

Interfaith Harmony Halifax



World Interfaith Harmony Week
2019

Interfaith
Harmony Halifax
presents

World Interfaith
Harmony Week 2019

"Discovering
the Many Faces
of Faith"





Theme for 2019:
"Discovering the Many Faces of Faith"

The Interfaith Harmony Halifax committee unanimously agreed on this theme as it captured the deep experience that this week is meant to open amongst its participants, more particularly amongst those who are going through it for the first time.

By understanding that behind each faith, each sacred space, each ceremony, each expression of love, there is a face, different from ours perhaps, but a face in all its infinite signification and value, we meant to cultivate a discovery that was not only centered on the faiths involved with this initiative, but inclusive of the many different persons involved with each of those faiths.

Every face is as unique and fundamental as the forms they have to express their deep experience of their love of God, good will, and of neighbour.



Interfaith Harmony Halifax (IHH) is a community award-winning collaborative organization whose purpose is to **promote the vision of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)**, which is ***“Love of God, the Good, and Neighbour”***.

We represent people of diverse faiths and good will, as well as diverse community partners and cultures. 2019 is our *sixth* year of celebrating WIHW in Halifax.

The **five** elements of our program included:

1. Meeting Our Neighbours: Visits to Sacred Spaces
2. Interfaith Engagement Certificate Program
3. **NEW IN 2019** Interfaith Panel Conversations
4. Community Celebration of Interfaith Harmony
5. **NEW IN 2019** Establishment of Barho Family Interfaith Youth Award





"Love of God, the Good, and Neighbour"



Meeting Our Neighbours: Visits to Sacred Spaces.....5

An opportunity to visit sacred spaces in Halifax to observe, meet, and engage with diverse faith communities. Enjoy hospitality, friendship, and refreshments.



Interfaith Engagement Certificate Program.....20

An intensive week-long experiential engagement with the people, places, and practices of world religions in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia



Interfaith Panel Conversations.....24

A series of panel conversations on Discovering The Many Faces of Faith. Each of the public events featured a panel of 4-5 speakers (many of whom have been past IHH hosts at the Sacred Spaces) as well as past IHH Interfaith Engagement Program participants.



Community Celebration of Interfaith Harmony.....28

Diverse faiths offering song, music and dance, as well as reflections, prayers and sacred readings. The event included refreshments, display tables, and a grand finale from the Maritime Bhangra Group.



Barho Family - Youth Interfaith Award.....32

Annual award for a young person, 14 years or younger, who has shown interest, appreciation, and initiative during World Interfaith Harmony Week. Given in memory of the 7 Barho children who died tragically in a house fire in February 2019 in Halifax.

UN World **FEBRUARY 1-10, 2019** Interfaith Harmony Week

www.ihhalifax.ca

Discovering the Many Faces of Faith

SACRED SPACES 2019 CALENDAR

Friday, February 1st

Muslim Jummah Prayer

12:20 p.m. 2510 St. Matthias Street, Halifax

Jewish Shabbat

5:30 p.m. 1981 Oxford Street, Halifax

Saturday, February 2nd

Bahá'i Community Devotional

2:00 p.m. Room 170, 5793 University Avenue, Halifax
(Collaborative Health Education Building)

Pagan Ritual Celebration of Heathen Disablot

6:30 p.m. 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax

Sunday, February 3rd

Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism

9:00 a.m. 2029 North Park Street, Halifax

Sikh Kirtan (Songs of Praise) and Langar (Communal Meal)

11:30 a.m. 10 Parkhill Road, Jollimore
The Maritime Sikh Society

Monday, February 4th

Brahma Kumaris Guided Meditation

7:00 p.m. #1 Cedarbrae Lane, Halifax
(between Bayview and Dunbrack on Lacewood Drive)

Tuesday, February 5th

Indigenous Talking Circle

2:00 p.m. 2158 Gottingen Street, Halifax
Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre

Wednesday, February 6th

Taste of Shambhala

6:00 p.m. 1084 Tower Road, Halifax
Shambhala Centre

Thursday, February 7th

Universalist Unitarian "Sample Service"

7:00 p.m. 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax

Sunday, February 10th

Christian Worship at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church

10:00 a.m. 38 Purcell's Cove Road, Halifax

Hindu Puja (Ritual Worship)

11:00 a.m. 6421 Cork Street, Halifax
(just off Oxford Street)

Interfaith Celebration

2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. 5440 Spring Garden Road, Halifax
Paul O'Regan Hall (in the Halifax Central Library)

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



DALHOUSIE
MULTIFAITH
SERVICES



Bahá'i
Community
of Halifax



LUTHERAN
CAMPUS
MINISTRY



Quakers





Ummah Mosque: The history of Muslims in Canada is as old as the birth of Canada itself. According to the 1871 Canadian Census, four years after Canada's birth, there were 13 European Muslims in this country, and by 2011 (National Household Survey, 2011) around 3.2% of Canada's population were Muslims. While early Muslims settlements were concentrated in Ontario, Alberta, and Quebec, the history of Muslims in Nova Scotia dates back to the late 1960's and early 1970's with the settlement of a handful of Muslim families primarily in the Halifax-Dartmouth area. On December 26, 1966, six newly-arrived Muslim migrants to Nova Scotia signed a Memorandum of Association known as the Islamic Association of the Maritime Provinces of Canada, one of the oldest Muslim organizations in Canada.

