



Coming Together 7 at Yale University Appendix



Friday, February 13, 2015

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

1. Creating an Interfaith Council

Presenter: Sharon Kugler, University Chaplain of Yale University

Location: Battell Chapel

This session will examine the many ways one can start a student Interfaith Council within college community. We will strategize about resources and activities as well as explore the fundamentals for creating healthy Interfaith Councils.

2. Demystifying American Indian Spirituality

Presenter: Sebastian Medina-Tayac, Yale University

Location: Native American Cultural Center

Forget everything you think you know about Native American religion. Our conversation will not only address common misconceptions about hundreds of spiritual traditions indigenous to North America, but it will also give a history of the exchange, empowerment, and cultural survival that has characterized the evolution of Native religions in the 20th and 21st centuries. We will also examine Native religion as an inherently political act and explore how Native people are resisting the simultaneous settler efforts of assimilation, erasure, and, increasingly, appropriation. Special attention will be given to the development and influence of pan-Indian spiritual practice, popularized during the red power movement of the 1970s, and how it interacts with diverse tribal traditions.

3. Disability Inclusion in the Interfaith Movement

Presenter: Fredericka Banks, University of Denver

Location: Dwight Common Room

This session will try to create collaborative strategies that address the lack of active disabled participants within the interfaith movement. Participants will break out in small groups, and these groups will be given a scenario of 4 people with different disabilities. Each group will come up with possible strategies that attract, retain, and accommodate the disabled delegates. Then, the groups will present their ideas to each other, find ways to truly apply their strategies, and discuss the pros and cons.



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Friday, February 13, 2015 (cont.)

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

4. Linking Individuals and Community Practices

Presenter: Angela Pollard, Yale University

Location: Lovett Room

How is your faith tradition practiced? How have you found the practices to vary from person to person or community to community? Have you ever felt out of place practicing with a group of people who are of the same tradition but have different cultural practices? Come ready to share how you define your personal style of practice and connect this to your broader faith community.

5. Lives of Joy and Purpose

Presenter: Karen-Alexandra Noguez, Harvard University

Location: Chaplain's Office

How often do you catch yourself wondering, am I really using my gifts and talents? How can I make a difference in the world? While many of us have a desire to make a difference, very few of us know how to get started. This discussion will address the need for increased discussion on the subject of meaningful and fulfilled lives as well as offer a proposal for implementing a discussion series, "Lives of Joy and Purpose", on campuses across the nation.

6. Polytheism, Non-theism, and Language Barriers in Interfaith Dialogue

Presenter: Druv Bhagavan, Greeshma Rajeev-Kumar, and Maya Major, Yale University

Location: Hindu Prayer Room

"Do you worship cows?" "What do you mean a religion can exist without a God?" Sometimes polytheistic and non-theistic faiths get left out in inter-religious discussions - often because the basic concepts are unfamiliar and misunderstood. What have you experienced? How can these topics best be explained? And how can we work together to facilitate dialogue where concepts of all faith can be understood?



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7. The Emotional Motivation Behind Protest, and How Faith Groups Might Channel Destructive Emotion into Productive Emotion.

Presenter: Tyler Billman, University of Chicago

Location: Breathing Space

I understand protests as an emotional reaction as much as it is a political reaction, because for bands of people to unite in this way, there must be a collective thought of "This thing upsets me, so I must do something about it." The second stage after that thought can go in many directions based on how the collective and the individual manage that emotional 'upset-ness'. Loosely speaking, I might say that riots and violence come from those emotions progressing in a non-productive spirit while, say, a non-violent march would come from a concerted effort to channel emotion toward progress. My question is how can interfaith groups work with emotionally inspired communities to help them channel their emotion toward a productive end.

8. Tour of Harkness Tower

Presenter: Guild of Carilloneurs, Yale University

Location: Harkness Tower

Come see the most iconic building at Yale! Harkness Tower in Branford College is the home of Yale's Carillon. It has 54 bells that in total weigh 43 tons. The tower is 216 feet tall (284 steps), but it provides some of the best views of Yale's Campus and New Haven. The Guild of Carilloneurs will walk you through the tower, the carillon, and allow for some pictures along the way!



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Friday, February 13, 2015 (cont.)

2:45 pm – 4 pm

1. Being Religious on a Secular Campus

Presenter: Jae-Min Lee, Lewis & Clark College

Location: Dwight Common Room

Being religious while at college can be challenging at times, especially for religious minorities. This conversation will try to explore the personal, academic, and social tests of faith that people may encounter. Also, by looking at ways to engage in productive conversations between religious and non-religious perspectives, we can try to create mutually beneficial dialogue.

