

Interfaith Harmony Halifax
presents

World Interfaith Harmony Week



2020

World Interfaith Harmony Week 2020



**"Nurturing Connections" in
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

UN World **FEBRUARY 1-9, 2020** Interfaith Harmony Week

www.ihhalifax.ca

SACRED SPACES 2020 CALENDAR

Saturday, February 1st

Bahá'í Community Devotional

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

Pagan Ritual Celebration

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

Sunday, February 2nd

Christian Worship at Saint Andrew's United Church

10:30 a.m. 6036 Coburg Road, Halifax

Hindu Puja (Ritual Worship)

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

Religious Society of Friends (Quaker Meeting for Worship)

2:00 p.m. 989 Young Street, Halifax
(Women's Council House)

Monday, February 3rd

Brahma Kumaris Guided Meditation

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

Tuesday, February 4th

Indigenous Sharing Circle

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

Wednesday, February 5th

Taste of Shambhala

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

Thursday, February 6th

Universalist Unitarian "Sample" Service

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

Friday, February 7th

Muslim Jummah Prayer

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

Jewish Shabbat

5:30 p.m. 1981 Oxford Street, Halifax
Shaar Shalom Congregation

Sunday, February 9th

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

Interfaith Celebration

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 5440 Spring Garden Road
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'í
Community
of Halifax



LUTHERAN
CAMPUS
MINISTRY



Quakers



Sacred Spaces



Shambhala Sacred Space

Sacred Space Visits

An opportunity to visit sacred spaces in Halifax to observe, meet, and engage with diverse faith communities. All are welcome to participate in the sacred events. Enjoy hospitality, friendship, and refreshments.



**Saint Andrew's
United Church**



UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Interfaith Engagement Program

February 1-9, 2020

www.ihhalifax.ca

Nurturing Connections



Join this intensive week-long experiential engagement opportunity and share with people the places and practices of world religions in Halifax, including:

- Celebrations, education, rituals, spiritual practices & worship services
- Visits to sacred spaces to meet and engage with diverse faith communities
- Certified participation in an international learning community

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 (Sun. Feb. 9 at Halifax Central Library)
- Reflect on your experience during the week and share your learnings with other participants

Cost: It's free!

Early Registration Deadline: Friday, Dec. 20, 2019

Registration Deadline: Monday, Jan. 13, 2020

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

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

Snow dates: January 23 intro AND February 13 closing

Location: Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism (2029 North Park St., Halifax)

For more info or to register:

Fill out our online form: <https://forms.gle/arbvW3hCSq63Ea2N8>

Or contact iephalifax@gmail.com

Interfaith Engagement Program

An intensive week-long experiential engagement with the people, places, and practices of world religions in the city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is being made available. There is no fee.

The experience involves:

- 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

- Participate in a 1.5 hour session before and after the week-long events.
- Attend at least three of the thirteen faith events, and the interfaith celebration.
- Reflect on your experience during the week and share learning with others.
- Attend the Closing Celebration at Halifax Central Library on February 9, 2020

Interfaith Engagement Educational Opportunity

Who should take this program?

- People interested in learning and meeting their neighbours, and those of diverse ages, and ethnicities, as well as spiritual and secular beliefs.
- Participants from diverse fields such as health, education, immigration services, law enforcement, the military, religion, and others have participated each year.



"The Opening evening session was attended solely by three Moms with their three children – this allowed us to have a very youth-focused, very enjoyable conversation."



Based on the evaluations of the 2019 Opening and Closing Interfaith Engagement Participation Sessions, the decision was made to move the Interfaith Engagement Program sessions to a larger space. Dalhousie's Student Union Building and Atlantic School of Theology were willing and able to host, but ultimately, we held the Interfaith Engagement Program at the Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism. This site is central, accessible and has some parking available.

40 people registered online for the Interfaith Engagement Program and 30 people attended the Opening Sessions, held on Tuesday, January 21st. Although it was unplanned, the Opening evening session was attended solely by three Moms with their three children – this allowed us to have a very youth-focused, very enjoyable conversation.

The Closing Sessions on Tuesday, February 11th were attended by 23 people. Again, the snowy evening session was attended by Moms with children, and again, we had a great focused conversation. Personal and meaningful reflections shared by Interfaith Engagement participants spoke to the value of the Interfaith Harmony Halifax events and experience.



Interfaith Engagement Program Wrap Up Session

Many thanks to...

- the **Sacred Spaces hosts**, who were ready and welcoming!
 - **Aseel Mohammed Ali**, who spoke on behalf of this year's IEP participants at the Closing Celebration
 - **Roberto**, for sharing his leadership experience with this year's new team
 - **Jesse**, for her work on the online registration process
 - **Martine**, for her hospitality at the Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism.
- The **Interfaith Engagement Program** continues to be a good opportunity to **nurture connections** and deepen understanding!