The years following saw a significant growth in the number of Muslim immigrants especially from the Indian sub-continent. Most of these newcomers were professionals including doctors, engineers, university professors and school teachers. In the , Canada opened its immigration doors to entrepreneurs and with the upheaval caused by the Gulf war, a large number of Arabic speaking Muslim immigrants arrived in Nova Scotia. According to Canada's 2011 National Household Survey, approximately 1% of Nova Scotia's population are now Muslims. Muslims are among Canada's most highly educated and productive citizens, with 45% possessing at least one university degree.

In Nova Scotia, Muslim population is deeply ingrained with the social, economic, and cultural fabrics of the society. From medical doctors, university professors, teachers, and engineers to public servants, entrepreneurs, and social workers, the Muslim community has been a productive and positive constituent of Nova Scotia for more than half a century. The shared history of Muslims and Nova Scotia is deeply cherished and constantly celebrated by Muslims in the Halifax-Dartmouth regions in every facet of their lives.



Shaar Shalom Congregation: The first Jews arrived in Halifax in 1750, only a year after the city was founded. They were merchants from Newport, Rhode Island and little is known about them or their offspring. The Halifax Jewish community, as we know it today, took form in the 1890's when Jewish immigrants fleeing from the Pogroms in Russia settled in the city. In 1895 the first synagogue, an orthodox synagogue, was established in Halifax. As the Halifax Jewish population grew, Jewish religious practice diversified and in 1953 a conservative congregation, the Shaar Shalom Congregation, was established. On October 5, 1954, the Shaar Shalom Congregation broke ground for its synagogue on the corner of Oxford and Pepperell Streets where it continues to serve the needs of Halifax's Conservative Jewish community today.



The Shaar is an egalitarian congregation where both women and men participate fully in the spiritual, ritual and social life of the community. To enhance communal connection and support, the congregation offers a variety of activities and organizations: religious services on Friday nights, Saturday mornings and holidays, Jewish education and religious training for young and old alike, which includes a religious school for preschoolers to grade 7, a Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society) and cemetery, a library for community use, kosher kitchens, function rooms, and a Tree of Life.

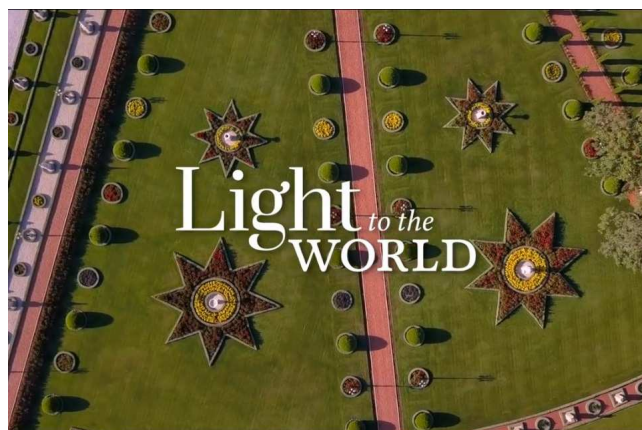
In addition to the Shaar Shalom, the Halifax Jewish Community includes: Beth Israel Synagogue (Orthodox), Chabad-Lubavitch of the Maritimes, Atlantic Jewish Council, and Hillel Atlantic – Jewish Students Association.

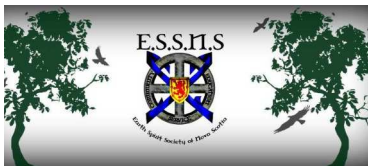
The Baha'is of Halifax: The Bahá'í Community of Canada is made up of some 30,000 Canadians from backgrounds that are truly representative of Canada's rich cultural and ethnic diversity. Canadian Bahá'ís live in every province and territory and are spread among 1200 localities. Their economic and social backgrounds are as diverse as their cultural and religious heritage.

The Bahá'í Faith has more than five million members worldwide. Bahá'ís are the followers of Bahá'u'lláh (1817-1892) whom they regard as the most recent in the line of Messengers of God that stretches back beyond recorded time and that includes Abraham, Moses, Buddha, Krishna, Zoroaster, Christ and Muhammad. The fundamental vision of the Baha'i community is that the nations of the world will become unified in a manner that respects the diversity of people but recognizes that we are all the members of one family.

The Halifax Bahá'í community was established in 1942 and has been contributing to the development of Halifax Region for 75 years. Today there are Baha'is in virtually every part of the city; living in, and contributing to their neighbourhoods through charitable acts and service.

The Baha'is of Halifax offer to all: Classes for the Moral Development of Children, Programs for Junior Youth and Youth, Study Circles for Spiritual Development and Service to others, and Devotional Gatherings.





The Pagan Presence Committee: The Pagan Presence Committee was created by the Earth Spirit Society of Nova Scotia (ESSNS) in January 2008 to apply for participation in World Religion Day. It was created as an open committee: we accepted anyone who wanted to participate, not only members of ESSNS (pronounced 'essence').

From its original inception our purpose has expanded to include Pagan participation in all multifaith events as well as educational presentations. Our involvement includes: World Religion Day, Festival of Lights, World Interfaith Harmony Week, Pride, King's County Historical Society, and events of ecological support. Earth Spirit Society began in 2006 as a means of supporting Pagan involvement. It was organized as a roundtable; all had a voice; the only fees were time and energy. We registered under the Societies Act in 2009 with bylaws consistent with our original purpose, leaving the roundtable intact. Our community has many roots with as many histories. Other organizations have preceded us and before them we were stigmatized and secretive. Paganism is an umbrella term and includes Druids, Eclectics, Heathens, Wiccans, Witches, and many others and like other religions; we have varieties of each.

