

KEEPING FAITH ALIVE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

*In a society driven by media, high technology, scientific advancements and entertainment,
the conference will explore how different faiths can strive to keep faith alive.*

Talk by Distinguished Scholars of
Aboriginal Spirituality, Hinduism, Buddhism,
Judaism, Christianity, Islam,
Sikh Religion and Humanism (Atheists and Agnostics)

Introduction to World Faiths
Spiritual and Multi-faith presentations, poems and songs
World Religions' Exhibition and Displays
Complimentary Lunch, Refreshments and Dinner

Saturday
October 16, 2010
10:00 am - 6:00 pm



Humanities Theatre
J. G. Hagey Hall
University of Waterloo
Ontario, Canada



Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at
Premier Sponsor & Organizer

30th
Anniversary
Celebration

www.WorldReligionsConference.org

Free Admission
Registration Recommended
Complementary Parking - Lot H

1-877-INFO-WRC
1-877-463-6972

Memories from recent World Religions Conferences





KEEPING FAITH ALIVE IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

In a society driven by media, high technology, scientific advancements and entertainment, the conference will explore how different faiths can strive to keep faith alive. Distinguished scholars from various faiths and philosophical traditions will deliberate at the conference. Faith groups will present spiritual poems and songs, and set up displays.

You are cordially invited to this multi-faith event, the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the World Religions Conference on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 10:00 am at the Humanities Theatre of J. G. Hagey Hall, University of Waterloo, Ontario. Complimentary Lunch, Refreshments and Dinner will also be provided. There is no admission charge.

R.S.V.P. Suggested

Chief Planning & Event Coordinator

Nabeel A. Rana

Public Relations Manager

Syed S. Anwar

World Religions Conference 2010

Local Phone: (519) 623-2786

Toll-Free: 1-877-INFO-WRC (1-877-463-6972)

Email: info@WorldReligionsConference.org

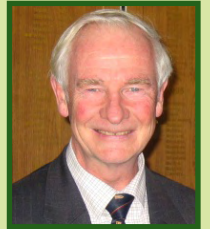
or RSVP & Register online at

www.WorldReligionsConference.org

WORLD RELIGIONS CONFERENCE

Comments from Dignitaries

“... provides an opportunity for people of diverse faith traditions, philosophies and cultural backgrounds to examine their differences and similarities ... That discussion is a vital part of education, moving us from knowledge to wisdom ... The efforts of our students to bring you all together speak to their belief that the religions of the world can make a valuable contribution to the problems that face our society ...”



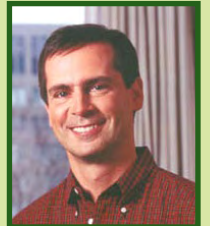
(David Johnston, President, Univ. of Waterloo,
Governor-General Designate of Canada)

“... This unique event - the largest multi-faith conference of its kind in Canada - brings together individuals from a wide range of religious beliefs ... The fact that you have been assembling in a spirit of dialogue and congeniality for almost three decades speaks to your commitment to foster mutual understanding, respect and acceptance and thus to make the world a better place ...”



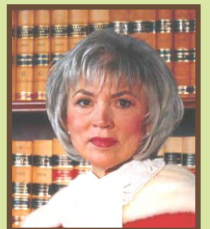
(Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada)

“... We believe that mutual respect and a genuine desire for understanding are key to a peaceful world ... The World Religions Conference embodies these very values as it brings together people of beliefs in a spirit of cross-cultural and inter-faith appreciation and acceptance ...”



(Premier Dalton McGuinty of Ontario)

“... Endeavors such as the World Religions Conference are vital for they demonstrate to the world that despite the richness of our differences, we have so much in common and can live together in a spirit of understanding and compassion ...”



(Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin)

PROGRAM

October 16, 2010

Presided and Moderated by
Gary Doyle
K-W's Famous Radio Host



A 34-year veteran of the airwaves, Gary is heard daily in Kitchener-Waterloo on 570 News. "The Gary Doyle Show" is known as the voice of the Waterloo Region. Gary brings an engaging yet non-confrontational approach to a variety of topics including lifestyle, religion, money, health, finance and more. The father of two grown sons, Gary and his wife Brenda plan on traveling and spending more time together. When it comes to his show "great conversation trumps interviewing anytime."

Opening Session

10:00a ~ 12:20p

- 10:00a Doors Open (Registration and Social)
- 10:30a Opening World Religions Multi Media Presentation
- 10:40a Welcome by the Presiding Chair
— Gary Doyle, K-W's Famous Radio Host
- 10:45a Opening Readings from the Holy Scriptures - All Faiths
- 11:01a Opening Ceremony
— Introduction of Speakers and Dignitaries
— Unveiling of the World Religions Conference Plaque
- 11:08a Introductory Remarks
— Lal Khan Malik, National President, —
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama` at Canada
- 11:14a Introduction to World Faiths & Philosophies*
 - 11:15a —Hinduism: Chander Khanna - Toronto
 - 11:20a —Humanism: Stuart Bechman - California, USA
 - 11:25a —Judaism: Dr. Daniel Maoz - Kitchener
 - 11:30a —Christianity: Charles Van Alphen - Waterloo
 - 11:35a —Buddhism: Dr. Christopher Ross - Waterloo
 - 11:40a —Aboriginal Spirituality: Walter Cooke - Hamilton
 - 11:45a —Islam: Mubarak A. Nazir - Toronto
 - 11:50a —Sikhism: Kulvir Singh Gill - Toronto
- 11:56p Messages and Greetings from Guest Dignitaries
— Representative of the University of Waterloo
— Local and Regional Leaders
— Provincial and National leaders
- 12:20p Complimentary Lunch and Social Break



Theme Session

1:20p ~ 4:45p

"Keeping Faith Alive In Contemporary Society"

- 1:20p Introduction to the Theme Session — Moderator
- 1:24p Hindu Perspective — Chander Khanna, Toronto
- 1:39p Hindu Spiritual Poem or Song — Brahmarishi Mission & Hindu Club
- 1:45p Humanist Perspective — Stuart Bechman, California, USA
- 2:00p Secular Poem or Song — Society of Ontario FreeThinkers
- 2:06p Jewish Perspective — Dr. Daniel Maoz, Kitchener
- 2:21p Judaic Spiritual Poem or Song — Local Jewish Community
- 2:27p Christian Perspective — Charles Van Alphen, Waterloo
- 2:42p Christian Spiritual Poem or Song — Local Christian Community
- 2:48p Buddhist Perspective — Dr. Christopher Ross, Waterloo
- 3:03p Buddhist Spiritual Poem or Song — Local Buddhist Community
- 3:09p Coffee Break — Complimentary Refreshments and Social
- 3:40p Announcing rules of the Q/A Session — Moderator
- 3:43p Aboriginal Spiritual Perspective — Walter Cooke, Hamilton
- 3:58p Aboriginal Spiritual Poem or Song — Aboriginal Community of KW
- 4:04p Islamic Perspective — Mubarak A. Nazir, Toronto
- 4:19p Islamic Spiritual Poem or Song — Ahmadiyya Muslim Childrens
- 4:25p Sikh Perspective — Kulvir Singh Gill, Toronto
- 4:40p Sikh Spiritual Poem or Song — Sikh Student's Association, UW

(* The order of speeches was determined via random draw on Oct. 24, 2009)

Concluding & Interactive Session

4:46p ~ 5:45p

- 4:46p Vote of Thanks - Recognition of Speakers and Volunteers
— M. Amir Sheikh, Regional President, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama` at
- 4:52p Open Question & Answer Session with all Speakers
- 5:40p Closing Remarks — Moderator & Chair
- 5:43p Silent Multi-Faith Prayer — All Faiths
- 5:45p Complimentary Dinner and Social

