

ICGR NEWSLETTER

January, 2012

Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond, Inc.
*a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit corporation **

"Respect and Dignity for All"

www.icgr.org

Interfaith Council of Greater
Richmond Presents its
January 2012 Monthly Program,
Thursday, January 19, 2012

"And then they came for me..." Pastor Martin Niemöller

**An examination of at-risk
faith-based communities.**

One version of Niemöller's Quote

- *First they came for the communists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a communist;*
- *Then they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a socialist;*
- *Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out - because I was not a trade unionist;*
- *Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out - because I was not a Jew;*
- *Then they came for me - and there was no one left to speak out for me.*

6:30 p.m. Reception (light refreshments)
(ICGR Members - please bring light snacks to share)

7:00 p.m. Program

Seventh Street Christian Church
4101 Grove Avenue
(Grove and Malvern, see map Pg. 7)
Richmond, VA 23221

free & open to the public

GET WELL WISHES AND CONDOLENCES & CONGRATULATIONS

Ann Loxterman fell recently; she was at Healthsouth Rehab. Hospital but now is at home .

Emily Higgins. was the first Bahá'í member of the Interfaith Council and passed away in November, 2011, just 2 weeks shy of her 101st birthday.

Beth Coltrain passed away on November 11, 2011. She was the moderator of Presbyterian Women; church elder, and the Presbyterian Organizational Representative for ICGR.

Joan Elizabeth van Haelen Everett passed away on November 7, 2011, at Beth Shalom Nursing Home. Donations in her memory may be sent to Richmond SPCA, where Joan volunteered, along with so many other organizations and causes that she championed. Joan was a past president of ICGR, from 1998-1999.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Unity Christ Church of Bon Air – expansion/remodeling nearly complete – they should be ready to hold services soon. Even though they are remodeling, they have still contributed generously to the Interfaith Council.

*** Donations to ICGR are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by IRS rules and Regulations and any other applicable tax laws.**

ICGR SURVEY

The ICGR Board of Directors has created an Ad Hoc Committee to review the structure of ICGR. In addition to that, we have designed a survey to assist us in planning for the future of ICGR. We would appreciate your time to complete this survey along with your comments and suggestions.

If you do not have access to the internet, please complete the survey included in this newsletter and return to a member of the Executive Board, or mail to ICGR, Post Office Box 28166, Richmond, VA 23228-0166. If you prefer to complete the survey online, you have two options:

1) **Facebook users:** search for the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond PAGE (not our old Group) and click the SurveyMonkey button on the left to begin the survey. Or. go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Interfaith-Council-of-Greater-Richmond/309017345804176>.

2) Go directly to the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LFQ23VK> [only 100 online surveys are available – please respond quickly].

DEMOGRAPHIC INFO

Optional, although if included we may contact you for more information and details about your comments and suggestions.

Name: _____

Current status with ICGR (check all that apply):

- Member, \$15 dues paid
 Member, dues not paid yet
 Board Member – Organizational Representative
 Board Member – Committee Chair
 Board Member – Executive Board
 Newsletter recipient
 Faith organization (e.g. church, mosque, synagogue, etc.)

I attend monthly programs as often as possible

I attend 1-2 programs each year

I no longer attend programs

Comments:

For **all** the following sets of options please **RANK** your choices for each alternative on a **scale from 1 to 10**, with **10** being your highest ranking. Also, add any **comments** for each question that will help us in our evaluation.

FREQUENCY OF PROGRAMS: The current constitution/bylaws requires 10 meetings. However, attendance has been low at recent meetings. What do you think is the best schedule?

Rank	Alternative Meeting Schedules
	Monthly, for 10 programs/meetings from September to June
	Alternate months, for 5 programs/meetings
	Only 3-4 programs
	Other: _____

Comments in next column

Comments:

DAY OF MEETING: Meetings have traditionally been held on the third Thursday of the month. What is your preference?

Rank	Day of Week for Meetings
	Weekday
	Weeknights
	Saturday
	Sunday

Comments: (e.g. Which are best for you? Which are not available for you?)

TIME OF PROGRAMS/MEETINGS: Several years ago, programs/meetings alternated between noontime and evening meetings. Last few years, we held evening meetings.