Our traditions come from varied sources such as Greek, Celtic, Egyptian, or Norse. Many follow The Wiccan Rede, an ethical principle, the short version being "And it harm none, do what thou wilt." Respect and reverence for nature is very common. Pagans may be pantheists, dualists, or other. Many are solitaries. Between one and two percent of those you see and know are from our community. Today, Earth Spirit Society is composed of individuals from multiple Pagan spiritual paths. We provide public rituals such as Imbolc, Yule, and Beltaine and support for Pagans, as well as hosting social events and interfacing with the media. We gather for our mutual growth in the upward spiral that is Life.

The Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism: The Taoist Arts were brought to Canada in 1970 by our founder, Master Moy Lin Shin. These arts include chanting, Taoist meditation, temple rituals, as well as the 108 move Taoist Tai Chi® set, the lok hup ba fa and hsing-I sets, the Taoist Tai Chi® sword and sabre sets, and push hands. Master Moy Lin Shin was a Taoist monk, deeply grounded in the Taoist principles of selflessness and compassion. It was his desire to give the arts to all who wished to benefit from them in both body and spirit.

In 1980 instruction began to be given in Halifax, held in a number of locations in the city until 1990, when the building on North Park Street was purchased. It is now the Atlantic Region Centre of the Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism. It houses a Three Religions Shrine where we observe the unified teachings of the great religions of China – Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. The shrine is opened and closed daily; chanting is held every Sunday morning and is open to the public.

The arts we practice are founded upon the rich tradition of Taoist training and are intended to return both body and mind to their original nature. According to Taoist teaching, the body and mind cannot be separated. Each step in the training is intended to help the mind to return to stillness, clarity and wisdom and the body to a balanced, relaxed and healthy state. At the physical level, the whole physiology is exercised, including tendons, joints, connective tissue and internal organs. At the mental and spiritual level, the arts are a method of “taming the heart” and developing inner calm, compassion and reduced self-centeredness.

The mission of the Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism is to deliver all from suffering. It emphasizes spiritual development through the cultivation of both mind and body with the ultimate goal of achieving harmony with oneself and with the world. Fung Loy Kok promotes the principle of all cultures and religions moving together in peace and harmony. Individuals of all backgrounds and beliefs are welcome to participate.



The Maritime Sikh Society: “MSS” is going to be fifty next year and has made tremendous contributions towards the religious, cultural and social lives of Sikhs living in the Maritimes. It is the only gurdwara in the Maritimes for Sikhs east of Montreal. Twice a year, once on the Guru Nanak’s birthday in November and a second time on Vaisakhi celebration in April, the MSS arranges shabad kirtan of professional ragis from out of town.

The MSS is an organization of volunteers. The society, in addition to its weekly Sunday service, also arranges for Panjabi classes for teaching of religion, Panjabi language and other activities. The MSS welcomes people of faiths to the Gurdwara in keeping with sikh traditions and teachings.

The Maritime Sikh Society has much to be proud of in its continuing support of the religious, cultural and social lives of Sikhs in the region. In its relatively short history, it has grown in to a vibrant community of friends.



Brahma Kumaris Halifax: Everyone wants peace. At this time the world needs peace. Brahma Kumaris is a worldwide spiritual movement dedicated to personal transformation and world renewal. Founded in India in 1937, Brahma Kumaris has spread to over 110 countries on all continents and has had an extensive impact in many sectors as an international NGO.

Their real commitment is to helping individuals transform their perspective of the world from material to spiritual. It supports the cultivation of a deep collective consciousness of peace and of the individual dignity of each soul. Meditation centres offer programs free of charge with the intention of creating peace in the world – one thought at a time through the practice of meditation. By changing our thinking and feelings, actions, and impact can become peaceful.

Spiritual awareness through the practice of meditation gives us the power to choose good and positive thoughts over those which are negative and wasteful. We start to respond to situations, rather than just reacting to them. We begin to live with harmony, we create better and happier, healthier relationships and change our lives in a most positive way.





Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre: Talking Circle led by Deborah Eisan. Within the context of Interfaith Harmony Week, the purpose of the Circle is to explore how we can re-establish the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous people, and restore it to harmony. The Circle is conducted in a sacred way with a smudging and with respect for all traditions gathered in that Circle.

The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society is a non-profit, board governed organization that currently operates nine core programs. It is one of one hundred and nineteen Friendship Centre's across Canada, and opened its doors on September 17th, 1973. The society was incorporated on June 2nd, 1975.

The mission of the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre is to provide structured, social-based programming for Urban Aboriginal People while serving as a focal point for the urban aboriginal community to gather for a variety of community functions and events.

The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society wishes to recognize the traditional lands of our Mi'kmaw Ancestors. The Mi'kmaw are the traditional custodians of the land where the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Resides. The Society would like to pay our respects to the elders both past and present of the Mi'kmaw Nation.



Shambhala Halifax: Shambhala is a global community of people inspired by the principle that every human being has a fundamental nature of basic goodness. This nature, our innate wisdom, can be developed so that it benefits our own lives and helps meet the many challenges facing the world.

Shambhala welcomes people from all walks of life, faiths, and backgrounds. They come together to practice meditation, gather, and celebrate in order to develop a global culture that cultivates dignity and sanity in an increasingly chaotic and stressful world.

There are thousands of members and friends of Shambhala on all continents. We have online communities and more than 200 Shambhala centres and groups, as well as individual members, located in major cities, towns, and in rural settings in over 50 different countries.

In addition to meditation, study and contemplative practices, Shambhala centres and groups offer teachings in the arts and offer a range of cultural and social activities that cultivate wakefulness and creativity.

Many people enjoy visiting local Shambhala Centres and groups when they travel. Two qualities stand out: that the heart of Shambhala is universal, and is expressed in diverse ways through local cultures.



