Dear friends- I hope you all have had an opportunity for some rest and relaxation this summer. This year, here at The Interfaith Center, summer was full of activities and programs with our numerous community partners. We were invited to attend the opening of the Al Hidaya Mosque in Latham, NY; to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the Tendai Buddhist Institute and Ordination of Two Buddhist Priests in Canaan, NY; to participate in an Interfaith Ramadan Dinner and Program at the Islamic Center of the Capital District, Schenectady, NY; hosted an Interfaith Ramadan Dinner and Program with the Turkish Cultural Center; met with a delegation of Israeli educators, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the International Center of the Capital Region to talk about religious diversity; and hosted an LGBT Delegation on Human and Civil Rights for the LGBT Community which was also sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and the International Center of the Capital Region.

Now, we are preparing to launch into our Fall 2015 programming. For the first time, we are pleased to be partnering with the UAlbany Office of Environmental Sustainability to present a three part Faith and the Environment Series: Caring for the Earth: Faith Communities Respond to the Pope’s Encyclical (September 17), Tom Porter on Native Spirituality and Environmental Justice (October 7), Farm to Table Dinner (October 15). Special thanks to committee members Mary Ellen Mallia, Ph.D., Director of Office of Environmental Sustainability, Mary Alexis Leciejewski, Office of Environmental Sustainability, and Catherine Reid, Director of Catholic Campus Ministry. It was a pleasure to work with them.

I’d like to end with an appeal for volunteers. If gardening is your thing, consider volunteering to maintain one or all of our gardens. Maybe books are of more interest to you, if so, we need help in our Interfaith Library updating and maintaining our collection database and cataloging and shelving books. Want to help us get the newsletter out? We need help a few times a year with mailings. Please call or email me if you are interested.

Thank you all for your continued interest and support of our Interfaith Center and interfaith programming. I look forward to seeing you at one of our events! With warm regards - Donna Crisafulli
Panel Discussion
Caring for the Earth: Faith Communities Respond to the Pope’s Encyclical
September 17, 2015 from 7-9pm
University at Albany Performing Arts Center Recital Hall
Free and open to the public

Bishop Emeritus Howard Hubbard will begin the program explaining what an encyclical is, its significance in Catholic teaching and practice and summarize the Pope’s recent encyclical on the environment.

Our distinguished panelists, Rabbi Nomi Manon-Capital District Board of Rabbis, Abbott Monshin Paul Naamon-Tendai Buddhist Institute, Jyoti Swaminathan, Psy.D.- Hindu Temple Society of the Capital District and Imam Abdul-RahmanYaki-Islamic Center of the Capital District will be asked to address the following questions:

- Are there similar documents, teachings or practices in your faith tradition?
- What influence could the Pope’s encyclical have on promoting awareness and concern for the environment within the interfaith community?
- Have there been examples of your faith tradition embracing the principles and practices of environmental stewardship in an overt and/or activist manner?
- How is care for the earth integrated within your faith tradition? How does the environment impact your religious understanding of and actions in the world?

This program is a collaboration among The Interfaith Center, the University at Albany Office of Environmental Sustainability, and Catholic Campus Ministry.

Special Speaker
Preserving Our Earth: Native Spirituality and Environmental Justice
October 7, 2015 from 7-9pm
University at Albany Campus Center Room 375
Free and open to the public

Thomas R. Porter (Sakokwenionkwas “The One Who Wins”) is founder, spokesperson and spiritual leader of the Mohawk Community of Kanatsiohareke (Ga na jo ha lay gay) located in the Mohawk Valley near Fonda, New York since 1993.

He is a member of the Bear Clan of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. (Akwesasne, also known as the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, straddles the New York State/Canadian border near Massena, New York.)
Interfaith Partners

The Interfaith Center works closely with the following groups. Please reach out to them if you would like to learn more!

Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry
Rev. Sandy J. Damhof, Campus Minister
(518) 489-8573 x 26
sdamhof@albany.edu
www.ualbanycornerstone.org

Muslim Student Association
Khalafalla Osman, President
kosman@albany.edu
https://sites.google.com/site/ualbanymsa/
facebook.com/ualbanymsa

Newman Catholic Association
Catherine Reid
(518) 489-8573 x 22
creid@albany.edu
www.albanynewman.com

UAlbany Hillel
Rabbi Nomi Manon, Executive Director
(518) 489-8573 x 24
nmanon@albany.edu
www.ualbanyhillel.org

UAlbany Interfaith Coalition (formerly Interfaith Student Group)
Derek Healey, President
interfaithsg@gmail.com
https://myinvolvement.org/organization/ISG

Attention Alumni!

Are you a University at Albany alum? Perhaps you are an Interfaith Center alum too? Then you’ll want to know about these great ways to get involved!

We will be hosting an Open House on Saturday, October 10 at 9am-1pm to welcome alums on campus for Alumni Weekend. Please stop by and see the building, connect with great people, and enjoy some delicious refreshments on us!

A UAlbany Alumni Constituent Group is being formed for The Interfaith Center/Chapel House; both UAlbany alums and non-alums (friends) may join. If you would like to become a member, please email Donna at dcrisafulli@albany.edu or call 518.489.8573 X 21. You will need to provide your full name, address, e-mail(s) and tel. number(s) as well as class year(s) if applicable.

Did you know that the Interfaith Center will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2016? We are currently gathering names and contact information for former Interfaith Center alums so that they can help us celebrate this fantastic milestone! If you would like to know more about the anniversary (and other great things happening at the Interfaith Center), please let us know!

Writing with Spirit

Diane Cameron
Author, columnist, teacher, spiritual director

This introductory writing workshop on **November 11, 2015 from 6-8pm** is a workshop for everyone: new writers, scared writers, genre-changing writers, and secret (I-have-never-told-anyone) writers. The focus will be on spirituality and inspiration: what lifts us, what holds us, and what helps us in our daily life and in our writing. We will learn, laugh, be inspired and we will write! This workshop will be held at the Interfaith Center and is free and open to the public. Participants are asked to RSVP to Donna at dcrisafulli@albany.edu or call (518) 489-8573 x 21.

Cameron’s work appears in the *Times Union* and other newspapers across the US. She has received many awards for her fiction and nonfiction work. She is the author of two books, "Looking for Signs" a collection of essays on spirituality and community, and "Out of the Woods--A Guide to Long-term Recovery." Diane's writing about military trauma was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and will be her next book in 2016. Diane is also the Development Director at Unity House in Troy, New York.
**Interfaith Center Fall Calendar of Events**

*All programs are at the Interfaith Center unless otherwise noted.*

**SEPTEMBER**

9: **Interfaith Cookout 5-8pm**
with Cornerstone, Hillel, MSA, Newman, UA Interfaith Coalition. Lots to eat (with Kosher and Halal options), games to play, and people to meet!

11: **Red Cross Blood Drive 11:30am-4:30pm**
with the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

16: **Religion 101 – Seventh Day Adventist 7-8:30pm**

17: **Caring for the Earth: Faith Communities Respond to the Pope’s Encyclical 7-9pm**
with Bishop Howard Hubbard and other faith community leaders
*Event will be held at the University at Albany Performing Arts Center Recital Hall*

27: **3rd Annual North Start Peace Walk 2-5pm**
with community and student groups

**OCTOBER**

7: **Preserving Our Earth: Native Spirituality and Environmental Justice 7-9pm**
Special lecture with Tom Porter
*Event will be held in Campus Center Room 375*

10: **Interfaith Center Open House 9am-1pm**
Alumni weekend

10: **Interfaith Field Trip 3-9pm**
*Bruderhof Platte Clove Community in Hunter, New York*

14: **Religion 101: Hinduism 7-8:30pm**
with Mr. Bala from the Hindu Temple Society

15: **From Farm to Table Interfaith Dinner 6:30-8:30pm**
with the University at Albany Sustainability Department

21: **Faith Journey Program 6:30-9pm**
Professor Anne Woulfe will share her spiritual journey

**NOVEMBER**

5: **Muslim Perspective on Religious Extremism & Terrorism Part II 7-9pm**
*Event will take place in the Campus Center Room 375*

11: **Writing with Spirit 6-8pm**
Spiritual writing workshop with Diane Cameron

**DECEMBER**

3: **Unity Dinner 6-8:30pm**
with Cornerstone, Hillel, MSA, Newman, and the UA Interfaith Coalition.
*Event will take place in the Campus Center Ballroom*

**ONGOING**

**Meditation Mondays 6-7pm**
Learn and practice meditation in the company of other people and under the guidance of a trained facilitator.