Rank	Time of Day for Meetings
	Noontime (11:30-1:30)
	Late afternoon (3:30-5:30)
	Evening (6:00 – 8:00)

Comments:

LENGTH OF PROGRAMS/MEETINGS: The program/meeting portion of the evening typically begins at 7:00 p.m. and ends around 8:30 p.m. Is this meeting length:

Rank	Length of Current Programs/Meetings
	Too short?
	Just right (1.5 hours)?
	Too long?

Comments:

CONTENT OF PROGRAMS/MEETINGS:

Rank	Program Content Choices
	Presentation regarding one faith at a time
	Presentation regarding several faiths (compare/contrast)
	Relevant issues pertinent to our faith communities
	Special Event/Programs
	Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Awards
	Clergy Breakfast
	Fundraising Concert
	Other: _____

Comments:

FORMAT OF PROGRAMS/MEETINGS:

Rank	Format Choices
	Guest Speaker with Q&A
	Panel Presentation
	Interfaith Café - Dialogue/Conversation

Comments:

Rank	Location Choices
	Member church (e.g. 7 th Street Christian Church, The Church of Christ of Latter-day Saints, etc.)
	VCU Commons or other location
	University of Richmond

LOCATION OF PROGRAMS/MEETINGS:

Comments (e.g. distance, parking...):

MEETING-RELATED ITEMS:

Rank	Rank Your Choices
	Pot-luck Dinner before program (e.g. at 6:00 p.m.)
	Catered Dinner before program (e.g. \$10-\$15 each)
	Include brief business meeting with announcements before the program
	Simple refreshments instead of dinner, e.g. cheese & crackers, cookies, and beverages

Comments: (next column)

Comments: (cont'd)

RANK YOUR PREFERENCE FOR THESE PROGRAMS:

Keep in mind, we would need one ANNUAL MEETING – so that members can elect the officers for the organization.

Rank	Preferred Content of Programs/Meetings
	Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Awards
	Discovering Many Faiths program
	Clergy Breakfast / Four Chaplains Program
	Community Service Program – collect items to contribute; invite organizations in need to speak / display info
	September “Kick-off” Meeting
	September Family Peace Festival – ICGR sponsored event
	May Annual Meeting – elections, annual reports, etc.
	June President’s Dinner – planned by the out-going President

Comments/Suggestions-add your own ideas:

Rank	Rank your Choices
	Annual Meeting / Membership Meeting
	Member Appreciation Program (e.g. dinner; open to members only)
	Fund-raising – concert
	Fund-raising – auction

OTHER EVENTS ICGR COULD BE HOSTING:

Other: (add and rank others that you know about)

VISIONS OF ICGR

On the evening of Thursday, December 8th, the ICGR Board meeting was followed by a dialogue/conversation about our vision, mission, future plans, etc. Here are just a few of our comments from the session, in no particular order, conducted by Midge Falconer. Even though it didn't start out as a brainstorming session, many ideas were presented. We wanted to share some of our thoughts for the rest of our members to think about.

What makes ICGR Unique?

- 20 faiths, grassroots, volunteers, diversity, non-clergy

Why Interfaith?

- Very special friends, depth of conversation, working together towards common goals, education, fulfilled, getting to know one another,

Purpose / Mission Statement:

- Current: The purpose of the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond is to develop understanding, respect, and cooperation among the various religious faiths.
- Add 'education', beyond one-on-one, add definition to the purpose
- Possible Change: The Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond strives to develop understanding, respect and cooperation among the many religious faiths.

Values

- Simplify current values list, add some values to mission or goals, be flexible, meet needs of community, use active voice, meet needs of the community

Community Needs:

- COMMUNITY
- Education – DMF, Family Peace Festival, Speaker's Bureau
- Acceptance vs. Tolerance
- Racial reconciliation
- Support refugees
- Reach out to the community
- Do for others
- Work for faiths other than our own
- Address important issues
- Faith Club model – more localized, recruitment opportunities
- Involve other groups – non-proprietary organizations, more collaborations, "God and Us" organization (Wanda Ellis

suggested), Church Women United, Hope in the Cities, NCCJ, VICPP

- Research other models
- More education – fewer, better educational, relevant programs
- List places of worship for the community, clearinghouse / info about faiths
- Provide transportation to places of worship