The Universalist Unitarian Church: The Universalist Unitarian Church, part of the religious landscape of Halifax since 1837, is founded on the idea that people of diverse religious faith or none can unite in community and support one another in the quest to give meaning to life.

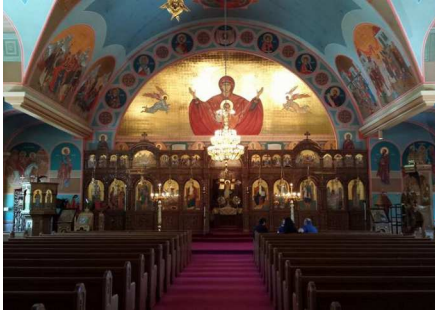
Compassion is the doctrine of our church, the quest for truth its Sacrament, and Justice its prayer. To grow in understanding through dialogue and freedom, to support each other's dance with life, to engage the Earth in peace, to the end that we speak ourselves into Community and hear each other into being. Thus do we covenant with each other and with the Universe.

Our mission is to provide a community that nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practices inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual and collective commitment to community service and social justice.

Ours is a spiritual community with a rich history and a living faith. Its roots are in Christianity and Judaism but it draws inspiration from many spiritual sources. A tradition that honours deeds, not creeds, it affirms the principles of a loving, open-minded spiritual community, committed to social justice in the world. We use reason and conscience as our primary guides and encourage each person to chart his or her own spiritual journey.

We live the words of Edwin Markham:

*He drew a circle to shut me out –
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle and took him in!*



St. George's Greek Orthodox Church: Orthodox worship is unlike worship in any other Christian tradition. The purpose of worship and theology is mystical union with God. The liturgy is not a private performance by a priest, since he cannot perform the liturgy alone, but a joint act of laity and clergy. All of the senses are engaged: the paintings on the walls, icons, candles, priestly vestments, incense, songs and chanting, the taking of bread and wine, kneeling, kissing the icons, making the sign of the cross, etc. Worship brings the worshiper into the presence of God and celebrates the mystery of God's love. Much of the singing is by two small antiphonal choirs or chanted by the priest. The congregation sings some of the responses and prayers. The liturgy helps worshipers reflect on two almost opposite ideals of faith: how completely different and "other" God is from us and, at the same time, how close and personal God is in the person of Jesus Christ. This is one of the great mysteries of the Christian faith.

In the Sanctuary behind the icon screen at the front is the altar. In front of crucifix above the altar hangs an eternal light which testifies to Christ as the light of the world. Behind the altar are two circular sculptures on which are engraved six-winged angels that represent the angels that surround the throne of God. Along with the tabernacle on the altar, which holds the elements of communion, that is the body and blood of Christ, is a gold-covered gospel book. Only the priests and other ordained clergy are allowed in the sanctuary.

The screen at the front holds several icons. This screen, known as the iconostasis, separates the worshipers from the Sanctuary. Two large chandelier-like stands are placed in front of the icon screen. You will observe that before the service, worshipers approach the screen, honour the saints in the icon by kneeling, kissing them, and crossing themselves. The two gold doors in the middle of the screen are the royal doors. When the communion elements are carried from the altar to the people, Christ the King enters through these doors.



Vedanta Ashram Society (Hindu Temple): Puja, for Sri Ganeshji is usually performed on Sundays. Witnessing the Puja being performed is considered in itself as a blessing. Puja and Sanskrit Manthras are unique to this worship by Hindus which has a great symbolism. As a special request, on certain occasions, a special Puja is performed.

The Puja starts with paying homage to mother, father and Guru – the preceptor and then taking a resolve – the Sankalpa, to identify yourself in this universe, day and time. Then one progresses through a sixteen stage Pooja (the Shodasa Upacharas) including Dhyana, Avahana, Arghyam, Achamanam, Arghyam, Snanam, Madhuparkam, Panchamrutha Snanam, Suddodhaka Snanam, Vasthra Ugmam, Gandham and Akshathas. Then one recites 21, or 108 names of God, offering a flower for each name. This is followed by offering Dhoop (Agar batthi), Deepa (lamp), Naivadya (Prasad), Thambul (Pan) and Niraajanam (Aarathi camphor). Finally flowers are offered and the devotee stands up, slowly turns clock wise chanting God's name and finally prostates symbolizing total surrender to God. Finally the Santhi Pat is recited to pray for the welfare of all forms of life in this universe.

Following Ganesh Puja, a Kirthan in the praise of Ganeshji and another "Sivarama Ashtakam" are recited by the few devotees gathered, followed by 5-6 bhajans offered by the devotees. Then the priest gives a talk for 10 minutes either by explaining a few slokas from Bhagavad Gita or synthesize a topic suitable for the occasion. Followed by announcements of community interest, there will be a recitation of Tulasidasji's Ram Manas Charithra, recitation of Sriram Jaya Ram, silent prayer, Bhog Bhajan, Aarathi, distribution of Charanamruth and Prasad.

Discovering the Many
Faces of Faith

SACRED SPACES GUIDE FOR GUESTS



Muslim Jumma Prayer

Friday, February 1, 12:00 p.m. - 2510 St. Matthias Street, Halifax

Female guests enter the mosque through a door across the green area leading to the prayer space dedicated for women. Male guests enter the facility through the door facing St. Matthias Street. Both male and female guests are encouraged to dress modestly. Female guests are also encouraged to bring headscarves. All guests are welcome to listen to the sermon and watch the congregants performing prayer. Chairs will be available.



