

Return Service Requested

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County
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www.irclc.org

SUMMER 2014

June 2014
1 Ascension of Jesus into Heaven (Christian)
4-5 Shavuot* (Jewish)
8 Pentecost (Christian)
15 Trinity Sunday (Catholic Christian)
22 Corpus Christi (Catholic Christian)
28 Ramadan begins * **(Islam) - tentative

July 2014
9 Martyrdom of the Bab* (Baha'i)
13 Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist) **
28-31 Eid al Fitr (Islam) - tentative

August 2014
5 Tish'a B'av (Jewish)
15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Catholic Christian)
17 Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)

September 2014
24-26 Rosh Hashanah* (Jewish)

Note: * Holy days begin at sundown the day before.
** Local or regional customs may use a variation
of this date.

For more information on Holy Days,
See www.interfaithcalendar.org or
www.bbc.co.uk/religion/tools/calendar/date.shtml?month&year=2014



The Children of Abraham dialogue group
invites you to a special interim event in the
Between the Traditions series.

**“Hearing the Prophetic Voice:
Reading the Book of Isaiah through Time and Traditions”**

Presentation by Dr. Chris Seeman of Walsh University
(former professor at Coe College)

Location: Coe College, Hickok Hall, Kesler Auditorium

Date and Time: Sunday, June 8, from 2:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dr. Seeman will challenge us to think in new ways about
how sacred texts can foster interfaith understanding.

Next Children of Abraham program:

“Schools of Thought: Differences Within Each Tradition.”

August 24 at 2 p.m. at the Mother Mosque
1335 9th St NW, Cedar Rapids

Speakers: Father Fred Shaheen, Imam Taha Tawil, Rabbi Todd Thalblum

*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.*



**Report on the Fair Housing Summit
Building an Inclusive Community, One Neighborhood at a Time
Held on April 23, 2014**

The Inter-Religious Council (IRC) of Linn County was asked to be a co-sponsor of the Fair Housing Summit earlier this year. Because the purpose of the IRC is to “promote understanding, compassion, and acceptance of each other and of our beliefs”, the Board of the IRC agreed to be a sponsor of this summit. Rabbi Todd Thalblum, the president of the IRC, offered an invocation, and members of the IRC Board, Reverend Tom Capo and Rodney Blum, provided a workshop for the Summit entitled “Does loving thy neighbor stop at the end of the pew?”

The Summit provided workshops and speakers on aging, disability, and fair housing; supportive housing for homeless families in the child welfare system; understanding health disparities (Is assimilation good for people of color and immigrants?); dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline; and building an inclusive community. Over 400 people attended. Many of these people are already working on these issues, but many more expressed a desire to help our community improve in these areas.

During the IRC workshop, Reverend Tom and Rodney presented the history of the IRC and some of the plans the IRC has for the future. In addition, they asked the attendees what they would like to see the IRC work on in our community. Their responses included: create information, perhaps a flyer, showing which worshipping communities are LGBT welcoming/friendly; create a forum for LGBT to share with faith communities what their experience has been and how they can be better pastored; focus on engaging social media in order to attract young people to faith communities; have a Twitter account for Ethical Perspectives; create an information source where worship communities self-identify their personality/charisma/strengths for distribution to newcomers and seekers; request more IRC/faith community visibility in the community by participating in such capstone projects as Habitat for Humanity; add a challenge/purpose/declarative statement about the need for interfaith work, its importance and significance, during the Thanksgiving Service.

In addition, questions were raised by the attendees: how do newcomers to Linn County get invited to join worshipping communities; what outreach does the IRC engage in, especially with the local media; how do worshipping communities reach out and include populations that cannot easily get to worship sites, and what resources are available; how can persons respond to blatant prejudice--is the IRC a body people can appeal to for advocacy; how will worship communities and the IRC get involved in conversation on school-to-prison pipeline; and how can the IRC inspire people to want to do interfaith work?

The workshop was very interactive and showed that people are interested in the interfaith work of the IRC in Linn County. If you have thoughts about these requests or these questions, please get involved with the IRC. Is your faith community willing to get involved in interfaith work? If your faith community does not have a representative on the IRC board, perhaps you are the person to be that representative. There is much work to be done to continue to “promote understanding, compassion, and acceptance of each other and of our beliefs.”

– Reverend Tom Capo

IRCLC Membership. Your membership - as a faith community or as an individual - is important to help carry out the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County mission of promoting understanding and respect among persons of different faiths. Thank you for your support.

ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE NEWS

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:

- June 1 The End of Affirmative Action?
- June 8 When Johnny comes marching home
- June 29 The Ethics of Bankruptcy
- July 6 No Tolerance Policy in Schools



If you are not able to watch these discussions when aired on Sunday mornings, you may watch them on <http://www.youtube.com/user/IRCoFLC>.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

invites you to a Middle Eastern lunch (\$5) and a presentation by Hassan Selim
“The Egyptian Revolution of 2011: Then & Now”

The meal begins at noon, Sunday, June 8 and will be held in the lower level of the church at 220 40th St NE. The activity is sponsored by the Peace and Justice Committee of the church.

CHASING ICE

All are welcome to view the award-winning 2012 documentary film containing breathtaking footage of glacier changes that demonstrate the effect of climate change. It will be shown June 26, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in Beems Auditorium in Downtown CR library.

Discussion and light refreshments will follow. Admission is free for all ages.

All materials brought by Interfaith Power and Light in association with the Baha'i community. Learn more at www.preachin.org.

INTERFAITH COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Intersections. The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa sponsors this program to promote civil conversations on issues at the intersection of religion and politics. It meets the first Friday of each month, 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Rapids. All interested persons are welcome to attend on any first Friday of the month. Lunch is \$10, payable at the door. Reservations are required; please call 319-364-6148 or e-mail crintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org. For information about topic and speaker, visit <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections/>.

Women in Interfaith Dialogue. All women are welcome. These meetings are usually at Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center. A fee of \$15 includes lunch. For information on upcoming programs, call Barbara Schlachter at 319-351-4380.

*The Inter-Religious Council says goodbye to a good friend,
Reverend Tom Capo of People’s Church Unitarian-Universalist.*

Tom has been reassigned to Naperville, IL. We will miss his enthusiasm, insights, and energy. We say, “Auf Wiedersehen,” (till we meet again), hoping that our paths may once again cross during our life journey.