

Interfaith Harmony Week: Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

UN World FEBRUARY 1-7, 2015 Interfaith Harmony Week

INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Intensive week-long experiential engagement with the people, places, and practices of world religions in the City of Halifax, including

- Celebration, educational opportunities, hospitality, rituals, spiritual practices, and worship services.
- Visits to sacred spaces to observe, meet, and engage with diverse faith communities.
- Participation in an intentional learning community, receiving a certificate.

Requirements for Certificate

- Participate in a two-hour session before and after the week-long event.
- Attend at least three, out of ten, faith communities, plus one interfaith celebration.
- Keep a reflective journal during the week and share learning with others.

COST: FREE

Registration Deadline: Jan. 12, 2015

Intro Session: Tues., Jan. 20, 3-4:30 p.m.; or Thurs., Jan. 22, 7-8:30 p.m.

Mount Peace Room (Evaristus - Floor 4C)

Numbers limited, please register early.

For more info or to register, contact the Mount Spiritual Life Centre
Elizabeth Tachie: slcassistant@msvu.ca 457-6446

Info about UN World Interfaith Harmony Week
Local: wihw.touchbaseonline.ca Global: worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com

UN World FEBRUARY 1-7, 2015 Interfaith Harmony Week

SACRED SPACES MEETING OUR NEIGHBOURS UNDERSTANDING, HARMONY, AND COMPASSION

CALENDAR OF HALIFAX EVENTS

SUNDAY: FEBRUARY 1

Christian Worship
10:30 a.m., United Memorial Church, 5375 Kaye St., off Novalea Dr.

Sikh Kirtan and Langar
11:30 a.m., Sikh Gurdwara, 10 Parkhill Rd., Jollimore

Hindu Puja
11:50 a.m., 5421 Cork St., off Oxford St.

Celebration of World Interfaith Harmony
2:00 p.m., Rosaria Student Centre, the Mount

MONDAY: FEBRUARY 2

Brahma Kumaris Meditation
7:00 p.m., Brahma Kumaris Centre, 1 Cedarbrae Ln., off Lacewood Dr.

TUESDAY: FEBRUARY 3

Humanist Gathering
7:00 p.m., Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St.

WEDNESDAY: FEBRUARY 4

Shambhala Meal, Social, and Meditation
6:00 p.m., Halifax Shambhala Centre, 1084 Tower Rd., off Inglis St.

THURSDAY: FEBRUARY 5

Traditional Sweat Lodge
5:00 p.m., MacDonald Beach, off Caldwell Rd., Shearwater

FRIDAY: FEBRUARY 6

Muslim Jummah Prayer
12:30 p.m., Ummah Masjid, 2510 St. Matthias St., off Chebucto Rd.

Jewish Shabbat
5:30 p.m., Shaar Shalom Congregation, 1981 Oxford St.

SATURDAY: FEBRUARY 7

Christian Worship
4:00 p.m., Saint Benedict Roman Catholic Church, 45 Radcliffe Dr., off Dunbrack St.

Pagan Imbolc Rite and Rituals
6:00 p.m., Universalist Unitarian Church, 5500 Inglis St.

Bahá'i Community Devotional
7:00 p.m., St. Andrew's Community Centre, 3380 Barnstead Ln., off Bayer's Rd.

All are welcome to participate in the sacred events.
Enjoy hospitality, friendship, and refreshments.
For more information visit wihw.touchbaseonline.ca



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Interfaith Engagement Program 2015

Intro Event: Developing an intentional learning community



35 participants from: Education, health, immigrant services, law enforcement, military, religion & other community sectors

Reasons for attending Engagement Program:

- Some responses:
 - “To explore other religions/practices”
 - “To gain insights”
 - “Will help me with my profession, which involved people of all backgrounds”
 - “There’s just so much I don’t know, so I want to engage with people from different backgrounds”

Reflection: “What does 'interfaith harmony' mean to me?”