Jewish Shabbat

Friday, February 1, 5:30 p.m. - 1981 Oxford Street, Halifax

Enter by the door on Pepperell Street. When we observe Shabbat, the Jewish Sabbath, we traditionally refrain from writing, using non-medical electronics (such as cell phones and cameras), smoking, and handling money, in and/or near our synagogue. We invite you to help us celebrate Shabbat by affirming the world in its natural state and warmly engaging with those around us.



Bahá'í Community Devotional

Saturday, February 2, 2:00 p.m. - Room 170, 5793 University Avenue, Halifax (Collaborative Health Education Building)

All are welcome to join the community for prayers, music, and devotions where creativity and spirituality meet. This will be followed by an informative video, question and answer period, and refreshments. Discover a unifying vision of the future of society offered by the Baha'i Faith towards world peace and of the nature and purpose of life to know God and attain His presence by walking a path of service. Come as you are.



Pagan Ritual Celebration of Imbolc

Saturday, February 2, 6:30 p.m. - 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax

There will be a welcome, introduction to our community and instructions regarding the ritual, followed directly by our celebration of Imbolc – the return of the light half of the year. Some chairs will be provided for those who cannot stand during ritual. There will be displays representing many of the traditions and a brief introduction before the ritual. Our community will wear festive and comfortable clothing and this can be as varied as our people. Please dress as you feel is appropriate. Please note that we do not allow any form of recording during ritual. Snacks and chat with the community will follow.



Fung Loy Kok Taoist Tai Chi® Arts (Taoist)

Sunday, February 3, 9:00 a.m. - 2029 North Park Street, Halifax

Our guests will be welcomed as they enter the front door of the Centre. The sessions for the morning will be held in the practice hall on the ground floor. We begin at 9 a.m. with Confucian chanting. Guests are very welcome to join in. Handbooks are provided. At 10 o'clock guests are encouraged to join us as we continue our practice in a Taoist Tai Chi® class. At 11:30 our guests are invited to share lunch with us. Lunch is prepared at the Centre by volunteers each Sunday and provides a time of conversation and fellowship.



Sikh Kirtan (Songs of Praise) and Langar (Communal Meal)

Sunday, February 3, 11:30 a.m. - 10 Parkhill Road, Jollimore (The Maritime Sikh Society)

Enter the prayer hall with bare feet and covered head. Please bring your own headscarf. Shoes and coats are left in the safe coatroom downstairs. In the prayer hall, everyone sits on the floor; some chairs are provided. Langar (communal food) is served to all those who attend the service. Food is vegetarian and prepared fresh in the morning. Langar is an important part of the Sunday service. It provides social time and sense of sharing and seva. All sit on the floor for Langar.

Discovering the Many
Faces of Faith

SACRED SPACES GUIDE FOR GUESTS



Brahma Kumaris Guided Meditation

Monday, February 4, 7:00 p.m. - #1 Cedarbrae Lane (between Bayview and Dunbrack on Lacewood)

Open to all. Remove shoes at front door; maintain silence while entering meditation hall. A brief introduction to meditation and the core understandings will be given, followed by a guided meditation experience, chai, and chat.



Indigenous Talking Circle

Tuesday, February 5, 2:00 p.m. - Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre, 2158 Gottingen Street

Talking Circle led by Deborah Eisan. Within the context of Interfaith Harmony Week, the purpose of the Circle is to explore how we can re-establish the relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous people, and restore it to harmony. The Circle will be conducted in a sacred way with a smudging and with respect for all traditions gathered in that Circle. As you come in the front door, take the stairs upstairs.



Taste of Shambhala

Wednesday, February 6, 6:00 p.m. - Shambhala Centre, 1084 Tower Road, Halifax

Taste of Shambhala is a weekly Open House. Following a hearty soup and social time, there is an introduction to Mindfulness meditation, plus open conversation. All are welcome.



Universalist Unitarian Service

Thursday, February 7, 7:00 p.m. - 5500 Inglis Street, Halifax

There will be a special brief service at 7:00 p.m. to give an introduction to our faith tradition, followed by a discussion. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be served.



Christian Worship at St. George's Greek Orthodox Church

Sunday, February 10, 10:00 a.m. - 38 Purcell's Cove Road

Divine Liturgy begins slightly after 10 a.m., preceded by Matins at 8:50 a.m. As you enter the church narthex, there are candles to be purchased and lighted if you wish to offer a prayer. Dress appropriately; head coverings are not required. Ushers will advise guests where to sit. Follow the example of others by standing, sitting, or kneeling. The congregation stands often during the service, but remaining seated is permissible if necessary. Do not partake of Holy Communion; however, sacred bread will be offered to guests and others by the priest at the end of the Liturgy. Incense is burned during the liturgy. Photography is permitted only after the service. A fellowship hour follows. Copies of the Liturgy in Greek and English are available.



Hindu Puja (Ritual Worship)

Sunday, February 10, 11:00 a.m. - 6421 Cork Street (just off Oxford Street, Halifax)

Visitors remove footwear and wash their hands on the first floor, and then go to the main temple on the second floor. After puja (ritual worship), the meal follows on the first level.



Interfaith Celebration

Sunday, February 10, 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m. - Paul O'Regan Hall in the Halifax Central Library.

Co-sponsored by the Halifax Central Library, this is a time of music, prayers, dancing, and displays from diverse traditions and paths.



UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Interfaith Engagement Program

Discovering the Many Faces of Faith

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

- Celebration, education, hospitality, rituals, spiritual & worship practices
- Visits to sacred spaces to observe, meet, and engage with diverse faith communities
- Participation in an international learning community, receiving a certificate

Requirements for certificate:

- Participate in a two-hour session before and after the week-long event
- Attend at least 3 of the week's faith events, and the interfaith celebration
- Reflect on your experience during the week and share learning with others

Cost: Free!

