



**Interfaith Council of  
Greater Richmond**

**2009-2010 Annual Report**

**Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond  
Annual Report 2009-2010  
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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Non-Violence, Truth and Equality lead to Peace among us all**

We proudly celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond this year in 2009. ICGR, in its last 80 years, has witnessed changes with time as deemed appropriate. Pioneers of ICGR, like Lee Pratt and Vivien Ely have brought ICGR to its current high levels. Pillars of ICGR, like John Bruckner, Lynn Johnston, Sharon Clayton, Ann Woods, Pat Mays, Ann Loxterman, Midge Falconer, and you know who you are, and have been involved for last 20 years or so, continue to work tirelessly for this organization. Past and current committees continue to give to ICGR their best, and that is why we are able to celebrate this 80th anniversary with such great enthusiasm of a very meaningful organization.

The theme for this year, 2009-2010, is from the JAIN Scriptures: "Non-Violence, Truth and Equality Lead to Peace Among Us All". Lord Mahavira the 24th Tirthankar (Enlightened Soul) preached for Truth, Ahimsa (Non-Violence) and equality among the human race. Dr. Radhakrishnan, the 2nd President of India, a comparative religion and philosophy major once said, "All religions teach the same, however, the problem comes when one claims to be superior than others". Through our programs we wish to carry out our theme and fulfill the purpose of developing understanding, respect and cooperation among various religious faiths. Our oldest program, "Brotherhood, Sisterhood Award" reflects our values. The Discovering Many Faiths program, in co-sponsorship of University of Richmond, completely fulfills our purpose. The Clergy Breakfast, our newest program, shows that we are on the right path and focused. For a complete list of our programs, please visit our website, ICGR.ORG.

We work closely with our affiliates through our programs to bring peace and harmony to the community. A complete list of affiliates can be found in our yearbook and the website. We continue to take the needs of our community to all our membership so they can help fulfill those needs. I am grateful for the privilege of working together in my attempt to fulfill this purpose.

Thanks.  
Kusum Jain  
ICGR President, 2009-2010

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS 2009-2010**

President	Mrs. Kusum Jain	Jain
1st Vice Pres. (Programs)	Mrs. Sandy Willis	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
2nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Ms. Glenda Winborne	Eckankar
Vice President for Finance	Mr. Lee Stradtner	Bahá'í
Treasurer	Ms. Pat Mays	Disciples of Christ
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Annette Khan	Islam
Corresponding Secretary	Mr. Robert McEachern	Methodist

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<b>NOMINATIONS FOR 2010-2011</b>
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*Submitted by Virginia McEachern*

Officers for the coming year were presented to the Board on April 22, 2010, which the Board approved unanimously. At the May 20, 2010, general meeting the slate of officers will be presented to the membership for election.

**2010-2011 Slate of Officers**

President	Mrs. Sandy Willis	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1st Vice Pres. (Programs)	Mr. Malik Khan	Islam
2nd Vice Pres. (Membership)	Mr. Bryant Tyndall	Unity
Vice President for Finance	Mr. Lee Stradtner	Bahá'í
Treasurer	Ms. Pat Mays	Disciples of Christ
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Annette Khan	Islam
Corresponding Secretary	Mr. Robert McEachern	Methodist

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<b>FINANCE</b>
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*Submitted by Pat Mays, Treasurer*

### INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF GREATER RICHMOND, INC.

#### ANNUAL REPORT – JUNE 1, 2009 – MAY 13, 2010

INCOME COMPARISON: CONGREGATIONS:	2009-2010	2008-2009
Baha'i:		
Chesterfield County Baha'i Fund		25.00
Richmond Baha'i Fund		25.00
Baptist:		
River Road Church, Baptist	50.00	50.00
Buddism:		
Catholic:		
Christian (Disciples of Christ):		
Battery Park Christian Church CWF	25.00	25.00
Bon Air Christian Church	75.00	
Seventh Street Christian Church CWF	30.00	30.00
Seventh Street Christian Church	400.00	200.00
Trinity Christian Church CWF	25.00	
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS (Mormon):		
Church of Jesus Chr.of LDS-Chesterfield Stake	100.00	100.00
Church of Jesus Christ of LDS-Richmond Stake	150.00	
Eckankar:		
Virginia Satsang Society, Inc.-Central Region		150.00
Episcopal:		
Church of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church	100.00	100.00
Chur.of Holy Comf.Epis.Chur.St.Hilda/An.Chapt.	15.00	
Hindu:		
Hindu Center of Va., Inc.		100.00
Jain:		
Hindu Center of Va., Inc.		100.00
Islam:		
Judaism:		
Keneseth Beth Israel		50.00
Temple Beth-El		25.00
Lutheran:		
Methodist:		
Bon Air United Methodist Church		200.00
Ginter Park United Methodist Church Women	30.00	30.00
Reveille United Methodist Church UMW		200.00
Trinity United Methodist Church Women	55.00	55.00
Westover Hills United Methodist Church UMW	25.00	50.00
Presbyterian:		
Bon Air Presbyterian Chur.(honor.-Baljit Sidhu)	50.00	
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church Women	25.00	25.00
Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church Women		100.00
Unitarian Universalist:		
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond		125.00
United Church of Christ:		
Unity:		
Unity Christ Church of Bon Air	1,200.00	1,100.00
Unity of Richmond	500.00	431.18
<b>TOTAL FROM CONGREGATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 2,855.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,296.18</b>
<b>INDIVIDUALS AND FRIENDS:</b>		
(\$10-\$25)		
Laurie Andrews	Donna Fuller	Sharon Loving
Eva Brummer	Carol Goss	Pat Mays

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	Church Women United	Alva Haley	Louise Rezar
	Rabbi Gary S. Creditor	C. A. Heiser	Baljit Sidhu
	Mary Crutchfield	Barbara Kipreos	Jacqueline Stansbury
	Elizabeth Dickerson	Louise Lipscomb	Margaret Stokely
(\$26-\$50)	Tom & Susan Allen	Edith Hardie	
	Carol Bernard	Cang Kim	
	Anne & John Bruckner	Jay & Lee Sargent	
(\$51-\$75)	Sharon Clayton		
(\$76-\$100)	Norma McCarthy		
(\$101-\$125)	Ann & Alan Loxterman		
(\$126-\$150)	Baljit Sidhu		

**TOTAL FROM INDIVIDUALS & FRIENDS** \$ 1,067.50 \$ 2,828.00

**OTHER INCOME:**

DMF	88.25	106.00
Dinners & annual meeting	1,791.50	1,620.50
Brotherhood/Sisterhood Awards Lunch	150.00	317.50
Calendars	675.00	910.00
Hope in the Cities		115.00
Old check never cleared		300.00
Benefit Concert		30.00
Clergy Breakfast	122.00	6.50
ICGR buttons	5.00	
Robert McEachern (refresh.-First Freedom Prog.)	50.00	

**TOTAL OTHER INCOME** \$ 2,881.75 \$ 3,405.50

**TOTAL INCOME** \$ 6,804.25 \$ 9,529.68

Income and Expense:

Doctors Without Borders - \$276.00

**TOTAL IN DESIGNATED FUND:**

CD – Sun Trust (6/30/10)	\$ 2,498.57
CD – Sun Trust (1/19/11)	\$ 4,619.50

**EXPENSES**

**Category of Expense:**

	Budgeted	Spent	Contrib.Exp.
Printing & copying	3290	2465.95	
Postage, shipping, & delivery	960	844.24	
Conference, convention, & mtgs.	650	728.64	33.52
Meals & entertainment	4100	3218.53	20.37
Guest speakers	300	0	
Fees & licenses	350	928.94	
Donations	200	0	
Miscellaneous			
Designated fund	1000	0	
Nain dues	75	75	
Web	150	142.49	
P.O. Box fee	40	40	
Calendars	625	474.39	
Other	1230	693.35	
Hope in the Cities	250		
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 13,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,611.53</b>	<b>\$ 53.89</b>

**Balance in checkbook June 1, 2009** **8365.67**

**Balance in checkbook May 31, 2010** **5558.39**

**EXPENSES FOR OFFICERS & COMMITTEES**

	Budgeted	Spent	Contrib.Exp.
President			
Printing & copying	25.00		
Vice President (Membership)			
Printing & copying	150.00	8.28	

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	Postage, ship. & delivery	100.00		
Vice President (Program)	Misc. – Other	1,000.00	544.66	
	Printing & copying		466.40	
Treasurer	Printing & copying	40.00		
	Postage, ship. & delivery	60.00	40.91	
	Misc. – Other	15.00	7.34	
	Misc. – P.O.Box fee	40.00	40.00	
Recording Secretary	Printing & copying	25.00	-	
Corresponding Secretary	Printing & copying	1,100.00	1,274.91	
	Postage, ship. & delivery	650.00	582.80	
Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Awards	Printing & copying	825.00	547.26	
	Postage, ship. & delivery	150.00	154.53	
	Meals & entertainment	400.00	524.44	20.37
	Conf., conv. & meetings	600.00	647.00	
	Guest speakers	300.00	-	
	Misc. – Other	100.00	81.40	
Constitution & By-laws	Printing & copying	50.00	5.63	
Hospitality & Supplies	Meals & entertainment	75.00	-	
Networking, Research, & Web	Misc. – Web Page	150.00	142.49	
DMF	Printing & copying	300.00	50.00	
	Conf., conv. & meetings	50.00	81.64	33.52
	Meals & entertainment	1,075.00	1,048.84	
Yearbook	Printing & copying	675.00	-	
NAIN	Misc. – Nain dues	75.00	75.00	
Designated Fund	Misc. – Designated fund	1,000.00	-	
Fees & Licenses	State Corp. Commission	35.00	210.64	
	IRS – 501 © 3	315.00	718.30	
Calendars	Misc. – Calendars	625.00	474.39	
Annual Meeting	Meals & entertainment	400.00	-	
Dinner Meetings	Meals & entertainment (based on 4 meetings)	1,500.00	1,253.00	(2)
Family Peace Festival	Misc. – Other	40.00	40.00	
Advertising	Misc. – Other	75.00	19.95	
Donations	Donations	200.00	-	
Hope in the Cities		250.00	-	
Clergy Breakfast	Printing & copying	100.00	91.55	
	Meals & entertainment	650.00	987.00	(2)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 13,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,611.53</b>	<b>\$ 53.89</b>

*Pat Mays*  
*Treasurer*

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<b>AFFILIATES</b>
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**Affiliates of ICGR**

**First Freedom Center**

Mailing Address: First Freedom Center,  
1321 E. Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219-3629  
Tel. 643-1786, [www.firstfreedom.org](http://www.firstfreedom.org)

**Inter Faith Conference of Metropolitan Washington (IFC)**

*Our Co-Hosts for the NAIN Connect 2007*

Mailing Address: 1426 Ninth St. NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Washington DC 20001-3330  
Tel. 202-234-6300, [www.ifcmw.org](http://www.ifcmw.org)

**The Resource Center** (Resources for Peace & Justice)

Mailing Address: The Rev. Judith Bennett, Dir.  
1202 Wilmington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23237  
tel. 358-8306, e-mail: [jfagalde\\_1@msn.com](mailto:jfagalde_1@msn.com), [www.resourcingchurches.com](http://www.resourcingchurches.com)

**Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC)**

Mailing Address: Adria Scharf, Dir. 400 W. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Richmond, VA 23225  
Tel. 232-1002, e-mail: [scharf@rpec.org](mailto:scharf@rpec.org), [www.rpec.org](http://www.rpec.org)

**Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities**

(Formerly VCCJ or NCCJ, but not VCIC)

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Spence, Pres. & CEO  
Jonathon Zur, VP for Program Operation, Martie O'Connell, VP for Admin.  
Mailing address: 5511 Staples Mill Road #202, Richmond, VA. 23228  
Tel. 515-7950, e-mail: [center@inclusiveva.org](mailto:center@inclusiveva.org)

**Virginia Council of Churches**

The Rev. Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister  
1214 W, Graham Rd., Richmond, VA 23237  
Tel. 321-3300, e-mail: [barton@vcc-net.org](mailto:barton@vcc-net.org)

**Virginia Interfaith Center**

(formerly Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy)

The Rev. Doug Smith, Executive Director  
1714 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23223  
e-mail: [doug@virginiainterfaithcenter.org](mailto:doug@virginiainterfaithcenter.org), [www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org)

**A More Perfect Union (AMPU)**

P.O. Box 12516, or 1714 E. Franklin St, Richmond, Virginia 23241  
Ryan Rinn, Interim Director, e-mail [ryan@virginiainterfaithcenter.org](mailto:ryan@virginiainterfaithcenter.org)  
c/o Virginia Interfaith Center, tel. 643-2474

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### **VICOMIM – Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries**

Mailing Address: P.O. ? Box Glen Allen, VA 23060

### **ICGR Board members who serve on Affiliate boards**

Annette Khan – Family Peace Festival

Lynn Johnston – The Resource Center, board, Multifaith Committee

Midge Falconer – The Resource Center, Multicultural committee.

Kusum Jain – A More Perfect Union

Former ICGR Board Member

Ralph Wiggins –Virginia Interfaith Committee on Mental Illness Ministries

Members of the Interfaith Council also supported our affiliates by attending fund raisers and educational outreach activities.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

*Submitted by Glenda Winborne*

Even though Membership got a slow start meeting the full duties required, ICGR still grew in new memberships!!!!

We had some good lessons this year especially regarding spreading our membership too thin in order to meet the commitments of the events already advertised. To maintain the integrity of the programs we offer and respect our member's time commitments to a specialty area of the organization, we agreed to revisit the "how too structure" already in place.

The Membership segment of the organization has changed how it functions due to normal expansions in some areas and decline in others. A line by line study of each area of Membership needed to be considered for updating.

The 2009-2010 Goal: Review the ICGR Constitution, By-Laws, and Policies and Procedures regarding Membership with the intent of changing, eliminating, adding new clauses, and or re-writing for clarity, where necessary, to bring all information current, workable, and understandable even to a new member.

The Vice President of Membership combined areas needing reviewing into 6 Aspects and presented them to the Board to begin the committee process.

Committees were formed by Organizational Representatives and other volunteers; each selecting an Aspect of this project they wanted to study. Committees met as many times as needed to complete their task. Results were presented to the Board and after a majority vote of approval, were passed to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to tweak before being officially

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presented for approval and introduction into the appropriate written portion of the organizational structure.

### Aspect #1-Membership Fee

Committee Members: Ginny McEachern, Pat Mays, Mike Greenberg, Carol Bernard, and Glenda Winborne, Second Vice President/ membership.

