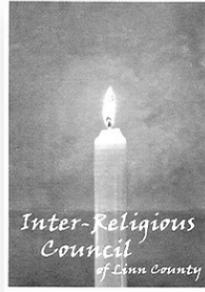


Inter-Religious Council of Linn County
601 Second Avenue SE, Suite 5
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401



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HOLY DAYS

May 2015

- 2 Twelfth Day of Ridvan* (Baha'i)
- 3 Vaisakha Puja (Buddhist)
- 7 Lag B'Omer* (Jewish)
National Day of Prayer (Interfaith)
- 12 Ascension of Jesus (Orthodox Christian)
- 14 Ascension of Jesus (Catholic and Orthodox Christian)
- 23 Declaration of the Bab* (Bahai)
- 24-25 Shavuot* (Jewish)
- 24 Pentecost (Christian)
- 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah* (Baha'i)
- 31 Pentecost (Orthodox Christian)
Trinity Sunday (Christian)

June 2015

- 7 Corpus Christi (Catholic Christian)
- 18 Ramadan begins* (Islam)

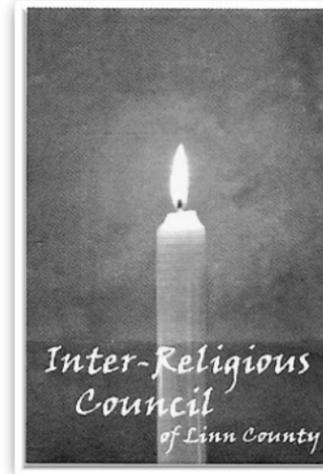
July 2015

- 9 Martyrdom of the Bab* (Baha'i)
- 13 Ullambana (Obon)** (Buddhist)
- 18-21 Eid al Fitr* (Islam)
- 26 Tish'a B'av* (Jewish)

August 2015

- 6 Transfiguration of the Lord (Orthodox and Catholic Christian)
- 15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian)
- 22 Queenship of Blessed Virgin Mary (Catholic Christian)
- 29 Raksha Bandhan** (Hindu)

* Starts at sundown the preceding day
** Dates may vary according to the region
For more information on Holy Days:
See www.interfaithcalendar.org



Inter-Religious Council of Linn County

Our mission: to provide means for people of all faiths to promote understanding and respect – and to work with the community for the spiritual, moral, social, and civic welfare of Linn County.

Our vision: to provide inspiration and programming in order to foster a caring community in which honesty, respect, and responsibility are celebrated.

Summer 2015



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www.irclc.org

Significance of Holy Days in the Coming Months

Ascension of Baha'u'llah: Baha'i recollection of the death of Baha'u'llah, the founder.

Declaration of the Bab: Baha'i recognition of the declaration in 1844 by Siyyid Ali Muhammed that he is the anticipated "Forerunner of the Promised One" of all religions.

Eid ul Fitr ('Id al-Fitr): Islamic event marking the close of Ramadan. It is a festival of thanksgiving to Allah for enjoying the month of Ramadan.

Ullambana/Obon: Buddhist festival to honor deceased ancestors. Gratitude is expressed for the giving of life and the care given as children.

Pentecost: Christian observation of the day when God the Holy Spirit came to the disciples in the forms of tongues of fire and rushing wind.

Ramadan: Devoted to the commemoration of Muhammad's reception of the divine revelation recorded in the Qur'an. It is the holiest period of the Islamic Year. There is strict fasting from sunrise to sunset.

Vaisakha Puja: Buddhist observance marking the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha.

Holocaust Commemoration Service

This year's Holocaust Commemoration was hosted by Mount Mercy University, on April 12th. We lit 12 candles in memory of the 12 million murdered by the Nazis, listened to the beautiful chimes of the Mount Mercy Hand-bell Choir, and prayed as one community. Our invited guest, Renata Laxova, shared her incredible story. Renata is one of "Nicky's Family" – one of the 669 children who were saved from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia by Sir Nicholas Winton. Sir Winton formed the Czech Kindertransport, and through it he found British homes for these children and safe passage away from the Nazis. Renata's story took us from her early life in Czechoslovakia to her school years in Great Britain, then back to Russian-occupied Czechoslovakia following the war, where she reconnected with her parents, who had also survived, and finally to the United States. It was truly an amazing story of survival and hope.