Early Bird Deadline: Dec. 21, 2018 / **Registration Deadline:** Jan. 14, 2019

Intro Session: Mon. Jan 21, 3-5:00 PM or 7-9:00 PM

Closing Session: Mon. Feb 11, 3-5:00 PM or 7-9:00 PM

Location: 5670 Spring Garden Rd., Suite 902 (corner of Spring Garden / Brenton)

For more info or to register:

Fill out our online form: <https://goo.gl/forms/ExbPMYhqVSSlrglF2>

Or contact iephalifax@gmail.com

www.ihhalifax.ca

Interfaith Engagement Certificate Program



During the World Interfaith Harmony Week, an intensive week-long experiential engagement program with the people, places, and practices of world religions in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was made available. There was no fee for this educational and enriching opportunity. Thirty seven people graduated from this program in 2019.

The two main objectives of this program were to: 1) offer an opportunity to IHH participants to intentionally engage in their experience of inter-faith with other members of the community and 2) to open a space for them share their and monitor their experience while learning about other faith-groups.





The experience involved:

- * 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 the Certificate:

- 1) Participate in a 1.5 hour session before and after the week-long events.
- 2) Attend at least three of the thirteen faith events, and the interfaith celebration.
- 3) Reflect on personal experience during the week and share learning with others.

Who took this program?

- * Community members interested in learning and meeting their neighbours, and those of diverse ages, and ethnicities, as well as spiritual and secular beliefs.
- * Community members from diverse circles and sectors such as health, education, immigration services, law enforcement, the military, religion, and students.

Our Youngest IE Participant - Joss Moran, age 7 years



Hi, my name is Joss Moran and I am 7 years old. Today, I have come to share what I have learned during World Interfaith Harmony Week. I felt really comfortable and included in every worship place I went.

The first place I went was the Synagogue. I learned a little about the Hebrew language during the service and that Shabbat is their day of rest.

The second place I went to was Baha'i and I learned that God is like the sun and all the rays are like our souls.

The last place I visited was called Taste of Shambhala. I felt really relaxed because I got to get a taste of what it's like to just sit and meditate and get your mind off of things.

"Going to these different places makes me feel that we can all be together and learn about the many different ways of faith in our community. Anybody is welcomed, no matter what culture or what color their skin is."

I loved every minute of Interfaith Harmony Week! And seeing everybody helping put all of this together just for everybody to see and enjoy made me feel like someday I can go out in the world and create a celebration that anybody is able to come to join in.

Thank you Interfaith Harmony!



Interfaith Harmony Halifax

Love of God, the Good, and Neighbour

Interfaith Harmony Halifax

presents

Library Conversations: The Many Faces of Faith



<p>Monday, February 4, 2019 1:00-2:30 PM Keshen Goodman Library 330 Lacewood Dr, Halifax</p>	<p>Tuesday, February 5, 2019 7:00-8:30 PM Alderney Gate Library 60 Alderney Dr, Dartmouth</p>	<p>Wednesday, February 6, 2019 1:00-2:30 PM Bedford Library 15 Dartmouth Rd, Bedford</p>
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Free to all • No registration required • For more information, please visit ihhalifax.ca

This year Interfaith Harmony Halifax initiated a new event for World Interfaith Harmony Week: Library Conversations on ***Discovering The Many Faces of Faith***, the theme for 2019.

Three branches in the Halifax Library system expressed interest in hosting the “conversations”.

New for 2019: Interfaith Panel Conversations at the Halifax Public Library



On **Monday, February 4 from 1-2:30 pm at the Keshen Goodman Branch** in Halifax the panel consisted of Ruth Bishop, Quaker, Abdallah Yousri, Imam at the Ummah Masjid, Donald Adams, Pagan, and Ahmad Almallah, past interfaith Engagement participant, Masters student, and Sufi Muslim. Facilitator Judy Johnson, Brahma Kumaris, introduced the panelists and then led them, first, in having each one share their “story” of how they came to their faith, and then why they felt Interfaith dialogue was important to them, and for the community. Then the floor was opened for a Question and Answer session, with those in attendance asking great questions which were addressed by those on the panel.



On **Tuesday, February 5, from 7-8:30 pm at the Alderney Gate Branch** in Dartmouth, panelists were Sherri Kastin, Jewish, Roberto Montiel, Humanist, Rev. Norman Horofker, Universalist Unitarian, Michelle Munro, Shambhala Buddhist, and Stephen Dingwall, Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism. Facilitator Jocelyne Tranquilla, Quaker, led the conversations with the same questions that were discussed on Monday, followed by the Q&A.



On **Wednesday, February 6, from 1-2:30 pm at the Bedford Branch**, panelists were Sheikh Yahya Seymour of the Alrasoul Islamic Centre in Bedford, Dr. Joanne Langley-LeBlanc, Baha'i, Constable Heather Moran, Bedford Community Policing and past Interfaith Engagement participant, Rev. Mathew Fillier, Bedford United Church, and Dr. David Evans, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, led by facilitator Rana Zaman, Muslim, with the Q&A at the end.



Approximately thirty or so people were in attendance at each session. Only one of the rooms could have comfortably held many more. There were good thought-provoking questions asked by audience members at the afternoon sessions, with good engagement of both panelists and audience. The audience was slightly smaller (and quieter) in the evening session.

The Library contact persons introduced the event in the two afternoon sessions, and then a committee member introduced the facilitator and other upcoming Interfaith Harmony Week events. The Library contact people were very involved and very helpful. It is a great partnership.