#### Board Approved Results, 2-25-2010:

\* Annual Membership Fee established:

\$0-Faith Organizations/Congregations

\$15 each-Current President, Organizational Representatives, Congregational Representatives, Individual Members, and Members @ large.

\*Beginning September 2010, ICGR Newsletters will be delivered to each member's email address. If one requires a paper copy, they must request it from the Database Manager.

### Aspect # 4-Solicitation Letter

Committee Members: Lee Stradtner, Ginny McEachern, Ann Loxterman, Carol Bernard, Pat Mays at a distance, and Glenda Winborne.

This committee realized two decisions regarding Aspect # 1 had not been finalized and took it upon themselves to complete: Deadline for receipt of Membership Fees and establish a Life Membership as an additional membership category.

#### Board Approved Results, 4-22-2010:

\*The 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and the VP of Finance begin August 15 consulting and writing the annual Solicitation Letter. Complete by October 1 and mailed by October 29.

\*There will be two types of Solicitation Letters written each year; one to ICGR Members (those who pay an annual membership fee) and one to the Faith Congregations and ICGR Affiliates (those not required to pay /donations still encouraged).

\*Re Aspect # 1- The annual Membership Fee is due on or before December 31 for the next fiscal year.

(i.e. 2011 due on or before Dec. 31, 2010)

\*Re Aspect # 1-Upon a member's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday they will be honored with a Life Membership in ICGR. This eliminates the annual membership fee. To accept this honor, inform the President.

\*Another Board approved motion at this Board meeting: The By-laws, page 16 under Membership Committee..change to read: The Membership Committee shall consist of Organizational Representatives and others at the discretion of the 2nd VP.

### Aspect # 2- Category of Members and their Responsibilities

Committee Members: Sukh Dev Walia, Midge Falconer and Glenda Winborne.

First meeting scheduled May 18 @ 1:00pm.

It is the hope of this Second VP: Aspects #3-Duties of Membership, Aspect # 5 – ICGR Brochure and Aspect # 6-Blue Membership Card will be studied with the same intent by the 2010-2011 2<sup>nd</sup> VP with committees.

These three remaining Aspects will be quick to bring current now that others Aspects have been. It has been a pleasure to work with and learn from the various members on this committee.

*Glenda Winborne, (Outgoing Second Vice President)  
May 10, 2010*

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<b>PROGRAMS</b>
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*Submitted by Sandy Willis, First Vice President (Programs)*

**Vision**

We stepped into the 2009/2010 fiscal year with the excited awareness that the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond was facing a period of transition and change. ICGR accepted the challenge to enlarge its sphere of influence to better fit the needs of the current times and changing population. We recognized it as an opportunity for expansion and growth as we sought to strengthen ties with our affiliates and increase community outreach through different venues.

**Goal**

In an effort to embrace the yearly theme “Non-Violence, Truth and Equality lead to Peace among us all” as we sought collaboration with VCU Religious Studies Program, First Freedom Center and Richmond Peace Education Center. ICGR set the goal to reach out to the Interfaith community and community at large through programs that would be of interest a younger audience as well as the African American population. We aimed to incorporate music into our programs as well as make the change to hold primarily evening programs.

**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM: ICGR Kick Off Catered Dinner and Program  
– ICGR 80th Birthday Celebration and Honoring of Past Presidents**

**Venue:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5600 Monument Avenue

**Dinner:** Dinner catered by Zen Asian Bistro, \$12.50

**Format:**

The New Year began with a festive 80th birthday celebration which honored past presidents with a cutting-the-cake ceremony. Kusum Jain’s remarks followed by an introduction of the 2009/2010 programs, was highlighted by an evening of entertainment directed by Glenda Winborne.

**Entertainment:**

- Magic Act: “Mystical Clark”, Dr. Jeff Clark, (Unitarian Universalist)
- Chorus: “We are Loved” / “We are Different”, Chippenham Ward Young Single Adults, led by April Smith (The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)
- Humor: “Experiences of a Methodist Minister”, Reverend Gene Little (Methodist)
- Vocalist: “Don’t Give Up”, Vanessa Morton
- Short Story: “Blind Men and an Elephant”, Ranu Kothari
- Flutist: Reverend William Morris (Disciples of Christ)

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- Musician and Singer: “Over the Rainbow”/”Wonderful World”, George Collier
- Israeli Folk Dance, Zemer Atik: Neil Sonenklar & Anne Woods (Jewish)

**Committee Members:** Kusum Jain, Sandy Willis, Glenda Winborne

### **Overview:**

The occasion drew a large crowd and the entertainment was light and lively. The last performance included an invitation for everyone to join in the Israeli Folk Dance. The fun filled night set the tone for a great year.

### **OCTOBER PROGRAM: Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision**

#### **Background:**

With the topic of peace on our minds, the idea for this program came through an e-mail from the Partners for Peace organization located in Washington DC. We viewed it as a unique opportunity to foster “understanding, respect and cooperation among the various religious faiths” in the Richmond area.

Taken from the Partners for Peace website: "The general theme for the Jerusalem Women Speak tour is everyday life in Israel and Palestine. Amidst increasing loss and terrible destruction of Palestinian and Israeli lives, three ordinary women will speak to American audiences about their daily lives and their efforts for peace. These women come from each of the three major faiths in Israel and Palestine: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, and find a voice for their hopes and frustrations amidst the ongoing violence as they meet each other for the first time."

The appeal on the website was to an Interfaith audience.

**Flyer:** <http://www.icgr.org/three-women-three-faiths.pdf>

**Co-sponsors:** Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC), Bon Air Faith Club.

**Venue:** University of Richmond, Jepson Hall, Room 118

**Committee Members:** Sandy Willis (ICGR), Adria Scarf (RPEC), Annette Khan (Bon Air Faith Club)

**Reception:** A buffet dinner reception was held at the home of Midge Falconer prior to the program.

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### **Overview:**

Unfortunately, it turned out the Jerusalem Women Speak program **was not** in line with the purpose of the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond. The experience with this event can best be summarized in a letter submitted to Partners for Peace on November 18, 2009. Great caution and care should be used when adopting a program that did not originate with ICGR.

**Note:** The Partners for Peace website has since been updated

### **Letter to Partners for Peace**

Dear Pete Wirth,

Thank you for inviting me to report back on the response to the program we had in Richmond. I believe what we experienced is especially relevant to the future of Partners for Peace. First, let me personally say that I enjoyed working with Partners for Peace, was delighted to meet Jala and Ruth, and that my insights broadened after hearing their presentation. However, I must be candid in my overview of what occurred as a result of the program.

"The purpose of the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond (ICGR) is to develop understanding, respect, and cooperation among the various religious faiths." ICGR hosted the Partners for Peace sponsored event entitled Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision because they believed it was in harmony with their Statement of Purpose. According to the Partners for Peace website, "The general theme for the Jerusalem Women Speak tour is everyday life in Israel and Palestine. Amidst increasing loss and terrible destruction of Palestinian and Israeli lives, three ordinary women will speak to American audiences about their daily lives and their efforts for peace. These women come from each of the three major faiths in Israel and Palestine: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, and find a voice for their hopes and frustrations amidst the ongoing violence as they meet each other for the first time."