Interfaith Harmony Halifax

2020 Interfaith Harmony Week

CELEBRATION



Sunday, February 9, 2020
Halifax Central Library • Paul O'Regan Hall
5440 Spring Garden Road
2:00 pm until 4:00 pm



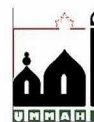
DALHOUSIE
MULTIFAITH
CENTRE



Bahá'í
Community
of Halifax



LUTHERAN
CAMPUS
MINISTRY



Halifax Public
Libraries



For more information, please visit ihhalifax.ca

CELEBRATION



"Dance of Joy"

We closed with an energetic performance by the Maritime Bhangra Dancers, members of the Sikh community, and many audience members joined in dancing after their "Dance of Joy"

Inspirational Talks

Interfaith Engagement Program participants gave inspirational talks on their experiences visiting the different Sacred Spaces over the week



"It an inspiring event that showed how harmoniously different Faiths can work together and share common beliefs including the importance of service to others."

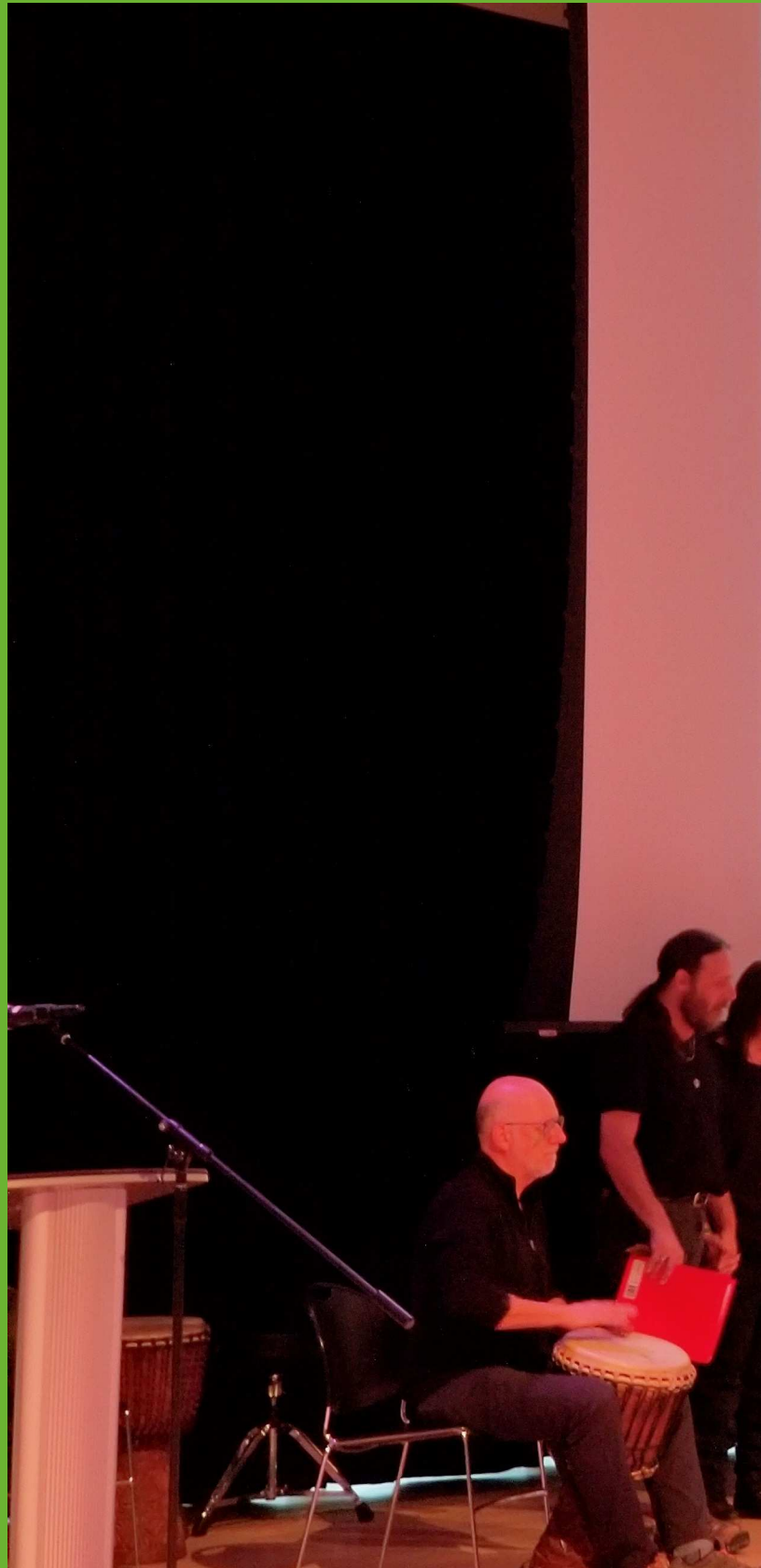
Interfaith Celebration

Interfaith Harmony Halifax held our UN World Interfaith Harmony Week's closing event, our Celebration, in the afternoon on Sunday, February 9th, at the Halifax Central library. Our theme this year was "Nurturing Connections".