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Keshen Goodman Library
330 Lacewood Dr, Halifax

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7:00-8:30 PM

Alderney Gate Library
60 Alderney Dr, Dartmouth

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

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Bedford Library
15 Dartmouth Rd, Bedford



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Interfaith Harmony Halifax
Love of God, the Good, and Neighbour



2019 Celebration

World Interfaith Harmony Week











Sunday, February 10 • 2:00 PM
Halifax Central Library • Paul O'Regan Hall
5440 Spring Garden Road











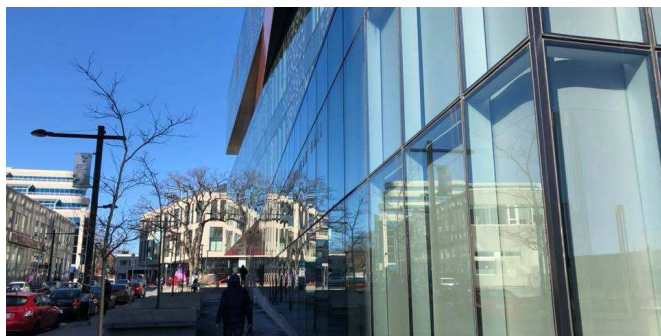



For more information, please visit ihhalifax.ca

Haligonians of diverse faiths and culture presented song, music and dance, as well as reflections, prayers and sacred readings in front of their fellow Haligonians in a celebration open to all in the community. The celebration, held at the central Public Library in downtown Halifax, expanded IHH's reach into the community - allowing more people to learn about Interfaith Harmony Halifax and World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Refreshments, display tables, and a grand finale from the Maritime Bhangra Group were part of the 2 hour experience.

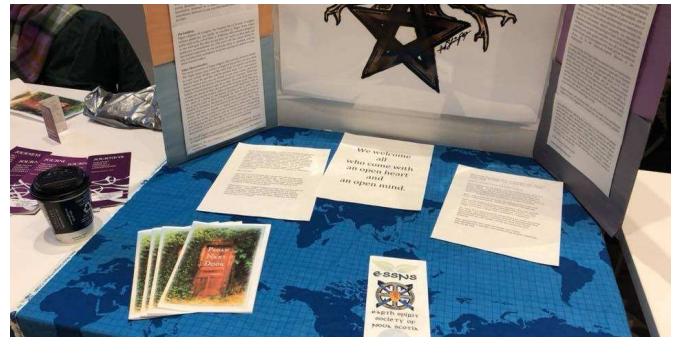
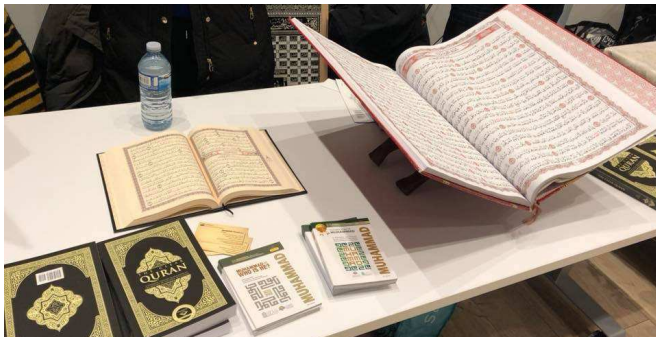
Community Celebration of Interfaith Harmony



This year's Celebration was co-hosted by the Halifax Central Library, and held in the Paul O'Regan Hall, as it was last year.

Some Interfaith Engagement participants were invited to share their experiences as they were in previous years.

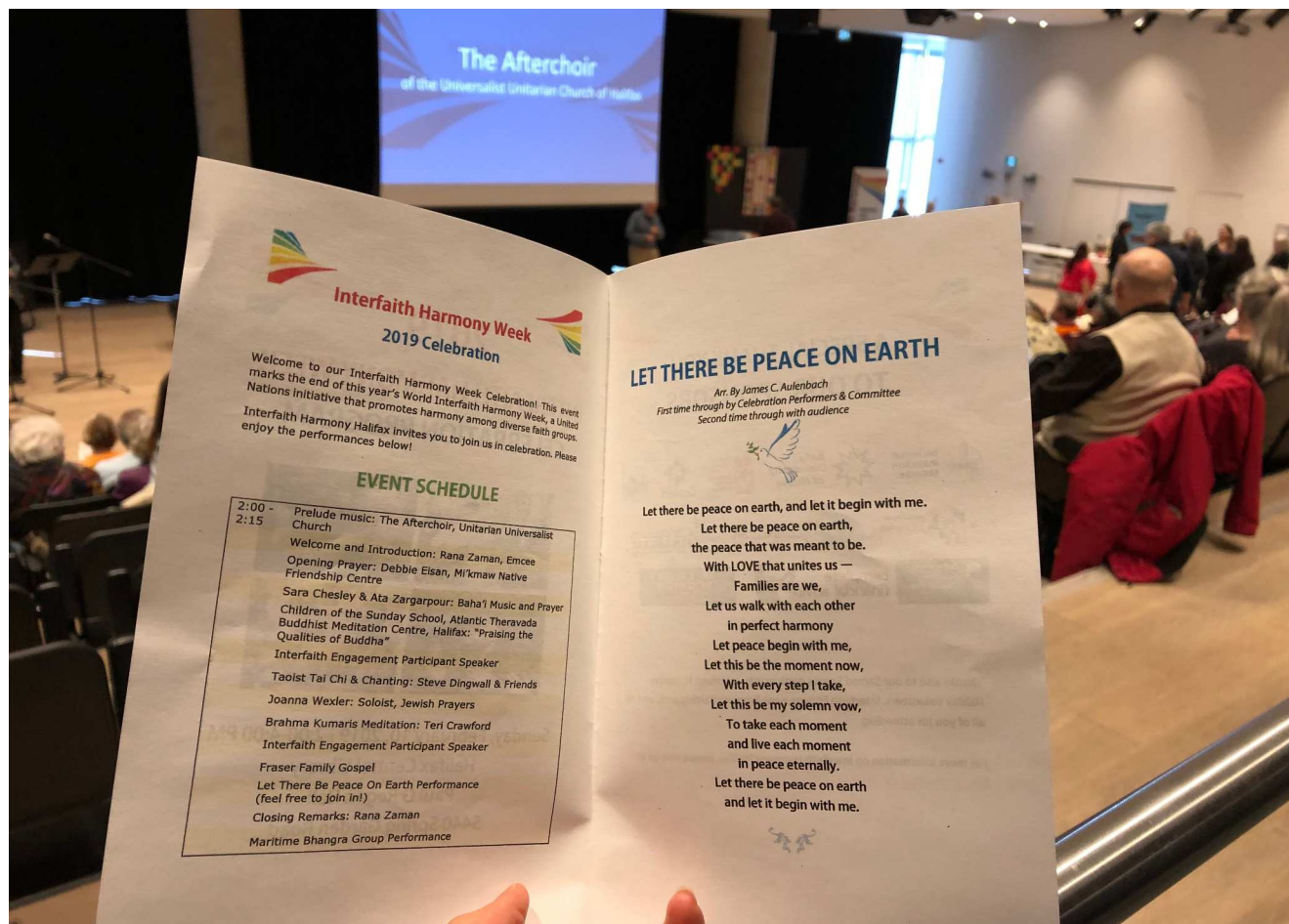
There were some differences though. There were no small audience discussion groups on a particular aspect of Interfaith Harmony as there has been in previous years; however, there was audience participation in singing at the beginning and end of the program, and in dancing with the Maritime Banghra Group.