Benefits of ICGR

Who benefits? We do, individuals and community

Our program used as a model (BSYA)

Planted 'seeds' in the community

FPF brings the community together

Vision for next 5 years:

- Strong organization
- Define who we are
- Work with the school systems
- Interfaith Center (see Wichita, KS)
- Brotherhood Sisterhood Youth Awards Scholarships
- More visibility, improve our PR, make ourselves known
- Bring in younger energy, perspective
- Smaller/local groups – e.g. Book Clubs at local bookstores, libraries
- Community Colleges
- Website – wider appeal, e.g. FaithinRichmond.org
- Festival of Faiths – see other models – Louisville has a week-long event; Weinstein Lecture events;
- Acts of Faith at local theaters & churches; who sponsors? How do we suggest film?
- Think tank on matters of faith
- Symposium on extremism

Recommendations:

- Blogs, Twitter, Facebook
- Small local meetings
- Films: Many Faiths, One God, Divided We Fall
- Community Service – ISH, CChasm,
- Adult Education Programming, Osher Institute
- MOPS – Mothers of Pre-Schoolers
- Cookbook: Delicious Diversity Cookbook for 21st Century
- November Concert/Fundraiser - Youth Presenters – All Faiths Thanksgiving Concert – Sharon has more ideas [don't do future concert/fundraising in April – tax season]
- Acts of Kindness (Syracuse) - add to Family Peace Festival.

ICGR SPEAKERS BUREAU

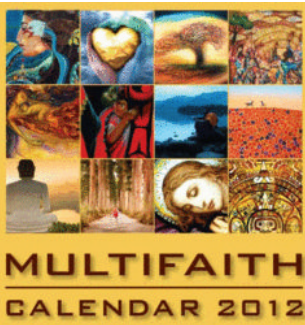
The Board approved the decision to form a Speakers Bureau in our last meeting held 12/8/2012. ICGR represents twenty faith traditions and is therefore ideally suited to start a Speakers Bureau (again?). Each faith tradition will have the responsibility of choosing their Speakers as well as their presentations. ICGR's role will be to facilitate requests. Draft guidelines for this Bureau outlining the roles and responsibilities of ICGR and its **participating** member faith traditions will be discussed before finalizing. Our web site will also reflect changes to accept speaker requests.

PARTNERING WITH HENRICO

ICGR was invited to the Henrico County Breakfast recently where Susan Stanley of the Henrico Education Foundation expressed the desire for organizations such as ICGR to partner. Interested members of our Board have shown the desire to pursue potential partnership with the Henrico Education Foundation and the Henrico County Public Schools. Malik has sent an email to Dr. Patrick Russo Superintendent Henrico County Public Schools and Mychael Dickerson, Executive Director Communications and Outreach, Henrico County Public Schools in this regard.

ICGR Board Meetings

- **Executive Board Meeting:** Usually the first week of each month at Martin's on Forest Hill. Malik will notify Executive Board members via e-mail.
- **Full Board Meeting (includes Executive Board members, Committee Chairpersons, and Organizational Representatives) are held Quarterly (September, December, March, June).** Next meeting: March 2012.



Multifaith Calendar 2012 \$15 - ICGR Fundraiser

This is a small fundraiser for the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond. You can purchase these calendars for gifts to teachers and community leaders. They are beautifully illustrated by award winning artists. The 2012 "Heart and Soul" wall calendar explores ways our hearts and souls are expanded, illuminated and shared. Includes information about 14 faith groups and 370 significant religious and cultural occasions. You can donate above the cost of the calendar & the difference will be tax-deductible.

To reserve your copy, email Annette Khan at annekhan@msn.com or call 909-7860 or call Sharon Clayton at 598-5952 or email at sclayton@cbsva.com.

Volunteers needed

We need volunteers from the General Membership!!! There are 15 different committees. Please try to sign up for at least one committee.

Open position

We still have an open position of V.P Finance on the Executive Board. He/She would be 1) responsible for monitoring contributions, 2) recommend investments of assets 3) obtain (or at least try to obtain) grants 4) arrange for a financial review 5) oversight responsibilities in regards to fundraising 6) help the Treasurer and other Executive Board members develop our yearly budget. Those interested should contact any member of the Executive Board.