2. Finding Your Community

Presenter: Angela Pollard, Yale University

Location: Chaplain's Office

Whether your 10 minutes or 10 hours away from home, college is a new and often challenging environment. Without our families and home faith/non-faith communities, we have the opportunity to seek out spaces on campus that are similar to or very different from what we had at home. How do we do this and what affects our choice to be involved with a community, if we opt to do so? Join us for a conversation about finding or creating your community!

3. Meditation Practice and Discussion

Presenter: Maya Major, Yale University

Location: Buddhist Shrine

Need a bit of mindfulness in your conference? Join this session for a brief meditation in Yale's Buddhist Shrine followed by a discussion of practice and Buddhist life at our home schools.

4. Methods of Prayer and Sacred Text Study

Presenter: Kellee Richards, Yale University

Location: Breathing Space

In this discussion, we will explore various methods of prayer and sacred text study. Through our personal experiences, we will discuss how we view sacred texts and how we pray. What is the purpose of these different methods? What is the goal? Feel free to bring excerpts from your own sacred text regarding prayer or sacred text study.



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Friday, February 13, 2015 (cont.)

2:45 pm – 4 pm

5. Religion and Dance

Presenter: Greeshma Rajeev-Kumar, Yale University

Location: Hindu Prayer Room

What is the meaning of dance? Often, it is a form of exercise, socializing activity, or a means of expressing one's feelings and desires. But during this session, we will be analyzing and discussing the importance of dance in religion and how it brings mythologies to life by providing life to characters from religious texts. We will be watching various videos of dances from Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, and Judaism and coming to an understanding of their meaning. We will also share our experiences of dancing in a religious setting or with the purpose of exhibiting religious themes.

6. Seeing Faith

Presenter: Yolanda Richard, Yale Divinity School and Wurtele Gallery Teacher

Location: Yale University Art Gallery

Have you ever explored an art gallery through the lens of faith and interfaith dialogue??!! Well now is your chance!! Come and explore the Yale University Art Gallery's expansive collection with a spiritual and interfaith lens.

7. Sustaining an Interfaith Council

Presenter: Sharon Kugler, University Chaplain of Yale University

Location: Battell Chapel

This session will focus on the promises and the challenges involved with this work. We will look at the role of ultimate truth claims within the context of an Interfaith Council, break-through moments in engagement with difference and the many ways one can encounter joyful surprises.

8. W{holy} Queer

Presenter: Maytal Saltiel, Assistant University Chaplain for Special Programs at Yale University, and José Limón, Yale University

Location: Lovett Room

W{holy} Queer is a group at Yale that meets monthly around issues of religion and sexuality. Everyone is welcome regardless of religious tradition or sexual orientation. Join us for a conversation around holiness and queerness and share ideas on how you can bring this conversation back to your campus.



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Friday, February 13, 2015 (cont.)

8:30 pm – 9:30 pm

1. Alexandro Gonzalez-Calvillo and Simona Shi Meng Xu

Location: Battell Chapel

Alex Gamcsik, Bassam Sidiki, Flavia Martinez, Gracie Hochberg, Kevin Ware, Lucia Keller, Melanie Kesner, Melanie Studnicka, Moleca Mich, Morgan Redmond, Osama El-Gabalawy, Robert Malongo, Samra Husremović, Timothy Nguyen

2. Angela Pollard

Location: Chaplain's Office

Areej Haroon, Eki Ramadhan, Gino Elia, James O'Leary, Liana Magaliff, Lily Iserson, Lily Wallace, Martha Durkee-Neuman, Maya Rosen, Md Bhuiyan, Michael Petro, Rebekah Anderson, Sirtaj Singh, Thomas Tavolara

3. Aquiel Warner

Location: - Classroom 13 (Same location as Chaplain's Office.)

Abraham Kirby-Galeb, Aviva Herr-Welber, Ayan Mandal, Emily Parker, Jaimie Dingus, Jane Sadetsky, Katherine (Katie) Ottley, Maggie Burks, Mari Holmes, Noam Kantor, Nora Abdelrahman, Tyler Billman, Veronica Gould

4. Greeshma Rajeev-Kumar

Location: Hindu Prayer Room

Ahmad Yousaf, Dan Ju, Enya Granados, Fredericka (Fred) Banks, Hana Shai Hobscheid, Hopey Fink, Jawad Awan, Josh Silver, Lydia Nicholson, Moke Hein, Recep Celebi, Sam Murray, Stephanie Salazar

5. Kellee Richards

Location: Breathing Space

Afrah Mohammad, Alex Bayer, Alicia Rosenbaum, Barbara VanDerburgh, Boyd Monson, Brian Steiner, Chengyuan (Rene) Guo, Hannah Hostak, Irema Halilovic, Karen-Alexandra Nogues, Monica Rexa, Sarthak Agrawal, Will Coile, Zarifa Hamidi



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Friday, February 13, 2015 (cont.)

