaithprojects.org

Guidance: Keep in mind, spiritual searchers, that we provide one-on-one guidance. We not only recommend books and discuss them with you—but connect you with practitioners from different spiritual communities and traditions. Make an appointment by calling 701 388.7368.

Become a Volunteer: *We need your help with a variety of things, depending on your time, talents, and interests: ideas for interfaith panels, help with the design of flyers, creative fundraising ideas, data collection about local faith communities, hosting the Center, etc.*

Donate: We are a 501c3 nonprofit organization. So, donations are tax-deductible. To fund our events, purchase books for the interfaith library, pay the rent, insurance, and meet other costs, donations are needed. Checks can be made payable to *Center for Interfaith Projects*. Send to: *Center for Interfaith Projects* 111 Broadway Fargo, ND 58102

Mission Statement

The mission of the ***Center for Interfaith Projects*** is to:

- Educate the community about different faiths
- Increase understanding and respect among people of different faiths
- Foster cooperation among local faith communities to solve common community problems
- Help individuals in search of a spiritual home to find one

Location:

111 Broadway

Fargo, North Dakota 58102

Hours: Monday Wednesday Friday 1-4:30PM and by appointment.

701 388-7368

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sr. Andrea Arendt, Catholicism

Brandon Baker, Humanism (Secretary/Treasurer)

Rick Henderson, Baha'i Faith

Ahmed Kamel, Islam

Rabbi Janeen Kobrinsky, Reform Judaism

Pastor Sue Koesterman, Lutheranism

Phil Mouch, Mysticism (Chair)

Mary C. Struck, buddhadharma practice (Vice-Chair)

Prairie Rose Seminole, Native American Spirituality

Vijay Sethi, Hinduism