Stay up to date with all of the activities at the Interfaith Center by visiting www.albanyinterfaithcenter.org or following us on Facebook.
Interfaith Center Experiences
By: Derek J. Healey (Class of 2018, Anthropology & Religious Studies)
Derek is President of the UAlbany Interfaith Coalition (Spring & Fall 2015)

“We all have the seeds of violence, hatred, and discrimination in the depths of our consciousness and when these seeds are watered we suffer and can make others suffer. If someone says or does something that makes us feel hurt or afraid we need to take very good care of ourselves and walking in mindfulness is one of the best ways to take care of the body and mind. If we can transform our walking path into a place for meditation, our feet will take every step in full awareness. Every step we take will cause a stream of energy to flow through us. A lot of harm has been done to Mother Earth, so now it’s time to kiss the Earth with our feet and heal our world.” – Thich Nhat Hanh, Zen Master & Peace Activist

In tandem with the Interfaith Center, I had the honor to walk with countless students and peace makers from all over the world in the Spring 2015 semester. The 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Peace Walk for a Nuclear Free Future, extended from San Francisco to the United Nations, NYC. I and other UAlbany Students walked in solidarity from Schenectady to Albany, ending with a large Interfaith Commencement Dinner at the Interfaith Center. This experience opened my eyes and heart to not only a world of suffering, but to a world that is healing; step by step, inch by inch. Universally we all want peace, we all want healing, and we all want happiness. We all crave to live to see another sunrise as we dream the next days into being. Coming together to walk, to eat, to pray, and to share our stories was an incredibly moving experience that I will never forget. The Interfaith Center offers so much to students and the community, for which so many are truly grateful. This is a place where anyone, of any background, can come and feel like they have arrived back to their heart’s home.

Opportunities for Support

Giving Form
The Interfaith Center • 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12222

Yes, I would like to donate to The Interfaith Center. My donation and selected method of support is checked below. I understand that The Interfaith Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and that my contribution is tax deductible.

☐ General Donation for Organization Support and Programs
☐ Specific Project or Program __________________________________________
☐ Building Fund

Name _________________________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________________
City ____________________________ State ____________________ ZIP ______________

Enclosed please find my support in the amount of $ ____________
☐ Check (Please make payable to ACIC)
☐ Credit Card Online (Go to our website and find the Just Give button.)

UAlbany Fund
Make your donation to the Interfaith Center through the UAlbany Fund!

ONLINE: Select “other” and specify “The Interfaith Center” in the comment box
OVER THE PHONE: Tell them you want it designated to The Interfaith Center
BY CHECK: Put “The Interfaith Center” in the memo line
UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE? Give through payroll deduction

Derek Healey
Interfaith Center Staff/Students/Alum Participate in The American Pilgrimage Project
A collaboration between StoryCorps and Georgetown University

StoryCorps is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide people of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share and preserve the stories of our lives. Since 2003, nearly one hundred thousand everyday people have recorded their stories with StoryCorps; it is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind. Several million people listen to StoryCorps’ weekly broadcast on NPR’s Morning Edition.

The American Pilgrimage Project a collaboration between StoryCorps and Georgetown University – invites people of diverse backgrounds to sit and talk one-to-one about the role their religious beliefs play at crucial moments of their lives.

American Pilgrimage Project interviews will be archived with StoryCorps, Georgetown’s Lauinger Library, and the Library of Congress. Selected stories may be shared through Berkley Center programming and in other public media.

IFC Participants: Donna Crisafulli, Rabbi Nomi Manon, Olivia Fagan, Nikhil Jain, Khalafalla Osman