- Some responses:
 - “I don’t know, that’s why I’m here to find out”
 - “Kindness, openness & love”
 - “Welcoming, community & sharing”
 - “Togetherness”

Celebration of Interfaith Harmony

Mount Saint Vincent University

Participants:

Billy Lewis, Indigenous Elder



Smudging helps us do things in a 'good way'

Dr. Lumpkin, President of Mount Saint Vincent University



Warm welcome as we engage today & during the week.

Kim MacAulay, Event Coordinator



Appreciation to participants, sponsors & everyone

Elizabeth Tachie, Student Representative & Spiritual Life Assistant



Gives an overview of the global & local initiative

Trisha Gore, Representing First Nations



Fancy Shawl Dance

Elizabeth Tachie, Lighting Candle for Peace & Harmony



Lighting candle for Peace (inspired by Denmark – 2014)

Smudge Ceremony



Billy Lewis, Indigenous Elder, offering smudge

**Sunday School Children of the Theravada
Buddhist Community of Nova Scotia**



Singing about loving-kindness

Members of the Maritime Sikh Society



Singing a shabad (hymn) & playing the tabla (drum)

Rabbi Ari Isenberg, Representing the Jewish Community



Sharing & Singing of Psalm 150

Judy Johnson, Representing the Brahma Kumaris Community



Brief meditation practice

Dr. Katherine Darvesh, Representing the Muslim Community



Sharing a story of Mawlana Rumi

Heidi Jury, Representing the Christian Community



Singing 'Prayer of St. Francis' & 'Come to the Water'

**Nooshin Sobani & Nathan Navidzadeh
Representing the Báha'í Community**



Prayers for spiritual growth and unity

Josephine Nithya Babou, Representing the Hindu Tradition



Dance theme: Purity of a mother's love

Samba Nova



Vibrant Brazilian percussion music

Saeed Foroughi & Robert Leek, Prelude/Postlude



Playing the flute and drum: Song of Unity

Attendants



Engaging with Each Other



Attendants socializing, engaging, and viewing displays

Displays



Displays included information about diverse groups including their vision & mission

Celebration: What Brings You Here?



World citizenship

To encourage tolerance, understanding, enlightenment

Meeting old and new friends. I love it

To dance for my culture and share with others – Trisha

Love

To experience the different cultures that exist in our diverse city

Respect, curiosity, learning, togetherness

Because I Love to Learn about my world – Ella

To share my religion – Bihadu

To experience the beautiful mosaic that we are!

We need our diversity

This is part of my journey to peace – Laurel Miller

I'm performing to share my culture – Chonidu Gamage

Union, connectedness, acceptance, belonging, interest and Love. Thank you!

Unity, Harmony, Peace and Love, this makes us family (the human race) – Lizz

To experience the Unity in Diversity

To learn other cultures

Harmony, Love, Peace – Daxa

Exploration, Knowledge, Experience of others, Community/Oneness

It doesn't matter who you are; you're family

Knowledge and sharing with one another facilitates harmony and nourishes the spirit (I will be here in spirit) – Virginia

To connect with like-minded, like hearted, loving beings. Thank you!