Following a welcome, we opened with a prayer by Billy Lewis, an elder in the Mi'kmaw community. Joyful presentations, with lots of music, and often audience participation, dominated the program from the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, the Halifax Pagan Singers, African Drummers (February is African Heritage Month here), members of the Bahá'í community, Taoist Tai Chi Society, and a Jewish mother and son.

There was a collaboration song between two Faith groups. Two of the Interfaith Engagement Program participants gave inspirational talks on their experiences visiting the different Sacred Spaces over the week. Many audience members joined in our theme song, "Peace, Salaam, Shalom". We closed with an energetic performance by the Maritime Bhangra Dancers, members of the Sikh community, and many audience members joined in dancing after their "Dance of Joy".

There were 140 in attendance, simple refreshments available, and display tables by some Faith groups were visited. It was an inspiring event that showed how harmoniously different Faiths can work together and share common beliefs including the importance of service to others.





THE PAGAN CHOIR shares music with the assembled audience at Paul O'Regan Hall at the Halifax Central Library



Interfaith Harmony Halifax

presents

Library Conversations: Nurturing Connections



Tuesday, January 28

Woodlawn Public Library

31 Eisener Blvd, Dartmouth, NS
6:30-8 pm

Thursday, January 30

Keshen Goodman Public Library

330 Lacewood Dr, Halifax, NS
1-3 pm

Friday, January 31

Bedford Public Library

15 Dartmouth Rd, Bedford, NS
1-3 pm



Halifax Public
Libraries

All welcome • No registration required

Library Conversations

This year Interfaith Harmony Halifax hosted a series of panel conversations on Nurturing Connections.

Each of the public events featured a panel of 4-5 religious leaders (many of whom have been past Interfaith Harmony Halifax hosts at the Sacred Spaces) as well as past IHH Interfaith Engagement Program participants.

The panels were facilitated by a member of the Interfaith Harmony Halifax organizing committee. Panel participants were asked to share their thoughts on questions related to the role of faith in their lives and communities.



Library Conversations
- Woodlawn Public
Library

Library Conversations - Nurturing Connections

Tuesday, January 28th 6:30-8:00 pm
Woodlawn Public Library

31 Eisener Blvd, Dartmouth, NS. All welcome.
No registration required.

Thursday, January 30 1:00-3:00 pm
Keshen Goodman Public Library

330 Lacewood Dr, Halifax, NS. All welcome.
No registration required.

Friday, January 31 1:00-3:00 pm
Bedford Public Library

15 Dartmouth Rd, Bedford, NS. All welcome.
No registration required.

Library Conversations

"Nurturing Connections" was the theme of our 2020 Interfaith Harmony Halifax
Library Conversations hosted by local Halifax Public Libraries



Panelists listen and present at the
Bedford Public Library

This year Interfaith Harmony Halifax hosted a series of panel conversations on *Nurturing Connections* at local public libraries. The participating libraries included: Keshen Goodman Public Library, Woodlawn Public Library & Bedford Public Library. Each of the public events featured a panel of religious leaders and lay people, including representation from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Brahma Kumaris, Sunday Assembly, Zen Buddhism, Conservative Judaism, Islam (both Sunni & Shia), the Baha'i Faith, a Druid Fellowship, and Sikhism.

The panels were each facilitated by a member of the Interfaith Harmony Halifax organizing committee. The panelists were asked to share a short story about how their relationship with their faith has supported them to nurture personal connections in their lives.

After that they were asked their opinion on why interfaith gatherings are important in terms of fostering meaningful connections both in Halifax and in the larger world.

After hearing from the panelists about the role of faith in their lives and communities, audience members were encouraged to ask questions. These events provided an opportunity for meaningful Interfaith dialogue and relationship building.



Library Conversations
- Bedford Public Library

“These events provided an opportunity for meaningful Interfaith dialogue and relationship building.



Library Conversations
- Keshen Goodman Public Library



Volunteers hard at work on behalf of Interfaith Harmony
Halifax....Thank you!

Our Volunteers



It was recognized that Interfaith Harmony Halifax would need more volunteers due to attrition and the expansion of our program. With this in mind the following letter was emailed to twelve selected past participants of the Interfaith Engagement Program.

Good Day _____.

My name is John Wrightman. I am the Volunteer Coordinator on the Interfaith Harmony Halifax Team this year.

