

The People of God: A Sacred Prism

An Interfaith Conference to Celebrate the Unity and Common Life We Share in the Holy One



Sunday, April 12, through Tuesday, April 14, 2015

5:00 pm Sunday – noon Tuesday

Franciscan Center of Tampa, Florida

In these times of uncertainty, fear, and suspicion of people from different faith traditions, this conference affirms the Divine Light that shines through all people of Godly faith, and offers the opportunity to experience that Life-Giving Spirit in an interfaith gathering.

Led by a rabbi, a Christian priest, an imam, and an interfaith minister, participants will hear presentations, and experience some of the spiritual practices of the three Abrahamic traditions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (including the Sufi tradition), with portions of Holy Scripture, music, poetry, and movement. Participants will also have opportunity to share among themselves how the spiritual practices of their faith traditions inform and guide their lives, and to offer ways that we can go forth from the conference to be witnesses of unity and hope.

Conference Cost:

\$260.00 person, includes program, room (double occupancy), and board (dietary considerations for interfaith gathering).

Registration:

\$100.00 deposit due by March 1, 2015 (non-refundable); balance due by April 1, 2015.

Make check or money order payable to *Roots & Branches*, and mail to:

Roots & Branches
35 Circle Drive
Hyde Park, NY 12538

For more information, contact Reverend Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF at:

info@rootsandbranchesprograms.org

(646) 401-2790

A Program of the Joint Committee of Franciscan Unity
In cooperation with *Roots & Branches: Programs for Spiritual Growth*
www.rootsandbranchesprograms.org

Presenters:



Rabbi Shefa Gold

Rabbi Shefa, director of C-DEEP, The Center for Devotional, Energy and Ecstatic Practice in Jemez Springs, New Mexico, is the composer of spiritual music and the designer of creative liturgies. Although firmly grounded in her Jewish heritage, she incorporates the richness of other spiritual traditions into her performances. She offers workshops and retreats on the theory and art of Chanting, Devotional Healing, Spiritual Community-Building and Meditation.



Fr. Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF

Episcopal priest, Third Order Franciscan, musician and educator, Fr. Syedullah is the director of Roots & Branches: Programs for Spiritual Growth. For more than thirty years he has designed and led conferences, retreats, and workshops integrating resources of Christian spirituality, the arts, and liturgical worship that emphasize themes of praise of God, peacemaking, reconciliation, and respect for all God's creation.



Imam Mohamad Bashar Arafat

Imam Arafat serves as the president of the Islamic Affairs Council of Maryland and the president of the Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation. He earned his reputation as a scholar and teacher of Islamic spirituality through his formal education at Damascus University and his dedication to pursue a true understanding and relationship with Allah. This dedication has led him to extensive involvements with many national and international interfaith organizations that work to bring people together to create a world in which peace and cooperation is the goal. As of January 2005, Imam Arafat began conducting programs on Islam in America through the International Speakers Program of the United States Department of State in more than 25 countries. He is currently teaching at Notre Dame of Maryland University.



Mandala: Scott Robinson and Abigail Palmer

Mandala is made up of both/and people trapped in an either/or world: both Sanskrit and English, Hebrew and Arabic, Christian and Hindu, Jewish and Islamic, churches and Yoga studios, Western and Eastern. Mandala loves introducing kirtan to audiences who've never experienced it before, and we love to find the threads that connect seemingly diverse traditions: sutras and psalms, communion and prasad, contemplative prayer and meditation. Scott Robinson, taught music at a Christian university for ten years before pursuing ordination as an interfaith minister and retreat leader. He gives workshops on spiritual practice. Abigail Palmer is a music therapist, and fronts a hard-rock group, "Sow It Goes."