Furthermore, according to the website and through first hand communication with Partners for Peace, we understood the JWS program was fit for an Interfaith setting: "We seek an "anchor" event in each community, which may be an event sponsored by a World Affairs Council, a large Rotary Club or other general interest group meeting. In addition, we seek college/university events and interfaith events (or alternatively events at churches, synagogues, and mosques). These face-to-face events should be able to generate audiences of at least 100 people. Local organizers are asked to help to make initial contacts with possible venues for events. They are also asked to aid in publicity of events (we will provide posters, brochures, and other promotional materials)."

The Richmond event was highly publicized and very well attended. I believe 190 people present was the last count. The unfortunate situation was that what was presented by JWS was not at all what it was advertised to be. It most definitely was not in line with the purposes of the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond. The situation in Jerusalem can be viewed from many different perspectives. Unfortunately, the JWS program was presented primarily from only one. In the

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end, The Jerusalem Women Speak program reflected very poorly on ICGR and I believe it will take some time to rebuild.

As the end of the presentation approached, I rehearsed in my mind what I was going to say to bring the event to a close. I wanted to pay respects to Partners for Peace and at the same time retain the integrity of ICGR. I was going to thank Jala and Ruth for sharing their viewpoints and perspectives and then conclude with a clarifying statement that what was said did not reflect the opinion or sentiments of ICGR. In the end, I was not given the opportunity to close the meeting as Deena did not look to me to do it and took the liberty of concluding it on her own. In retrospect, I should have taken it upon myself to stand and express the viewpoints of ICGR.

The next several weeks following the JWS presentation were spent addressing and resolving concerns. The concerns that arose were not only among members of the Jewish congregations, but among those politically minded as well. Many were offended by the content of the program and felt betrayed by ICGR as an organization. ICGR policy states that it does not take a stand on political issues. It soon became evident to those in attendance that the presentation was politically driven. As the Program VP of ICGR, I quickly stepped in and took responsibility for the program as I did not want it to be a reflection of ICGR as a whole. I apologized to friends, colleagues and strangers.

As I have studied the Partners for Peace Website, I do not feel it reflects the program content accurately. In order to avoid reactions to the ones we had in Richmond, I suggest you advertise more specifically what you are doing so people will not be taken by surprise. The program was not appropriate for the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond and I suspect it would not be appropriate for other Interfaith gatherings as well.

Thank you for listening. I hope the feedback I have presented will help further your cause in a more constructive way.

Most sincerely,

Sandy Willis  
ICGR Program VP

**NOVEMBER PROGRAM: Film: ALBERT SCHWEITZER:  
Called to Africa, with Martin Doblmeier, Producer, and Dr. Michel B.  
Aboutanos, MPH, FACS**

### **Preparation:**

Preparations for this program originated under the leadership of Kusum Jain. She enlisted the help of Martin Doblmeier, president and founder of Journey Films and producer and director of "Albert Schweitzer: Called to Africa" and Michel B. Aboutanos, MD, MPH, FACS, VCU Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of the Injury Prevention Program and International Trauma System Development Program Division of Trauma/Medical Care at VVDU Medical

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Center. Kusum also was able to secure the meeting space at the VCU Commons Theatre as well as involve Sandi Poulson from the First Freedom Center. Unfortunately, Kusum was called away on family business a few weeks prior to the event.

**Flyer:** <http://www.icgr.org/called-to-africa.pdf>

**Venue:** VCU Commons Theatre

### **Format:**

Dr. Cliff Edwards, a Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at VCU, introduced Martin Doblmeier. Dr. Edwards had the distinct honor of being introduced to Albert Schweitzer personally as a graduate student at the University of Strasbourg. Martin introduced his film by sharing insights into the making of it which was following by viewing “Albert Schweitzer: Called to Africa”. After the film, Isabelle Richman Kinnard (stepping in for Sandi Poulson) introduced Dr. Michel Aboutanos who shared a power point presentation spotlighting his own “Albert Schweitzer-like” medical missions. Following his presentation, Isabelle guided the Q&A.

**Reception:** A catered luncheon reception was held prior to the program at VCU’s Shafer Court Dining Center, Compass Room.

**Committee Members:** Kusum Jain, Sandy Willis, Glenda Winborne

### **Overview:**

The reception provided a delightful opportunity to interact with and hear stories from our distinguished guests. The movie along with insights from Martin Doblmeier followed by Dr. Aboutano’s hands on stories provided an inspiring program. All in attendance left with the determination to go out into the world and make a difference.

The only disappointment with the program was there was not a larger number in attendance to hear it. Lessons learned: 1) Make sure there is enough lead time to fully publicize a program of this magnitude far and 2) Determine whether or not holding a program on a Saturday afternoon is advisable.

### **DECEMBER PROGRAM: "Reach Out \* COMMUNITY SERVICE \* Out Reach"**

#### **Preparation:**

A flyer was created based on the needs of community service organizations from years past. ICGR members began hosting collection drives in their congregations and meeting places while the flyer was sent to community service organizations asking specifically what items they needed

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from the list. The organizations were also invited to send a representative to participate in the luncheon activity as well as receive the donated items. Collected goods were dropped off at the LDS church prior to the event or delivered the day of the event.

**Flyer:** <http://www.icgr.org/icgr-2009-12-10-program-flyer.pdf>

**Venue:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5600 Monument Avenue

**Organizations served:** William Byrd Community House, Safe Harbor, Resource Mothers Program, Hanover Juvenile Correctional Center, The Daily Planet, YWCA of Richmond

**Luncheon:** A pot luck luncheon was provided by the following faith groups: Bahá'í, LDS, Disciples of Christ, Hinduism, Jainism, Methodist, Judaism, Ekanar, Luthern

### **Format:**

After lunch, the collected goods were unpacked and separated by category at a set of round tables. Each category was then divided and distributed per organization request at another set of round tables. Representatives from the community service organizations mingled throughout and informally shared what their organization did and whom they served. The goods were either gathered and delivered that day brought or picked up the next.

**Organizer:** Sandy Willis

### **Overview:**

The overwhelming success of this event was due to the tremendous support and participation of the ICGR members. It was a big group effort.

This format works very well, in that we can collect, meet with members from those organizations, distribute items, and have donations delivered all in one session.

### **JANUARY PROGRAM: Interfaith Dialogue: "Enlightenment through Prayer and Meditation" with Moderator, Midge Falconer.**

“Interfaith Dialogue refers to cooperative and positive interaction between people of different religious (i.e., "faiths") and spiritual or humanistic beliefs, at both the individual and institutional level with the aim of deriving a common ground in belief through a concentration on similarities between faiths, understanding of values, and commitment to the world.” (Wikipedia)

### **Preparation:**

Each organizational representative was invited to bring 10 members from his/her faith group to participate in the dialogue. The topic of prayer was selected and three questions were identified

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to help develop the topic. These questions were prepared as a series of progressive questions which would lead people to speak from their heart. A seating chart was arranged so each table would host members from a different faith. Ten table hosts were selected.

**Flyer:** <http://www.icgr.org/2010-01-14-program-flyer.pdf>

**Venue:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5600 Monument Avenue

**Dinner:** Catered by Zen Asian Bistro, cost \$12.50

### **Format:**

Midge Falconer moderated the event, introduced Interfaith Dialogue etiquette and set the tone for the meeting. Table discussions were led by the table host at each table by asking the three pre-determined questions. Before the end of the evening, Midge conducted the oral report portion of the event where each table shared what was learned. The results were recorded on the chalkboard. Sandy Willis gave the concluding statements.