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6. Maya Major

Location: Buddhist Shrine

Jennifer La Count, Sophia Higginbottom, Amanda Tatlock, Lisa Meehan, Lydia Ottaviano, Gila Goldstein, Engie Salama, Jae-Min Lee, Anthony Roque, Ian Quillen, Eric Lopez, Ryan Rogers, Layth Sabbagh, Andrew Nalani

7. Sabrina Rangi

Location: Lovett Room

Ali Rabideau, Alishan Premani, Anarmily Nazir, Andrea Dean, Andrew Berdahl, Bushra Ali, Debra Schubert, Eliza Rockefeller, Emily Singer, Emran Lallow, Jacob Sowder, Jazmin Hayes, Lisa Stern, Makenzie Adkins, Raymond Fasano

8. Yolanda Richard, Emmanuel Cantor and Michael Zanger-Tishler

Location: Battell Chapel

Anamaria Arteaga, Alison Ochs, Anna Arnn, Berit Reisenauer, Diego Arene-Morley, Elena Hoffenberg, Hamid Shariff, Izabella Banka, Kieryn Wurts, Miranda Baker, Obinna Ukogu, Ranjit Singh, Rennie Cotner, Sojourner Gleeson



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Saturday, February 14, 2015

11:30 am – 12:45 pm

1. Breakin' with Buddha

Presenter: Harrison Blum, Buddhist Spiritual Advisor at Northeastern University

Location: Institute Classroom (4th Floor)

This workshop will begin with standing and walking mindfulness meditation, framed by Buddhist teachings. Simple hip-hop dance moves will then be taught, maintaining attention to present moment awareness of body sensations, thoughts, and emotions. The session will conclude with a mini Dharma Jam, a model for contemplative improvisational movement and dance. Dharma Jams progress through three phases aligned with the Buddha (arrival into our bodies with stillness and slow movement), Dharma (expanding the range and speed of movement), and Sangha (broadening attention from the individual to the collective dance). No dance or Buddhism experience is needed. All are welcome. Come on out!

2. Dating, Marriage, and Romance

Presenter: Kellee Richards and Sabrina Rangi, Yale University

Location: Relief Society Room (2nd Floor)

Our faith traditions and families have a lot to say about how we date, love, and get married. Join this discussion to talk about the beauty of various traditions and to share stories of your experiences. How do we experience romance? What does it mean to date? What do weddings look like? These questions and many more will be explored.

3. Humanists at the Interfaith Table

Presenter: Chris Stedman, Executive Director of Yale Humanist Community, and Angela Pollard, Yale University

Location: Young Men's Room (2nd Floor)

What do you know about atheists, agnostics, and Humanists? What are some of the stereotypes and assumptions that some people hold about the nonreligious? What do Humanists believe? How can theists and nontheists better understand one another and identify areas of shared concern? Join us for a discussion on Humanism, and be sure to bring your questions!



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4. Interfaith Action Outside the Campus

Presenter: Sarthak Agrawal, University of Chicago

Location: Chapel

Service work is a part of many religious communities, and at the same time, college campuses are hotspots for social justice activism. Interfaith groups on campus are therefore uniquely situated to make a positive impact in the communities where we exist. Questions to consider include: how can the university's unique resources be utilized by interfaith communities? And where can interfaith groups have the greatest impact on neighboring communities?

5. Interfaith Work on Small Campuses

Presenter: Jane Sadetsky, University of Puget Sound

Location: Library (4th Floor)

What are the advantages and disadvantages of doing interfaith on a small, less endowed campus? This breakout session will focus on what being a small campus means for both students and staff in terms of student and staff access to resources, campus dialogue and atmosphere, and what campus change actually means.

6. Media Literacy

Presenter: Debra Schubert, Luther College at the University of Regina

Location: Seminary Classroom (2nd Floor)

The messages we get from the media influence us as individuals, but they also have a profound affect on our society as a whole. Media conveys conceptual messages about values, power and authority. Without a democratic and critical approach to media literacy, the public will be situated merely as selective receivers or consumers of information and communication. The discussion entitled, "Media Literacy" will seek to re-position the media user - from passive receiver to active participant, from consumer to citizen.



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Saturday, February 14, 2015 (cont.)

11:30 am – 12:45 pm

7. Student Responses to Acts of Intolerance

Presenter: Berit Reisenauer and Noam Kantor, Emory University

Location: Elder's Quorum Room (3rd Floor)

How do universities respond to acts of intolerance? How can students of faith help encourage positive and uplifting responses on campuses in the face of discrimination, hate, and other violence in our local communities? We will be leading a conversation and brainstorming activity. Attendees will explore skills and gain tools to help engage peers, faculty, and staff in addressing acts of intolerance related to religious identity or expression on campus.