Membership:

2011 - 2012 membership dues and donations to ICGR can be paid at any time. ICGR Members can bring annual dues (\$15 minimum suggested) to any monthly program or mail to:

Pat Mays, Treasurer
Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond
P.O. Box 8166
Henrico, VA 23228-0166

UPDATED CALENDAR FOR 2012

Following is a listing of programs for the remainder of 2012 year. Details will be provided as available. Please contact Rebecca or Malik if you have any suggestions or can help with the arrangements – better yet, join the Programs Committee.

DATE	TOPIC	LOCATION
Jan 19	"...and then they came for me..." Pastor Martin Niemöller. An examination of at-risk faith-based communities.	Seventh Street Christian Church
Feb 23	Brotherhood-Sisterhood Youth Awards	River Road Church, Baptist
Mar 12	Four Chaplains Clergy Breakfast	Roslyn Retreat Center
March 29	Festival of Many Faiths	
April 19	Celebrate Humanity through art, music and dance. ICGR Fundraising event with Virginia Benefit Chorale and others.	Second Baptist Church , River Rd. at Gaskins Rd.
May (tba)	President's Dinner & Reception Election and Installation of officers	
June (tba)	Orientation Board Meeting Planning session (to be determined by new President)	
June (tba)	Retreat	

Interfaith Calendar for January, 2012

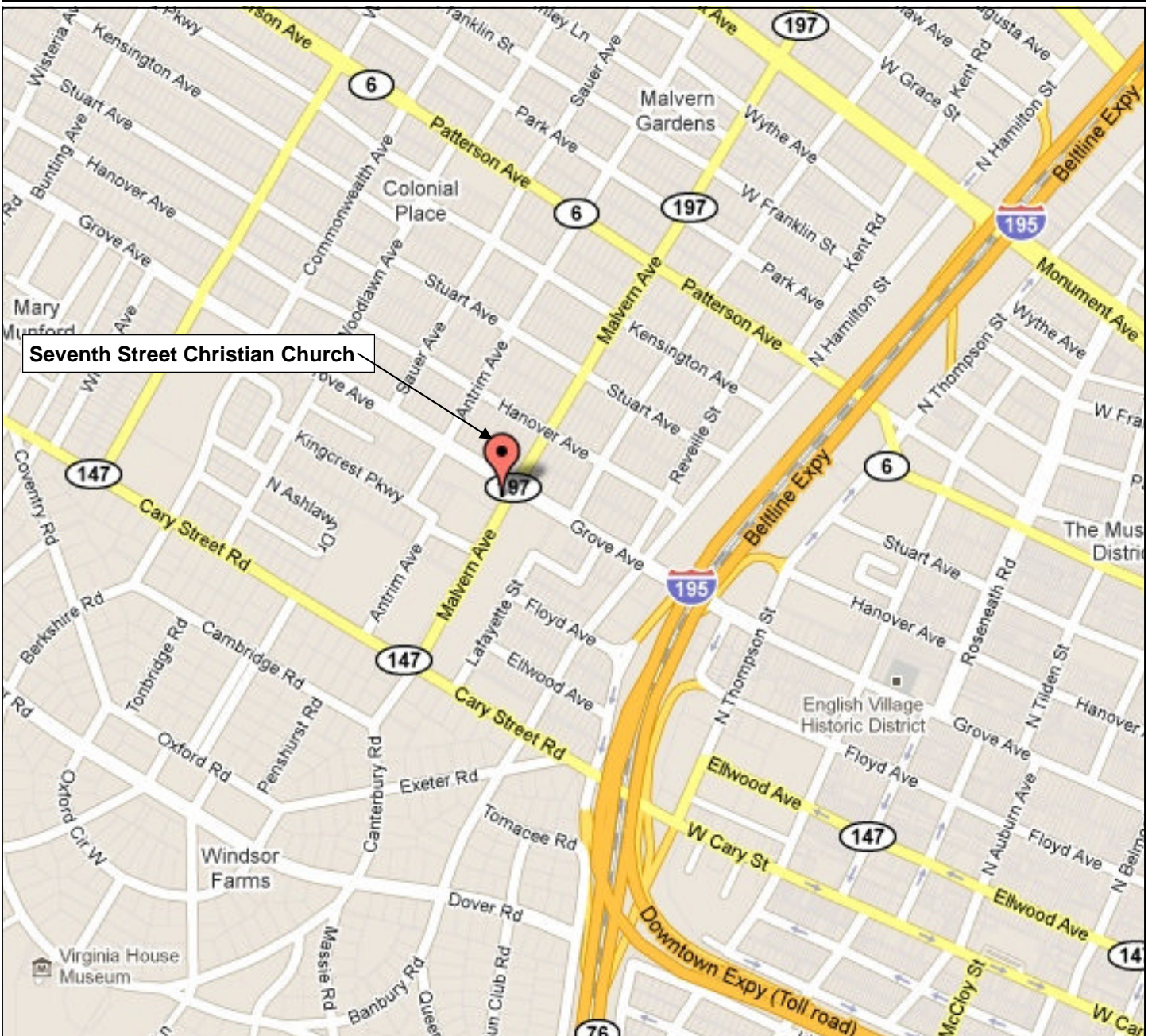
By Del Krueger at

www.interfaithcalendar.org

1	• Mary, Mother of God - Catholic Christian	8	• Baptism of Jesus - Christian
1	• Feast of St Basil - Orthodox Christian	9-12	• Mahayana New Year ** - Buddhist
1	• Gantan-sai (New Years) - Shinto	13	• Maghi - Sikh
1	• Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus - Orthodox Christ.	15	• World Religion Day * - Bahá'í
5	• Twelfth Night - Christian	17	• Blessing of the Animals - Hispanic Catholic Christ.
5	• Guru Gobindh Singh birthday - Sikh	18-25	• Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - Christian
6	• Epiphany - Christian	20	• Timkat - Ethiopian Orthodox Christian
6	• Feast of the Theophany - Orthodox Christian	23	• Chinese New Year - Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist
6	• Dia de los Reyes - Hispanic Christians	25	• Conversion of Saint Paul - Christian
6	• Nativity of Christ - Armenian Orthodox	28	• Vasant Panchami ** - Hindu
7	• Feast of the Nativity ** - Orthodox Christian		

* Holy days usually (Jewish-always) begin at sundown the day before this date.

** Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.



INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF GREATER RICHMOND
 POST OFFICE BOX 28166
 HENRICO, VA 23228-0166

“Let peace encircle all the world, Let us walk hand in hand, A living bond of unity, A voice from land to

Brotherhood/Sisterhood Youth Award News

The Brotherhood Sisterhood Youth Award Ceremony will take place Thursday, February 23, 2012 at The River Road Church, Baptist., 8000 River Road. The ceremony will take place in the sanctuary at 7 pm. Prelude music will be provided by the Mills E. Godwin String Ensemble directed by Ms. Veronica Johnson. The Choral music will be provided by the Highland Springs High School Choir/Ensemble directed by Dr. Alvin Campbell. **The keynote speaker will be Ms. Adele Johnson, the Executive Director of the Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation Inc. and President of Richmond’s One Voice Chorus.**

The dinner will take place at 5:30 pm. The BSYA committee decided to limit students to two guests because seating capacity in the River Road Church Fellowship Hall is limited to 180. We are aware that honoring fire regulations is paramount in our decision to limit number of guests.

Student nominations from 41 of 54 schools have been received. We have two young men originally from Myanmar (Burma) who are recent immigrants to the United States as honorees. In true Interfaith fashion, they are from two very different schools. One young man is Christian and the other is Buddhist. It is a real privilege to read about each of these students. Editing Assignments will be made before the New Year.

We need a volunteer to create the Power Point presentation. If you are willing to take on this job, please contact Sharon Clayton at 598-5952 or sclayton@cbsva.com to discuss this task. The Power Point is used during the dinner to introduce the students to the audience.

FOOD FOR BYSA DINNER: The same menu as the last few years is planned: lasagna, green salad, rolls and dessert. Sharon Clayton is asking members their preference regarding making a tax-deductible contribution of \$15-\$20 to have food purchased in bulk and prepared at River Road Church, or buying the food themselves, as assigned, preparing it at home and then bringing it to the church. Please contact Sharon at 598-5952 or sclayton@cbsva.com with your preference. We will also seek donations from local retailers such as Kroger, SAMS, Walmart, Martins, Costco and Carrabbas.