

Interfaith Festival of Creation

EVENT PROGRAM

Welcome to the Interfaith Festival of Creation!

We hope that it is a fun, informative and inspiring experience. The news regarding the state of our common home is disturbing and heart wrenching. Hence, it is vital that we come together in an empowering way to spur us into joint action on behalf of the entire earth community.

Exhibits: There will be approximately 23 different exhibitor stations highlighting what their organizations are doing to protect and enhance our Common Home – the Earth.

Food: Light Refreshments have generously been provided by EcoSikh and Sikh Guru Nanak Langar Sewa Society of Toronto. Further food contributions come from the Jaffari Islamic Centre and the Loretto Sisters, who have graciously opened up their home for the Festival.

Interfaith Kids Corner: Check out the Interfaith Kids' Corner on the 2nd floor for face-painting, henna, story-time circle, origami, friendship bracelets, T-shirts to Tote Bags and a Peace Dance.

Event Programming

- 1:00 – 1:25pm **Varsity Jews A Cappella Choir** (Romero Room 1st Floor)
- 1:30 – 2:00pm **Compassion Cultivation Training** (Mary Ward Room 2nd Floor)
- Dan D'Agostino, certified CCT trainer, will lead a workshop, originally inspired by Tibetan Buddhism, on Cultivating Compassion. Space is limited to 40 people. The doors will be closed once it starts.*
- 1:40 – 2:00pm **Film: Robin Wall Kimmerer, "What the Earth Asks of Us."** (Office Rm)
- Robin is an Indigenous elder from the Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of "Braiding Sweetgrass," which has been described as "a hymn of love to the world."
- 1:45 – 2:00pm **Waste Management Workshop** (Romero Room 1st Floor)
- Karen Van Loon**, the Coordinator of "Cultivating Care for Our Common Home" at Faith and the Common Good, will share with us her passion and expertise on where our garbage goes when we think that we are throwing it "away."

2:00 – 3:00pm **Your Home is an Orchestra! HOZA! Mark Sepic**

Mark Sepic, is an internationally recognized guitarist, composer and sound sculptor. Mark will inspire us to discover how everyday household objects can be made to sound unbelievably musical!

2:10 -2:20pm. **Plant-Based (R)evolution: Adapting a Vegan Lifestyle**
(Office Rm)

Sue Spahr and Collen Burns will lead a mini workshop on adapting a Vegan Lifestyle. They will introduce people to the powerful documentary “A Prayer for Compassion.”

2:20 – 2:40pm. **Islam and Creation** (Mary Ward Room)

Imam Vinay Khetia, a scholar, teacher and international speaker on Islam will give a Muslim perspective on Creation and the state of our common home.

2:30 – 3:00pm **Film: Annie Leonard “The Story of Stuff”** (Office Room)

Annie Leonard, the executive director of Greenpeace USA, is a long-time advocate for sustainability and critic of consumerism. Her animated film “The Story of Stuff,” reveals how our obsession with stuff is trashing the planet.

3:00 – 4:30pm **Formal Gathering** (Mary Ward Room 2nd Floor)

The Formal Gathering is a weaving together of music, prayer, poetry, ritual and input from various religious traditions.

The musical component features **Neeraj Masih**, who has been described as one of “the most versatile Sitarists of our times.” His debut musical album, “Sounds of India” is a best seller. We will also be highlighting the musical gifts of members of **Intercultural Dialogue Institute**. And we are delighted to feature **Zoha Sojoudi**, a gifted young Muslim spoken word artist, from the As-Sadiq Islamic School.

- Welcome: **Fr. Prakash Lahale OP**, (*Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs, Archdiocese of Toronto.*)
- Ritual Lighting of the Lamp
- Prayer
- Ritual: Bringing in of the Elements

- Key note Presentation: **Simon Appolloni** followed by a feature appearance of **Greg Kennedy SJ**

Dr. Simon Appoloni is a gifted teacher, author of "Convergent Knowing: Christianity and Science in Conversation with a Suffering Creation" and editor of "For Earth's Sake: Toward a Compassionate Ecology".

- Music and Poetry
- Input from **Geshe Gedum**, Tibetan Buddhist Monk with translator.
- **Brian Carwana** "Water and The World's Religion"

Brian Carwana is the Director of Encounter World Religion, which is a highly successful and creative organization that has introduced over 100,000 people to the religions of the world.

- Music and Poetry
- **Roop Sidhu** Sikhism, Creation and the work of EcoSikh

Roop Sidhu is the founder and President of EcoSikh Canada, a non-profit organization connecting Sikh values and environmental issues. Their goal is to plant 55,000 trees in Canada by 2021.

- Music and Poetry
- **Joshua Lesk** Judaism and Creation

Joshua Lesk, is a gifted scholar and teacher of Judaism. He is also a musician, poet and artist specializing in spiritual and mystical themes.

- Music and Poetry
- Closing Remarks and Blessing **Michelle Singh**

Rev. Michelle Singh is an Interfaith Minister, Deputy Directory of Faith and the Common Good and Co-Chair of World Interfaith Harmony Week.

- Closing Song: "One Voice" – **Audrey Ferrer**



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**"We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history,
a time when humanity must choose its future."
EARTH CHARTER**

Thanks to the many people whose generosity
made this event possible!



Archdiocese
of Toronto