The Holocaust Commemoration Service was sponsored by both the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County and the Thaler Holocaust Memorial Fund. Thank you to all who participated and helped, and especially to Mount Mercy University for hosting.

Remembrance of the 1915 Armenian Genocide

For a hundred years (since 1915), Armenians have suffered because this genocide has failed to be recognized by two of the major countries involved: Turkey and the United States. Turkey calls it a tragedy, but not a genocide, despite calls from the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the European Union to do so. In the United States, only seven states have not recognized the Armenian Genocide. Iowa is one of these seven states. We are working to have this changed. As a country, the United States refuses to recognize it because of the geopolitical importance of Turkey.

The Inter-Religious Council of Linn Country held a remembrance of the Armenian Genocide on April 30, at the Cedar Rapids Public Library. Over 40 people gathered for a brief lecture by Charles Crawley, a film on the genocide by PBS, and a discussion led by Al Fisher.

We remembered the 1.5 million Armenians who were murdered, not out of religious hatred, though there was an element of that, but mainly due to the government of Turkey at that time. We hope that the wounds from that genocide may be healed by a formal recognition.

It is the duty of all people to stand for those who cannot stand for themselves, to speak for those who are forced into silence, and to demand justice for those too scared and beaten down to demand it for themselves.

We remember this call to peace through the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero:

"What good are beautiful highways and airports, beautiful buildings full of spacious apartments, if they are only put together with the blood of the poor, who are not going to enjoy them?"

"Peace is not the product of terror or fear.

Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression.

Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.

Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty."

"I will not tire of declaring that if we really want an effective end to violence we must remove the violence that lies at the root of all violence: structural violence, social injustice, exclusion of citizens from the management of the country, repression. All this is what constitutes the primal cause, from which the rest flows naturally."



Airs on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. on KCRG-TV, Channel 9, Cedar Rapids

Sponsored by The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County. Features a panel of local experts who explore ethical considerations on a current issue in the news. Topics known to date are:

May 3 Can Entrepreneurship be taught?	May 31 Professors in Poverty
May 10 Vaccinations and Public Health	June 7 The Armenian Genocide
May 17 Should Community Colleges be Free?	June 21 Prayer in the People's House

If you are unable to watch these discussion when they are aired on Sunday mornings, you may watch them on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/user/IRCoFLC>.

AMONG THE TRADITIONS



The Children of Abraham group invites you to discussions held among Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

August 23 – "Marriage in the Modern Era"

November 8 – "Kingdom of God"

Time: 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Location: Coe College, Keslar Auditorium in Hickok Hall

The Children of Abraham mission is to engage in conversation in order to learn about our respective faiths, leading to actions that promote community well-being and tear down walls of misunderstanding and prejudice.

Interfaith Community Programs

Faith Explorers Study Group – 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month (9:30 to 11:00 a.m.)

People's Church (Unitarian Universalist) in the Ely Room, 4980 Gordon Ave. NW

Current book study for May 23 & June 12

The Trouble with Resurrection: From Paul to the Fourth Gospel

©2010 by Bernard Brandon Scott

This interfaith group enjoys spirited discussion as it explores the evolution of contemporary beliefs, and the implications for personal faith and spiritual life. The group looks into the cultural and political influences in the development of Christianity are examined. All are welcome.

Questions: Carolyn Cleveland at carolynmcleland@gmail.com or (319) 360-4421

Women in Interfaith Dialogue – Saturday, May 30 (10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.)

Theme: "Foremothers Strong" Location: Prairiewoods Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

Theme will focus on admirable founding women and what qualities enabled them to be leaders and initiators. As a participant, you will be invited to speak about a spiritual foremother who has been significant in your life.

REGISTER by May 26: Call Prairiewoods at (319) 395-6700 or Barbara Schlachter at (319) 351-4380

Intersections – June 5th dialogue & luncheon (11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

Location: First Presbyterian Church, 310 Fifth St. SE / Sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa

Topic: "The Impact of Tax Credits" Presenter: Joe Bolkcom, Iowa State Senator, District 43

This dialogue group promotes civil conversations on issues at the intersection of religion and politics.

NOTE: Intersections will take a summer break after June 6, and will not meet in July and August.

Lunch is \$10, payable at the door.

Reservations are required: please call 319-364-6148 or e-mail crintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org.

For more information about topic and speaker, visit <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections>.