**Committee Members:** Sandy Willis, Midge Falconer

### **Overview:**

The Interfaith Dialogue program provided a unique hands-on opportunity to foster “Understanding, respect and cooperation among the various religious faiths”. As the program progressed, something tangible transpired among the group. A spiritual feeling of unity filled the room. Love could be added to the list along with understanding, cooperation and respect.

The Interfaith Dialogue format should continue to be used and explored as a mean of reaching greater spiritual awareness.

### **FEBRUARY PROGRAM: 43rd Annual Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Awards Ceremony and Dinner**

(see Brotherhood/Sisterhood Committee Report)

### **MARCH PROGRAM: Panel Discussion: "What is the Role of Race in Religions Today?"**

### **Background**

The evolution of this program is a story of its own. It began the summer of 2009 with an invitation to Dr. Mark Wood to be a part of a panel discussion on the topic of race and religion coupled with an offer to hold the event at VCU. This was followed by personal contact with Marvin Perkins. When VCU space could not be found in order to hold the event in January as originally scheduled, it became necessary to change the date to March. Isabelle Kinnard Richman was scheduled to be a part of the original March program and was extended the

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invitation to be the moderator for the panel discussion. With her interest came a full co-sponsorship with the First Freedom Center. Her insights led to invitations to Reverend Tyrone Nelson and 'Aqila Mujahid to join the program which resulted in a distinguished panel facilitated by a distinguished moderator.

**Flyer:** <http://www.icgr.org/2010-03-25-icgr-race-and-religion-flyer.doc>

**Venue:** VCU Student Commons, Richmond Salons (Second Floor, Room 206)

**Cosponsored by:** Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, First Freedom Center and Virginia Commonwealth University Religious Studies Program

**Moderator:** Isabelle Kinnard Richman, JD, PhD, Vice President for Education, First Freedom Center

### **Panel members**

- 'Aqila Mujahid: Founder, American Muslim Women's Association
- Reverend Tyrone Nelson: Pastor, Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, one of Style Weekly's 2010 "40 under 40"
- Marvin Perkins: Author and Co-Founder, African-American Outreach Group, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Mark Wood, PhD: Chair, VCU Religious Studies Program and Associate Professor African American Studies

**Discussion topic:** Is race still an important dividing line in religions today? Or are other factors like gender, sex, ethnicity or economics more divisive? Have we attained post-racial America in our houses of worship?

### **Format:**

Isabelle introduced each of the panelists, which was followed by a statement by each member of the panel. Isabelle directed the panel discussion and then opened it to the audience for Q&A. The program concluded with a short performance from members of the Voices of Zion choir.

**Reception:** Cookies and drinks were served after the program.

**Committee Members:** Sandy Willis, Isabelle Kinnard Richman (FFC), Sandi Poulson (FFC), Dr. David Bromley (VCU Religious Studies Program)

### **Overview**

This program caught the attention of the Richmond Times Dispatch and it received newspaper coverage:

[http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/lifestyles/faith\\_values/article/RACE27\\_20100326-222602/333332/](http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/lifestyles/faith_values/article/RACE27_20100326-222602/333332/)

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The success of this event opens doors to future co-sponsored events with First Freedom Center and VCU Religious Studies Program.

### **APRIL PROGRAM: "The Power of Music -- Raising Money for Haiti" with donations for Doctors Without Borders.**

#### **Background:**

The scope of this program grew since its conception during the summer of 2009. When the Haitian need arose the program took the shape of a benefit concert. Interest expanded as more musical groups joined the cause. Involvement and support from the community helped to expand the outreach.

**Flyer:** <http://www.icgr.org/power-of-music-2010-flyer.pdf>

**Venue:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5600 Monument Avenue

**Mistress of Ceremonies:** Ms. Lisa Schaffner, former news anchor for WRIC-TV8, and now Director of Public Relations and Marketing for Richmond-based United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS).

**Music:** One Voice Chorus Ensemble, members of the Richmond Symphony Youth Orchestra Program, Brenner Pugh & Jon Nielson, The Virginia Benefit Chorale, Hal Miles, Barbara Knites, the "Hanover Ensemble," Ashley Peterson, and Matt Lauritzen

**Reception:** Due to the growing magnitude of the program, a finger food reception was provided both before and after the program rather than a dinner as originally planned. The following faith groups are asked to bring finger food suitable for a reception: Baptist, Episcopal, Sikhism, Catholic, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Presbyterian, Unity, Unitarian Universalist, Buddhism.

**Committee Members:** Sandy Willis, Mike Greenberg, Rosetta Stone, Midge Falconer, Sharon Clayton, Annette Khan, Glenda Winborne

#### **Overview:**

The magnitude of this program grew with increased support throughout the community. New ways of advertising were identified through richmond.com which is part of the Zvents Media Network. With 501-c(3) status on the horizon, the potential to raise money next year for ICGR is viable. The Richmond Benefit Chorale has offered to be the sole provider of the music for such an event.

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**MAY PROGRAM: President's Dinner/ "End of Year CELEBRATION and  
New Officer INSTALLATION"**

**Venue:** The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5600 Monument Avenue

**Dinner:** Potluck Dinner provided by members of the Board

**Program Highlights:** Moderated power point presentation of 2009/2010 Programs

**Music:**

- **"Let There Be Peace on Earth"**, written by Vince Gill, sung by Brianna Magnusen, accompanied by Sandra Holzbach
- **"Grateful"**, written by Bianca Merkley, sung by Mahri Jones & Tim Peterson (guitar)
- **"All You Need is Love"**, written by John Lennon & Paul McCartney, sung by Mahri Jones & Tim Peterson (guitar)

**Installation Ceremony:** President Brad Anderson, Richmond Virginia Stake President, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

**Committee members:** (in the absence of Kusum Jain) Sandy Willis, Annette Khan

**2009/2010 PROGRAM AND EVENTS THANK YOU!**

Thank you to all who worked on the monthly programs and related events. Thank you to all who supported them through their attendance. Thank you for nurturing spirituality in your lives and for using it as the medium of communication as we work together and get to know one another better. Thank you for being a part of the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond. I believe the strength and effectiveness of ICGR comes through our religious diversity and I believe it is our religious diversity that unites us.

**Spirituality** can refer to an ultimate or immaterial reality;<sup>[1]</sup> an inner path enabling a person to discover the essence of their being; or the "deepest values and meanings by which people live."<sup>[2]</sup> Spiritual practices, including [meditation](#), [prayer](#) and [contemplation](#), are intended to develop an individual's inner life; such practices often lead to an experience of connectedness with a larger reality, yielding a more comprehensive [self](#); with other individuals or the human community; with [nature](#) or the [cosmos](#); or with the [divine](#) realm.<sup>[3]</sup> Spirituality is often experienced as a source of inspiration or orientation in life.<sup>[4]</sup> It can encompass belief in immaterial realities or experiences of the immanent or transcendent nature of the world. (Wikipedia)

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**DISCOVERING MANY FAITHS**

*Submitted by Midge Falconer, DMF Chair*

The mission of Discovering Many Faiths is to enable participants to gain insights and appreciation of diverse Faiths through education, interfaith dialogue, and visitation to various places of Worship.

