**2018 Greater Kansas City interfaith film festival**

During the first week of February 2018, the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council and partners sponsored a week-long interfaith film festival, with free movies from a variety of faith perspectives. The movies ranged from documentaries to fictional tales, but all had a common theme and common teaching: *One can search through many places, but the true pilgrimage to the Divine is to search within ourselves, into the human heart, where we will find peace and tenderness and love and will learn to accept all as equal and to help one another.*

Occurring in celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week (February 1 through February 7 of each year), the film festival included a broad spectrum of faith philosophies and involved a close cooperative partnership among the Council, the Kansas City Public Library system, Cultural Crossroads and various faith communities.

A listing of the films indicates the conceptual breadth of the presentations:

February 1: *Sacred Journeys,* hosted by the Plaza Library, shared pilgrimages through exotic locales in search of God and the Divine.

February 2: *The* *Secret of Kells* with enhanced activities, hosted by the Plaza Library and conducted by Cultural Crossroads, explored the idea of searching for the Divine through the works of man and nature.

February 3: *Travelers and Magicians,* hosted by Rime Buddhist Center, was a film both haunting and humorous with the message that true searching begins in the heart and is not a matter of geography.

February 4: This showing was, unfortunately, cancelled due to weather, but was slated to be hosted by Johnson County Library and the local Baha'i Community, showing *Light to the World*  and *Changing the World One Wall at a Time*  with appreciative inquiry group discussions and refreshments. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity later to present these films.

February 5: *Meet the Mormon,*  hosted by the Liberty LDS congregation, showed us that people are basically the same everywhere, living their lives in furtherance of their “faith.”

February 6: *Awake: The Life of Yogahanda,* hosted by the Plaza Library, was a documentary about the life of Hindu mystic Paramahansa Yogananda -- known as “The Father of Yoga in the West" – and carried the message of the benefit of staying true to one’s goals, regardless of where they take you.

February 7: Two short films were hosted by All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, with discussion conducted by GKCIC. Taken together, the short film *Oneness* and Pope Francis’ TED Talk about the future, both demonstrate that working together, all can be accomplished, if one holds true to the position that everyone is valuable and acts in solidarity and tenderness.

All films and events were free and open to the public. Challenged by the weather, the various events averaged between 20 and 40 people each evening. It is the hope of the Council that an interfaith film festival may be offered again in the future. Be sure to watch this newsletter and the [GKCIC website](http://www.kcinterfaith.org) and [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/gkcicpage/) for information.