This year, for the first time, those who hosted the public to visit their Sacred Space, were all invited and encouraged to participate in the Celebration. This helped to double the number in audience from 2018. There were over 200 people in attendance.

Also, for the first time this year, one of the Interfaith Engagement speakers was a child. Seven-year old Joss, visited three Sacred Spaces with her mother, and shared what she learned in a talk prepared totally by herself which she delivered confidently and shared with kindness. She was a great inspiration to all in attendance.

A spirit of love and harmony filled the hall as all performers and audience members stood together near the end of the program and sang "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me, Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony....."



The links below can be found on Interfaith Harmony Halifax's Facebook Page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/UNWorldInterfaithHarmony>

[Prelude music: The Afterchoir, Unitarian Universalist Church](#)

[Sara Chesley & Ata Zargarpour: Baha'i Music and Prayer](#)

[Children of the Sunday School: Atlantic Theravada Buddhist Meditation Centre, Halifax: "Praising the Qualities of Buddha"](#)

[Pagan Presence: "Merry Meet"](#)

[Taoist Tai Chi & Chanting: Steve Dingwall & Friends](#)

[7 year old Joss Moran: Interfaith Engagement Participant Speaker](#)

[Fraser Family Gospel](#)

["Let There Be Peace on Earth"](#)

[Maritime Bhangra Group Performance with audience dancing](#)

Barho Family - Youth Interfaith Award

This year, Interfaith Harmony Halifax, responding to events in our city, has established an annual award for a young person, 14 years or younger, who has shown **interest, appreciation, and initiative** during World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The award will include a monetary amount and a certificate, and be presented at the end of the school year. The award is given in memory of the Barho children, a family of local Syrian refugees whose 7 children tragically lost their lives in a house fire in February 2019.

The award honors the compassion, gratitude, and inclusivity of the Barho children: 4-month-old **Abdullah**; **Rana**, 2; **Hala**, 3; **Ola**, 8; **Mohamad**, 9; **Rola**, 12; and **Ahmed**, 14.



Gratitude for Our Committee & Host Leaders



Interfaith Harmony Halifax organizes our events for World Interfaith Harmony Week by meeting once a month as a committee.

Also crucial is the support from our host Sacred Space leaders who come together for an annual host meeting to learn best practices for opening their doors to the public.



Thanks and gratitude to each and every one who continues to support Interfaith Harmony Halifax as we seek to promote the love of God, the good, and neighbour.



Gratitude for Our Sponsors



Our success depends on the thoughtful and caring work of many people who seek to address today's challenges with respect, cooperation, and appreciation.

Sponsorships enable us to continue to offer our program free of charge in the community. The contributions of these organizations enable us to make interfaith harmony more of a reality in our communities and world. With these sponsors' commitment and generosity, we will make greater strides in expanding our educational outreach and accomplishing our vision.

Together, we can make Halifax more inclusive and welcoming of diverse faiths, beliefs and practices. Thank you!



Media

Global News TV coverage

<https://globalnews.ca/video/4929684/interfaith-harmony-week-2>

Chronicle Herald Newspaper coverage

<https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/community/exploring-faiths-in-the-city-277487/>



Facebook Live Video

Sacred Spaces - Maritime Sikh Society

<https://www.facebook.com/UNWorldInterfaithHarmony/videos/979156195611369/>



Celebration - All 10 links on page 31



Solidarity & Promotion

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints coverage

<https://www.mormonnewsroom.ca/article/the-many-faces-of-faith>



Shambhala Halifax coverage

<https://halifax.shambhala.org/interfaith-harmony-halifax-sacred-spaces/>

Ummah Mosque coverage

<https://muslimlink.ca/events/halifax/event/9284>





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Interfaith Engagement Participant



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