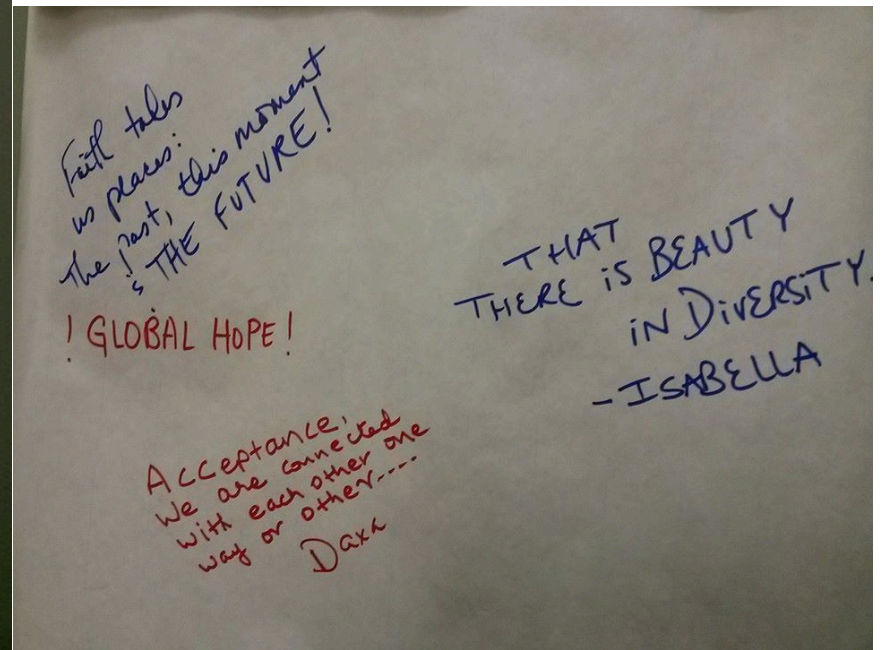
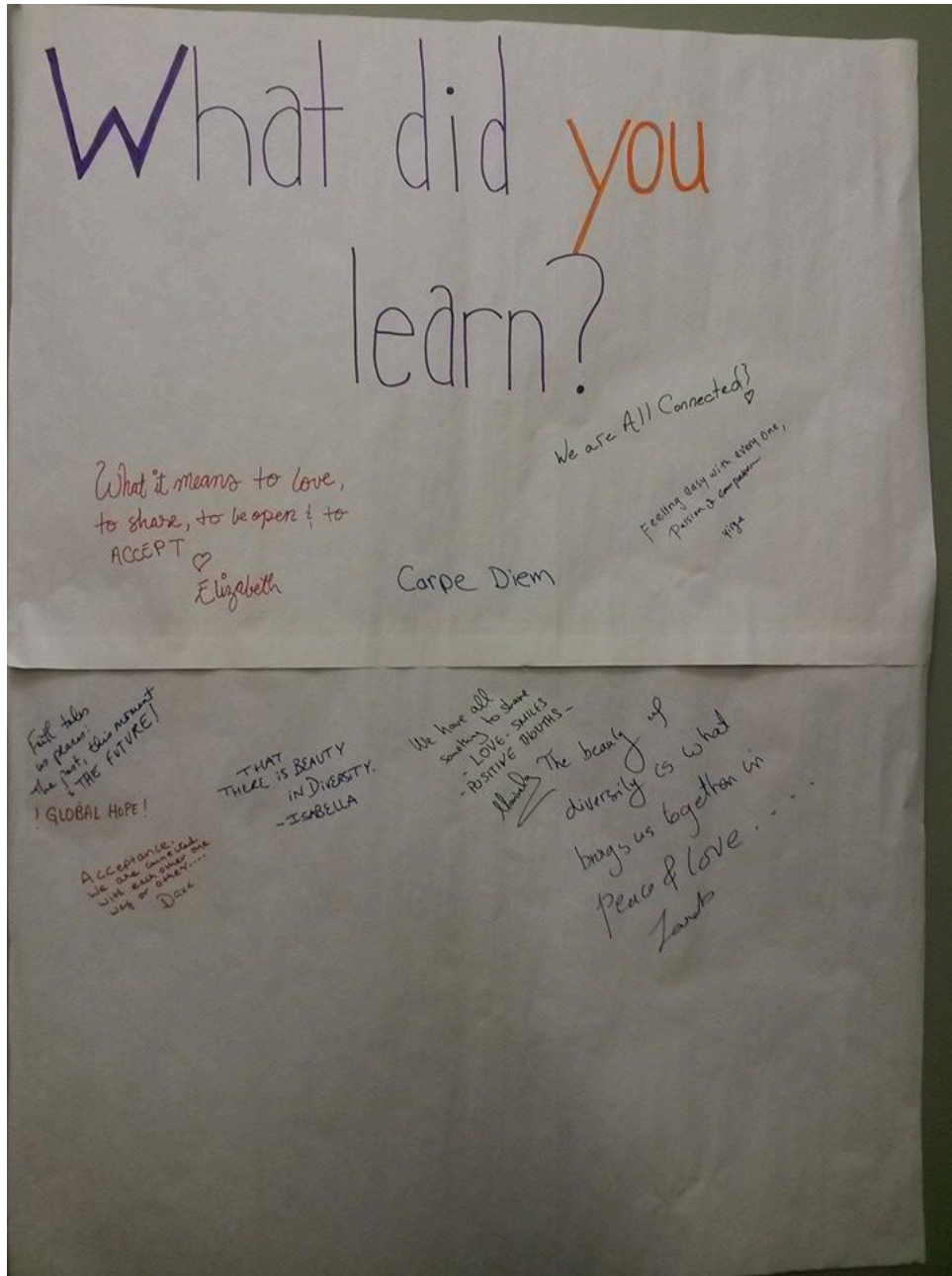
Linda invited me!!! – Marilyn

