

Day Four: Children, Family, and Community Day



Engaging The Next Generation In World Interfaith Harmony

Interfaith youth programs have been a growing interest in the Southern California interfaith community, so the film festival thought it was appropriate to focus some time on youth, schools, and families. The festival organizers created two film competition categories to serve this purpose: one for youth in 4th-12th grade schools called **YOUNG VOICES FOR HARMONY**, and one for college student filmmakers called **NEXT VOICE OF HARMONY**. The students competed in the same manner as the adults, screening their films and answering questions from the audience after their films screened. With the help of **SPIRITCLIPS** by the **HALLMARK COMPANY**, we were provided 30 family oriented short films that were donated to the film festival. So we started Saturday

morning by offering a “Rise and Shine” Interfaith Breakfast and two hours of **FREE** screenings for children and their families. In the middle of the free **SPIRITCLIPS** movies, we screened the films made by the youth filmmakers, which made them feel an integral part of the film festival. We then let the youth speak about their films in the context of World Interfaith Harmony with the purpose of inspiring young people to learn about interfaith concepts at a young age. Following this we offered a screening of the film **ANIMATING THE GOLDEN RULE**, an educational film about the Golden Rule Ethic as a thread that runs through many diverse religions, offering a common ground for discussing World Harmony in that context. We then offered a **FREE** Golden Rule Workshop led by distinguished speaker Tina Petrova from Canada who engaged children and adults in a lively discussion about Golden Rule skills. Following this we offered an Interfaith Harmony Dialogue Luncheon in which we invited interfaith leaders to sit at round table discussions and encourage interfaith dialogue over lunch. We then moved to our evening film screenings for adults, starting with **YANGSI, REINCARNATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING**, an intimate portrait of a Tibetan boy who was recognized as a Buddhist master at four years old. This was followed by **DIVIDED WE FALL** and a discussion led by the Sikh community, and **HEART OF A MURDERER** led by a Hindu faith leader and Italian filmmaker Catherine McGilvray, ending with **FINDING JOE**, a film exploring mythologist Joseph Campbell’s studies & spiritual message.