**Committee Members**

Midge Falconer, Chair	Glenda Winborne, Coordinator of Logistics with Univ. of Richmond
Sharon Clayton, Secretary	Kusum Jain 2009-2010 ICGR President
Sandy Willis, Vice President - Programs	Annette Khan, Technical Support
Camisha Jones, Representative, Office of the Chaplaincy at Univ. of Richmond	
Josh Dickerson, Representative, Office of the Chaplaincy at Univ. of Richmond	
DMF Committee Members: Ann Loxterman, Lynn Johnston, Virginia Hudert, Barbara Kipreos, Anne Woods	
ICGR Members Assisting: Trevan Osborn, Wands Ellis, Jean Dyson, Jeff Clark, S Dev Wahlia, Pat Mays, Kim Hippchen, and Ginny McEachern	

**Meeting Place**

Keller Hall Reception -Room at the University of Richmond 6:30pm-9:00pm  
There were four featured faiths this year.

**Discovering Many Faiths 2009-2010 Season 3 Schedule**

DATE	Featured Faith	Moderator
Thursday Oct 1, 2009	Hindu	<b>Sandra Poulsen</b> <i>First Freedom Center Outreach programs coordinator</i>
Thursday Nov. 5, 2009	Unity	<b>Ali Farouk</b> <i>Policy Analyst, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy</i>
Thursday * Dec 3, 2009	Buddhist	<b>Santa Sorensen</b> <i>Conflict Resolution Specialist</i>
Thursday Feb. 4, 2010	Disciples of Christ	<b>Jonathan Zur</b> <i>President and CEO of Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities</i>
Thursday Mar. 4, 2010	Zoroastrian	<b>Mark Wood</b> <i>Coordinator of the VCU Religious Studies Department</i>

\*Due to unforeseen circumstances the Buddhist presentation scheduled for Dec 3 was canceled. We plan on offering this presentation in the 2010-11 season.

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### **Attendance**

Once again the range of participation was good. With a slight increase from last year, the range was 40 -80 participants, with approximately 12 attendees who attended the entire series. This year we had an increase in general population attendees, and it was particularly gratifying to note that interest from University of Richmond students increased.

### **Co-Sponsor update**

The Office of the Chaplaincy at the University of Richmond had several personnel changes. The first was the installation of a new Reverend – Rev. Craig Kocher. He has been very supportive of the DMF program and assigned two of his staff to work with us –Camisha Jones and Josh Dickerson. Sharon Clayton, Glenda Winborne and Midge Falconer met with Camisha and Josh to coordinate each DMF presentation. This collaboration was crucial to this season success. We met four times to evaluate, collaborate and make improvements. It was a delight to work them. They will be missed as both Camisha and Josh will not be continuing next year with the Office of the Chaplaincy.

### **General information**

DMF program received very high praise from both panelists and program participants.

Here are some quotes from the attendees' evaluation forms

1. *Wonderful and informative, very much enjoyed it.*
2. *Thank you for all the efforts to do this evening café, secondly to all those who give of their time and energy to connect in this way with other faiths.*
3. *Very mind/ eye opening. I gained good ideas to add to my knowledge. So this was time well spent.*
4. *Having panel members that are knowledgeable in their tradition but basically 'everyday people' makes this format very meaningful.*
5. *Please keep this 'discovering' going. Even if you have to have 'replays' there is always something new to present.*

DMF has just completed its third year. Over the past three years 14 Faiths of ICGR have been featured. All 14 presentations were well received and well done. Each featured faith has presented well thought out educational and interesting panel presentation. This was not by accident Each DMF committee member who agreed to be a convener did an excellent job coordinating the panelists, moderators and the MC. This was not always an easy task but the convener called upon their determination and commitment to get the job done. The result was a successful year of learning, sharing and connecting to each other.

During table time at The Café, many participants became so engrossed in the dialogue that when the second round café time was up, the conversation continued. Participants lingered, even though it was late - no one wanted it to end.

This year we invited members of ICGR Affiliate organizations to help with DMF by being Moderators:

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Sandy Poulsen	Outreach Program Coordinator for First Freedom Center
Ali Farouk	Policy Analyst - Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Jonathan Zur	President/CEO of Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities
Mark Wood	Professor & Coordinator, VCU Religious Studies

All the Affiliate member moderators brought their expertise to help enhance the DMF experience. Thank you for contributing your time and skill to DMF. We are grateful to the four of you for your contribution to DMF.

Special Thanks to The Office of the Chaplaincy for your co sponsorship. The DMF executive committee (Sharon Clayton , Glenda Winborne, Midge Falconer ) worked very well with the U of R representatives Camisha Jones and Josh Dickerson. It was a pleasure to work with you both and we appreciated your commitment to DMF. We wish you both much success in your new adventures and will miss working with you.

### **Proposed Featured Faiths for 2010-2011 Series**

Thursday October 7	Unitarian Universalist (confirmed )
Thursday November 4	Buddhist (proposed but not confirmed)
Thursday December 2	Seventh-day Adventist (confirmed )
Thursday Feb 3	Methodist (proposed but not confirmed)
Thursday March 3	Quaker (proposed but not confirmed)

Meeting Place: University of Richmond – Alice Haynes Room in Tyler Haynes Commons.  
Meeting time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm

One new development: DMF will be a Workshop option at the upcoming NAINConnect\* in Salt Lake City. Sharon Clayton and Midge Falconer will present Discovering Many Faiths program at this NAINConnect conference in July 2010.

*\* NAIN = North American Interfaith Network*

### **Looking Forward**

As we prepare for the 2010-11 season, we look to expand and improve the program. We have a new, more spacious location at University of Richmond. We have four new committee members, and we anticipate another exciting year of DMF programs. THANK YOU to the members of ICGR for all your enthusiastic support. See you on Oct 7 when we open the DMF series with the Unitarian Universalist faith community!

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<b>BROTHERHOOD SISTERHOOD YOUTH AWARDS</b>
--

*Submitted by Sharon C. Clayton, Co-Chair  
Brotherhood Sisterhood Youth Awards 2009-2010*

**Financial**

	<b>Budget 2009-2010</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Printing & Copying	825.00	547.26
Postage, shipping & delivery	150.00	154.53
Meals & Entertainment	400.00	524.44
Conf., conv. & meetings	600.00	647.00
Guest speaker	300.00	-0-
Misc., Other	100.00	81.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,375.00</b>	<b>\$1,953.84.</b>

The difference between the budgeted amount and the actual expenditure is largely due to the pro-bono services of our keynote speaker, Reverend Craig Kocher of the University of Richmond office of the Chaplaincy. We are indeed grateful for his services and his encouraging words to the youth honorees.

We appreciate Ann and Alan Loxterman's support of the Brotherhood Sisterhood Youth Award program. Their membership at River Road Church Baptist and sponsorship of the events save ICGR 50% on the cost of the facility.

Subway sandwiches were discounted but not donated as they were for the 2009 event. We appreciate the discount from the Subway Sandwich shop at the Walmart on Midlothian Turnpike.

Recommendations to minimize expenses in the future:

Printing & Copying costs can be reduced by sending standard forms to the Powhatan Correctional facility for printing in September. This includes the Student Honoree information and worksheet forms, parking information for the programs, Community service invitation, and Student Criteria.

Printing and Postage costs could be reduced. The initial mailing involves two letters per school, including the cover letter, student criteria and information and biographical worksheet. These are sent to the Counselor and Principals. Email is an alternative but several counselors have not responded to emails of phone calls. The committee chair will email counselors prior to the mailing in October to assess the response. Bulk mail is an option for this mailing as there will be more than 110 letters.