We are ONE!

There are bazzilion problems in the world but one solution is "Acceptance" – Harmau

Diversity and inclusion are the message, not tolerance but acceptance.

Learnings from the Interfaith Engagement Program



Interfaith Engagement Program 2015

Closing Celebration

Share learnings, celebrate the experience & receive certificates



35 participants from: Education, health, immigrant services, law enforcement, military, religion & other community sectors

Reflections of the week

“Uplifting, empathy, warmth was immediate, magnificent, openness that allowed me to embrace their sacred space, generated to explore different religions, welcome, unity, peace and love, reunion, connect – learning from each other, passion and compassion, holy envy, life, face, friendship, together, harmony, shift, youth, and curiosity

Learnings

- Safe way to explore sacred spaces. This is an inside out multicultural experience. Felt interconnected with people.
- Poem: “Garden with different colors...soul will find refuge, heart will find peace”
- Humans like to be together. Religion serves that purpose.
- Before we can do anything about dialogue, we must first have relationship.
- Accept people as they are. Learning from example. The beauty of it. Rejuvenating. Relaxing.
- I was touched; goodness has rippled. Attracted to the program because of compassion – love free from hate.
- Interfaith harmony and peace events could be year-long. Program opens up your eyes to the people and cultures.
- In order to change the world, have to change habits and thoughts.
- Holy envy – when we encounter people, we should look at them and wish it could be part of us.

More Learnings and Experiences from the Interfaith Engagement Program



During UN interfaith harmony week there were SNOW storms.....



But at the celebrations there were candles and the warmth of gathering together took us in from the cold....



Even though we talked about and explored some of our deepest fears, prejudices, and uncertainties....



We found a new, inner GLOBAL HOPE from connecting with our neighbours, right here in Halifax, who are doing good! Thank you, blessings, and all gratitude to everyone who contributed to this amazing week!

Some experiences during the week expressed artistically

Interfaith Engagement Program: Sample Certificate

UN World Interfaith Harmony Week

Halifax, NS February 1 - 7, 2015

Interfaith Engagement Program

certificate of participation for

Isabella Redgate

Mount Spiritual Life Coordinator
Office of Student Experience, Spiritual Life Centre

Date



Touch **BASE**



Social Media



Snapshot of our Facebook page



UN World Interfaith Harmony Week kicks off February 1 in Halifax, Nova Scotia

November 29, 2014 Uncategorized

The United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week begins on February 1, 2015.

Guests will be welcomed at Christian, Hindu, and Sikh worship that morning and then later that afternoon an Interfaith Celebration is being held at Mount Saint Vincent University.

The week recognizes the imperative need to experience diverse faiths in order to enhance mutual understanding, harmony, and friendship. The week-long events include celebration, educational opportunities, hospitality, rituals, spiritual practices, and worship services. The community is invited to take advantage of this opportunity to experience the diversity of faith traditions in Halifax and to discover common aspirations as we meet our neighbours.

Twelve communities representing diverse faiths will open their doors to you during the week, including: Baha'i, Brahma Kumaris, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Jewish, Mi'kmaq, Muslim, Pagan, and Sikh communities.

All are welcome to experience and participate.

Leave a comment

Snapshot of our website for the week

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/UNWorldInterfaithHarmony> Website for Interfaith Harmony Week: <http://wihw.touchbaseonline.ca/>



Facebook Cover Page