(Program agenda subject to change)

Speaker Profiles

Distinguished Scholars of the World's Religions and Philosophies



Representing Hinduism

Chander Khanna - Toronto

Scholar on Hinduism, Dr. Khanna is the VP of the Hindu Institute of Learning. Serves on the Spiritual Committee of the Associations of Himalayan Yoga Meditation Societies. Convener of the Sanskrit Vidya Parishad Lectures Founding member of the Toronto Local Societies Initiative under a Templeton Foundation Grant. Contributing Editor of the Interfaith Unity News. Given key-note addresses on Eastern Philosophical traditions and has participated in international symposiums in several countries.



Representing Buddhism

Dr. Christopher Ross - Waterloo

Recognized academic scholar. Dr. Ross, PhD is a counselling psychologist and associate professor in the Department of Religion and Culture at Wilfrid Laurier University, in the field of the psychology of religion with a special interest in how individuals' personalities influence what they look for in religion. A lifelong meditator, eleven years ago Chris took a Buddhist turn, learning first Vipassana and then receiving teachings in Tibetan Buddhist traditions.



Representing Humanism

Stuart Bechman - California, USA

Scholar and speaker on the western Enlightenment and the rise of reason and modernity, Stuart serves as president of Atheist Alliance International, an umbrella organization of national freethought organizations around the world. Serves as a board member of the Secular Coalition for America as well as on the National Advisory Council of Americans United. Holds Master's degree in Sociology from California State University with specialization in Religion and Large Organizations.



Representing Aboriginal Spirituality

Walter Cooke - Hamilton

Inspiring Speaker. Walter, an Elder/Counsellor, Ojibway-Cree of the Bear Clan. He works for De dwa da dehs nyes Aboriginal Health Centre in Hamilton, Ontario. Has been doing traditional healing work for over 20 years. His teachings come from listening to elders and in large, from his own way of life and that of his parents. Facilitates a Healing Journey Program at the Aboriginal Health Centre. Addressed numerous interfaith events.



Representing Judaism

Dr. Daniel Maoz - Kitchener

Engaging speaker and Jewish scholar, Daniel is member of both Orthodox and Reform Jewish communities of Kitchener-Waterloo. Professor of two university Jewish Studies programs. An active volunteer for the Chevra Kadisha (ritual burial) and for the YMCA Cross-Cultural Host Program over the past several years. Holds a Ph.D from France and M.A. in History. Widely published and internationally presents his research in Jewish Studies.



Representing Islam

Mubarak A. Nazir - Toronto

Vice President and Missionary Incharge of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Canada. Prolific speaker who regularly appears on broadcast media, and has lectured at numerous forums explaining contemporary Islamic issues. Mubarak is a graduate with a scientific background. After dedicating his life, served as Missionary both in Africa and Canada. Principal of various Ahmadiyya Islamic Schools in Africa and most recently of the Ahmadiyya Islamic Institute in Canada.



Representing Christianity

Charles Van Alphen - Waterloo

An accomplished presenter and academic. Charles is a retired elementary teacher and school principal. Taught courses for the Faculty of Education and served as a religion consultant. Presently at St. Michael RC Parish in Waterloo as a parish school liaison. Leads retreats for the reception of sacraments. Prison chaplain at the Grand Valley Institution for Women. Married to Debby and is a proud father of six children and 3 grandchildren.