Meals and Entertainment: Food donations from members have always been generous. Donations from retail food stores are possible when we have a 501C3 status with our requests. Conference, conventions & meeting expenses are due to the facilities fees charged by River Road Church Baptist. An investigation in June 2009 into the feasibility of holding the BSYA

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events in a public school building revealed that the cost would exceed \$1,000 for a daily rate to use the kitchen, auditorium and one large classroom. A reservation of this nature would require a 501C3 status. Thus unless a church facility donates the space, ICGR will need to continue to budget \$650 or more per year for the Youth Award programs.

### **Program Events**

**Registration:** We are so thankful to Carol Bernard for enduring the WAIT at the Registration table for over 4 hours. Other Helpers were Sandy Willis, Sandy Willis' mother and John and Anne Bruckner. Ann Loxterman took care of many last minute errands and duties.

#### **Meet and Greet**

Organized by Midge Falconer and Pat Vaughn, the student meet and greet was attended by about 28 of the honorees. We are grateful for the support, attendance and contribution of time by Sybil Pemberton, College and Career Counselor for Highland Springs High School, Henrico County Public Schools and BSYA committee member. The work of John and Anne Bruckner is greatly appreciated as well as a recent volunteered Kathy MacKay.

Pat Vaughn developed a special interests slide for each of the Honorees. That was presented to the students during the Meet and Greet.

Several students made significant and heartwarming connections with each other. The student were moved to make a plan of action after the Appreciative Inquiry exercise and developed a plan for an Open Mic Haitian Relief Fund Raiser to be organized and presented by Brotherhood Sisterhood Youth Award Honorees.

Carolyn Bush, Secondary Student Activities' Specialist for Henrico County Schools and Sybil Pemberton, Scholarship and College Advisor for Highland Springs High School, have offered to assist the students to coordinate the program. DaQuan Love, Collyn Clark and Edna Turay made the announcement at the end of the Brotherhood Sisterhood Youth Award Ceremony.

### **May 2010 UPDATE**

DaQuan Love reported to Sharon Clayton that after several attempts to have conference calls with the students that expressed written interest in developing a fundraiser "open mic" program to benefit Haitian Earthquake relief efforts, only Lauren Birriel responded to the last call to coordinate the program. DaQuan Love and Lauren Birriel recommend that a group of Youth Award honorees be part of a steering committee to develop an advance plan for involving honorees in future projects. Although well intentioned, many of the students are already overwhelmed with school and extra-curricular activities. The students were excited about the planning on February 15 but did not respond to the leadership.

#### **Connections between Students and ICGR**

Mrs. Birriel reported that her daughter Lauren made connections with Edna Turay. They have decided to room together at University of Virginia in the fall of 2010.

One student honoree, whose mother is deceased, just happened to sit with a Hillary Cox of The Steward School. Hillary works with Camp Comfort Zone. Their relationship continues.

Jacketta Morton of Highland Springs Technical School and Chris Banks of Franklin Military School attended the Doctors without Borders Benefit Concert on April 15.

### **Dinner**

Reports from the kitchen were that there was plenty of food for the guests. Simplicity was appreciated by all. Membership donated the following with out of pocket expenses:

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22 plus lasagnas  
Money for salad  
26 dozen rolls  
Brownies

Approximately 187 people were served. Parents, families and honorees expressed support for a continuation of the evening dinner so that more family members could attend.

The Power Point presentation of the student honorees was shown during the dinner. Many parents and especially school representatives, who have attended other Youth Award events, were very complimentary.

### **Ceremony**

The processional and program began on time. Thank you, John Bruckner for organizing the processional. Our speaker received rave reviews. One student honoree is petitioning her Senior Class to invite Rev. Kocher to be their commencement speaker. The presenters were very articulate. We appreciate Dr. Jeffrey Clark and Ms. Helen Butler for being our narrators. Estimated attendance is about 350. 40 of 46 students attended. Two student certificates were picked up by the student's counselor and four were mailed to school counselors for presentation at the school.

### **Food Bank Collection**

Ken Lantz and Ann Loxterman took 145 pounds of food to the Central Virginia Food Bank on Tuesday, Feb 16. That is less than last year, yet we had a response.

Recommendation of Co-Chairs for future Youth Award events:

- Planning for the February 2011 event should begin in June and July before the August 5, 2010 ICGR Planning Retreat.
- An evening event should be planned.
- Meet and Greet should continue
- Student honorees and parents should be personally contacted about the Meet and Greet, Dinner and Ceremony.
- Student honorees should be involved in preliminary planning for a joint project.
- Power Point presentation of students during dinner allows guests to get a glimpse of the student's interests
- Involve School Counselors by email and blog for ideas on streamlining the process.
- Involve past BSYA student honorees and parents by email and invite to participate on committee.

Items to address for the future of the program :

- Cost – invitation to go by email or bulk mail if possible
- Get Student & Parent phone numbers and emails on information and worksheets
- Scholarships
- Student follow up activity
- Food drive with the ceremony. Should we have it?
- How much of the bio to include in the printed program and how much to include in the narration.
- Nomination worksheet questions

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Pat Vaughn will continue to serve on the BSYA committee but has stepped down as the Co-Chair of the BSYA Committee. Thank you Pat for your service and support.

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Sharon C. Clayton,*  
*Brotherhood Sisterhood Youth Award Co-Chair*

### CLERGY BREAKFAST

*Submitted by Annette Khan & Sandy Willis*

**Committee Members:** Kusum Jain, Sandy Willis, Annette Khan, Virginia McEachern, Sharon Clayton, Midge Falconer, Ann Loxterman

The 2nd Annual Clergy Breakfast was held on April 7, 2010. Invitations were sent out to 140 clergy members and friends from the E-vite electronic invitation system, and 160 printed invitations were also sent. Most received both e-vites and snail mail invitations. About 25 guest clergy and laypersons attended the breakfast, along with about 20 ICGR members. Next year, we hope the organizational and congregational representatives will assist with the invitation process to ensure a larger turnout.

The Honorable William T. "Bill" Bolling, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia was our guest speaker this year.

We held the program at the Wingate by Wyndham hotel at 13991 North Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23233. Kusum had made the arrangements with the current owner, who is a relative of the late Colonel Bhajwa, a long-time former ICGR member.

#### **Clergy Breakfast: Program Vice President's Spotlight**

*Given by Sandy Willis on April 7, 2010*  
*(Submitted by request)*

*I address you as men and women of vision and faith and invite you to catch the vision of what the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond is all about. I will do this by sharing with you some of our programs.*

*In order for this to be effective, I invite you to step outside the box of your faith and into the circle of Interfaith.*

*Now don't worry, I am not going to ask you to stay there! I know your hands are already full. My hope is that you can have an Interfaith experience in a short amount of time.*

*Before I go on, I invite you to think of three words*

- *UNDERSTANDING*
- *RESPECT*
- *COOPERATION*

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*And I invite you to ask yourself three questions:*

- *What purpose does it serve?*
- *Who is served?*
- *What difference does it make?*

### **Brotherhood/Sisterhood Awards**

*The first program I invite you to is the oldest program ICGR is known for – the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Awards. This year ICGR hosted its 43<sup>rd</sup> ceremony at the River Road Church Baptist.*

*The Brotherhood/Sisterhood award recognizes and honors area high school seniors or juniors for community service and personal excellence.*