We are currently looking for responsible volunteers to take partnership in the creation of World Interfaith Harmony Week 2020.

We have a particular need for more people in the Interfaith Engagement Committee. You were suggested as someone who has familiarity with the program and who would have something to bring.

That committee plans the introductory and closing meetings of the Interfaith Engagement participants, promotes the Interfaith Engagement program, prepares materials like passports, evaluation questions, etc.

We also have other committees with openings, including the Library Conversations Committee, the

Interfaith Celebration Committee, and Promotions Committee, but the Interfaith Engagement Program is our most urgent need.

Are you available to participate as a volunteer?

Please respond to this email and let me know of your interest. If available can you give a brief list of your skill sets that might be pertinent, as well?

World Interfaith Harmony Week is powered by people like you. May we have your support?

Thanks!

John for IHH

Four new members joined the team in response. They are Martine Benson, Heather Moran, Judith Pottier and Joy Steem.

It was decided that all of the Interfaith Engagement graduates of 2020 will be invited to our April meeting and will be asked to participate on the Interfaith Team in 2021.

Barho Family Memorial Award

“ *The inaugural award was presented to Joss Moran, who participated in the Interfaith Engagement program and gave a speech at the final Celebration event in February.* ”



In the spring of 2019, Interfaith Harmony Halifax, responding to events in our city, established an annual award to be presented at the end of the school year,

to a young person, 14 years or younger, who has shown interest, appreciation, and initiative during World Interfaith Harmony Week.

The award is given in memory of the Barho children, a family of local Syrian refugees whose seven children tragically lost their lives in a house fire in February 2019.

The award honours 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.

The inaugural Award was presented on June 29, 2019, to **Joss Moran**, at Hillside Park Elementary in Sackville, NS by Robert Montiel on behalf of Interfaith Harmony Halifax. Joss participated in the Interfaith Engagement program during World Interfaith Harmony Week and gave a speech at the final Celebration event in February.



For 2019 only, award certificates were also presented to children at two schools that the Barho children attended in Spryfield. The children were selected by their schools.

On June 25, at Rockingstone Heights School, Tayvon Manuel was presented an award by Jocelyne Tranquilla, a member of the Interfaith Harmony team.

On June 14, in Central Spryfield Elementary School, **Hunter Gilmour** was presented an award by James Hall, IHH team member (picture below).



Media and Promotion



Canadian Broadcasting Corporation
with CBC Host Jeff Douglas

CBC Radio and Podcasts
Interviews with World Interfaith
Harmony Week Halifax
Participants

Click [HERE](#) to download and listen

Halifax Quakers News

<https://halifax.quaker.ca/posts/interfaith-harmony-week-2020/>

MLA Lisa Roberts - Halifax Needham

<https://www.lisarobertsmla.ca/community-calendar/2020/2/1/un-world-interfaith-harmony-week>

First Baptist Church Halifax

<https://fbchalifax.ca/events/interfaith-harmony-week/>

Shambhala Halifax

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

Atlantic Jewish Council

<https://theajc.ca/events/the-shaar-hosts-kabbalat-shabbat-for-halifaxs-interfaith-harmony-week/>

World Interfaith Video Message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGCogXC7K5Y>

It was decided to

broadcast the Interfaith Celebration component of World Interfaith Harmony Week 2020 in Halifax. The initial path chosen was through Eastlink Cable Public Access.

The intent was to reach a wider audience, providing it for those with mobility issues and also, in hopes of reaching people who were previously unaware of World Interfaith Harmony Week.

With this in mind, we created a team. The team members are:

Ahmad Almallah, Hasmeet Chandok, James Hall, Roberto Montiel, John Wrightman and Rana Zaman.

Hasmeet Chandok, John Wrightman, and Rana Zaman received technical training from Eastlink. Eastlink also provided a video camera for use by the Interfaith Harmony Halifax committee.

The Interfaith Celebration was recorded live, in the Paul O'Regan Hall, of Halifax Central Library on Sunday, February 9, 2020 from 2:00 pm until

4:00 pm, using a single camera.

The video was edited for the following: some material was removed due to poor sound quality: set up, take down, logistical announcements and other time between presentations was removed and all persons who did not sign releases were removed from this edit.

Presentations which are not included in this edit, for the above reasons, include: three songs from the Afterchoir Band of the Universalist Unitarian Church, a sing-along with the Baha'i Community,

the Taoist Tai Chi Society, a sing-along of "Peace, Salaam, Shalom" and all close-ups of the joyous communal dance with which we closed.

The video will be further edited, with appropriate introductions, into two or three separate programs for broadcast on Eastlink Cable Access in the near future. We are considering other possible media outlets as well.



**Thank you for joining us
for
World Interfaith
Harmony Week 2020!**



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