Representing Sikh Religion

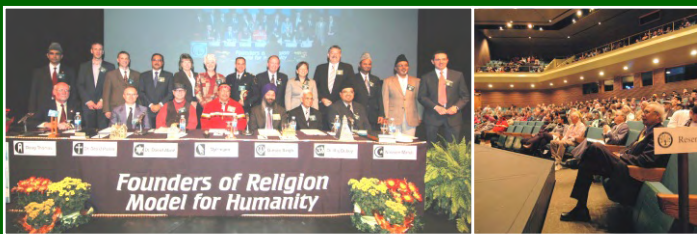
Kulvir Singh Gill - Toronto

Brilliant speaker and scholar. Kulvir works as a Management Consultant, running his own independent consulting and coaching practice. Worked in the local Sikh-Canadian community with the Sikh Centennial Foundation, Spinning Wheel Film Festival, and Toronto Sikh Youth Retreats. Currently launching the Sikh Arts Council and the Seva Food Bank. Serves on the Board of Directors for the William Osler Health System Foundation and Habitat For Humanity in Brampton.

Glimpses from recent World Religions Conferences



October 24, 2009: Is God Relevant in Today's World - UW
Speakers & Dignitaries at the 29th World Religions Conference



October 26, 2008: Founders of Religion, Model for Humanity - UW
Speakers & Dignitaries at the 28th World Religions Conference



November 24, 2007: How Religion Can Protect the Environment - UW
Reg. Chair Ken Seiling with President Lal Khan Malik unveiling the WRC Plaque



December 2, 2006: My Faith and Freedom of Conscience - Waterloo
Hon. Mike Colle, Ontario Minister of Citizenship presenting recognition



October 1, 2005: Basis and Concept of Salvation - Kitchener
Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper addressing the opening ceremony

Past World Religions Conferences


- 1981 — Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders
Brier Park School, Brantford
- 1981 — Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1982 — Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders
Brier Park School, Brantford
- 1983 — Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1984 — Concept of Salvation
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1985 — Human Rights in Religion
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1986 — The Rights of Men and Women in Religion
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1987 — Existence of God in Religion
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1988 — Life After Death
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1989 — World Peace
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1990 — Drug Abuse
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1991 — Solution of Modern Social Problems
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1992 — Racial, Religious and Cultural Tolerance
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1993 — War or Peace - What Awaits Humanity?
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1995 — Family Values in Religion
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1996 — Role of Religion in the Future
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1997 — Are There Any Absolute Universal Values?
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1998 — Mankind in the Next Millennium
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 1999 — Morality in the Next Millennium
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 2000 — Changing Faces of the Family - Religious Perspectives
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- 2001 — Reconciling the Existence of God & Human Suffering
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- 2002 — World Peace - What Religions Can Achieve
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- 2003 — In Search of the Existence of God
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- 2004 — Why Religion?
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- 2005 — The Basis and Concept of Salvation
Centre in the Square, Kitchener
- 2006 — My Faith and Freedom of Conscience
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- 2007 — How Religion Can Protect the Environment
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- 2008 — Founders of Religion - Model for Humanity
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- 2009 — Is God Relevant in Today's World?
University of Waterloo, Waterloo

OUR PARTNERS


	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	
	

Disclaimer: Views expressed at this conference are those of the speakers and may NOT necessarily reflect the views of the Federation of Students or the University of Waterloo or any other organization.

ORGANIZERS



Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at
5 Elliot Street, Cambridge,
Ontario N1R 2J3



Ahmadiyya Muslim
Students' Association
Univ. of Waterloo & Wilfrid Laurier

Message from our Premier Sponsor

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at

This conference was envisioned by the founder of worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, who claimed to be the divinely appointed Promised Messiah and al-Imam al-Mahdi^{as} in 1889.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at organizes it in many countries on a regular basis. Scholars of various religions express the beauties of their respective faith, in a peaceful and brotherly atmosphere.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is an embodiment of the benevolent message of all world religions — peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God.

In Canada, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at has been organizing this conference for 30 years.



National Head Office:
Bai'tul Islam Mosque
Maple, Ontario, Canada

www.ahmadiyya.ca
www.alislam.org



Free Admission
Complimentary Parking in Lot H
 (Guaranteed if you arrive before 11:00 noon)
www.worldreligionsconference.org

Toll Free: 1-877-INFO-WRC
Local Phone: 519-623-2786
Fax: 1-866-524-4621

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