*Specific criteria considered are:*

- *Ability to relate to others of different gender, race or religion;*
- *Ability to act as a voice of reason in potentially confrontational situations;*
- *Empathy with, and understanding of those with limited physical and/or emotional capabilities;*
- *Participation in activities that improve human relationships, and inter-group understanding, and reaches out to others both within the school or the greater community.*

*In short, these rising adults are recognized for their goodness.*

*As you stand inside this Interfaith circle:*

- *Imagine what it is like to spend hours and hours with people from different faiths working together side by side in preparation for this big event.*
- *Think of the day of the ceremony and picture yourself engaged in activities structured to honor these students who are recognized for their goodness.*
- *Now think of the ceremony itself held in a sanctuary filled with people there to support these rising adults. Special music fills the air, words of motivation are being spoken, recognition is given and challenges are being made to elevate these outstanding young adults to even higher levels of goodness.*

*Is your heart touched? Do tears come to you eyes? Do words like “inspiring” and “filled with hope” come to mind?*

### **Discovering Many Faiths**

*Now let me invite you to the University of Richmond campus and show you one of our more recent programs entitled “Discovering Many Faiths”. DMF began as an outreach education program and was created as a response to the desire to be connected. It is co-sponsored by the University of Richmond Office of the Chaplaincy.*

*As we walk into the room, you will see in front of you a panel of five members all belonging to the faith that will be the focus of the evening’s presentation. Each member of the panel will talk for about 7-10 minutes on a different aspect of their faith which are typically:*

- *History*
- *Beliefs*
- *Ceremonies/rituals/celebrations*

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- *Life Cycles*
- *The Role of Youth & Women.*

*You will find yourself seated in a room filled with round tables. That is to help facilitate the next portion of the program which is a World Café exploration of the topics touched on. Each of the panelists conducts a round-table discussion where their assigned topic is explored. You can ask questions and find out more about their faith and its application in their life.*

*At the end you will hear an invitation to attend a celebration or worship service, to interact directly with the Featured Faith community.*

*DMF is has just completed its third season. Five Faiths are typically invited to participate each season. To-date we have featured 14 faiths.*

*What happens at a DMF meeting?*

- *Walls of misconceptions are broken down*
- *Understanding is expanded*
- *Our own faith is strengthened*

### **Interfaith Dialogue**

*For our last Interfaith Program highlight, I invite you to attend the program we are having at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Monument Avenue. As you walk into the cultural hall you will find a room filled with round tables, much like this room we are in this morning. The room is set up for an Interfaith Dialogue.*

- *The first thing you will notice is diversity.*
- *Each faith represented in the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond has been invited to bring 10 members of their faith.*
- *A Moderator is directing the event and at each table you will find a table host to facilitate the discussion.*
- *The topic of the Interfaith Dialogue is PRAYER.*
- *Each table is asked a series of progressive questions which leads people to speak from their heart.*

*As the program progresses, you become aware that interesting things begin to happen. You begin to witness a feeling of unity that fills the room. Diversity is unified. LOVE is added to our list of words along with understanding, cooperation and respect.*

### **Community Service**

*We have been know in years past for our community service outreach.*

*I invite you to look at the flyers on your table advertising the upcoming Benefit Concert entitled "The Power of Music, Raising Money for Haiti.*

*As you have noticed, I have used the word invite many times throughout this ICGR program spotlight. Before you step out of the interfaith circle and back in to the box of your faith, I invite you to go back to your faith group and seek out a member of your congregation to represent your faith on the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond and get involved!*

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<b>COMMUNITY SERVICE</b>
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*Submitted by Sandy Willis*

We did not have a Community Service Chairman this year. However, as was done last year, one of the monthly programs was dedicated to Community Service. See December Program for details.

<b>DATABASE REPORT</b>
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**Report of the Database Manager for ICGR Fiscal Year Ending 5/31/2010  
(Including comparison with FY 2008 and 2009)**

Fiscal Year	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>
Database total number:	356	349	346
1. Congregations	73	58	60
2. Members	270	266	263
a. Board Members	42	34	35
b. Organizational Reps	20	20	20
Alternates	8	4	5
c. Cong. Reps & Alts	79	55	43
d. Individual members	183	185	190
(incl. several couples counted as single members)			
3. Affiliates	8	8	8
4. Individual Friends of ICGR	7	5	5
5. Faith Community Friends of ICGR	2	2	2
6. Interfaith Business Friends	2	2	3
7. Interfaith Education Friends	8	6	7
8. Interfaith Service Friends	7	7	7

FY 2009-2010 began with a database total of 349, and ended with 346. We gained 2 congregations this year, 32 individual members and 2 affiliates. We lost 16 members due to resignations.

I am grateful to Organizational Representatives and Alternates, and to other ICGR members who provided assistance in keeping our membership database up-to-date.

In order to maintain an accurate database **ALL** Organizational Reps. must contact every entity on the lists I give them to ascertain that **each item** in the database is correct. This includes phone numbers, email addresses, home address, congregation, etc.: plus all that I did not name. This has not been done by every Organizational Rep. in the past.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert McEachern  
ICGR Database Manager

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<b>HOSPITALITY</b>
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*Submitted by Virginia McEachern*

Hospitality Committee has been expanded thanks to Kusum. (I think she was responsible for this). I am very grateful for the new members- Virginia Hudert, Nancy Elaine, and Carol Goss. The four of us have worked well together. We purchased new white table cloths last summer which have been very nice to have.

The Sept 2009 kick off 80 Anniversary Celebration was a catered dinner bay the Zen Asian Bistro. October meeting was Jerusalem Women Speak at University of Richmond - there was no meal at this meeting November meeting was the Albert Schweitzer film: Called to Africa held at VCU- with no meal served. December meeting was the Community Service out reach at the LDS Church and a pot luck lunch was provided by ICGR faith groups January meeting was an Interfaith Dialogue held at the LDS Church and the dinner was provided again by Zen Asian Bistro again February was the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Awards held at River Road Church, Baptist and Buffet Dinner provided by ICGR member faith groups. March meeting was the Panel Discussion: What is the role of Race in Religion Today--Cookies and drinks only served Also in March the Clergy breakfast was held and breakfast provided by the Wingate Hotel April was a pot luck dinner at the Power of Music for the benefit of Haiti -Doctors Without Borders

At the meetings where food was served the Hospitality Committee saw that the tables had table cloths, center piece arrangement (of some sort). We provided ice, cups, plates and napkins. Set up was done and clean up followed, although sometimes there was help from others who just volunteered their services. For the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Award Dinner we had ICGR members who helped with serving and clean-up. Ann Loxterman provided the table center pieces for this occasion.

I really didn't know what to include in this report. I understand that Hospitality has \$75 in the budget. This is not really adequate in my opinion. There are many things that I do not request reimbursement for because of this. I have not kept records of what I spend but I think next year I will, then we will have a better idea as to what is needed. Some of the other committee members have bought things and additional food has been provided by people that were not really supposed to. This is just something I thought I would mention. I know many people pay for things out of their pocket also for ICGR.

Ginny

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**LIBRARY**

*Submitted by Sandy Willis*

The ICGR Library is located in a closet in the Relief Society Room (where the ICGR Board Meetings are held) at The Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints (5600 Monument Avenue). As there is not currently a librarian, we will plan to keep the 'library' open during board meetings.

The library holdings are also listed online and can be reserved.

**WEBSITE**

*Submitted by Bob McEachern*

The website has been kept up-to-date on a monthly basis.