

Coming up next month:

Inner Disarmament Workshop: Communication Skills for the 21st Century

*Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Oct. 14-16, 2005
Cleveland Buddhist Temple
1573 E. 214 St., Euclid, OH
(Corner of Euclid Ave. and E. 214 St.)*

SENSEI ROBERT JOSHIN ALTHOUSE began teaching his Inner Disarmament workshops in late 2001. This hands-on workshop teaches specific communication skills. Participants gain confidence in their ability to communicate in difficult situations. They learn to bring more precision to their emotions by resting in an awareness free of all judgments. Althouse teaches the power of empathic listening through experiential role playing exercises. Participants learn valuable skills for working within organizations, churches, businesses and families.

Friday, Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m.: Public Talk: "Inner Disarmament: Creating an Enlightened World." Suggested donation: \$10.

Saturday, Oct. 15/Sunday, Oct. 16, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.:
Inner Disarmament Workshop Sessions. Fee: \$175; \$150 for BPF National members (workshop fee includes donation for Friday public talk.).

Space is limited. For more information or to reserve a place, call Dean Williams at 440/537-7104.

Robert Joshin Althouse is an ordained Buddhist priest and Zen teacher in the White Plum Lineage tradition. In 1992 he founded the Zen Center of Hawaii. In 2004, he founded the Chicago's Zen Community of Oak Park (www.zencommunity.org).

Sensei Althouse is a member of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship Board of Directors.

The Cleveland Chapter of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship
<http://members.cox.net/bpfcleveland>

Prayer for Peace:

An ecumenical remembrance event

*Scripture, prayer and music
in remembrance of the events of
September 11, 2001
and in support of
mutual respect and peace.*

*Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
First Unitarian Church of Cleveland
21600 Shaker Boulevard, Shaker Heights OH*

**Organized by the Cleveland Chapter of the
Buddhist Peace Fellowship**

Program Overview

Opening Remarks: Ms. Jayashree Y. Bidari, MA, JD

Presenters:

Sikh: Mr. Paramjit Singh

Sufi: Rev. Sarah Weiss, MA, LMT

Christian: Sister Donna Kristoff

American Indian: Mr. Robert Roche

Hinduism: Dr. Chaya Swamy

PAND: Mark George, DMA

Islam: Dr. Ali AlHaddad

Judaism: Rabbi Bruce Abrams

Buddhism: Rev. Dean Williams

Closing Remarks: Mr. Tom Leonhardt

Fellowship and light refreshments in the Church Hall

Jaya Bidari is an immigration attorney representing area businesses and immigrants. She is a volunteer for Guiding Eyes, Cleveland Clinic Hospice and victims of domestic violence. She is a student with Jewel Heart Cleveland, which traces its lineage through the Tibetan Gelugpa school of Buddhism. She is a founding member of the Cleveland Chapter of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship.

Tom Leonhardt co-directs Hope House on Cleveland's West Side. He and his partner, Carolyn Horvath, are Reiki Master Teachers and retreat leaders. They belong to the Still Water Sangha which meets at various sites on Cleveland's West Side. Leonhardt is a founding member of the Cleveland Chapter of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship.

Buddhism

Representative: Rev. Dean Williams

Presentation: A reading from *Listening Deeply for Peace*, by Thich Nhat Hahn.

Prayer:

May all beings be happy. May they be joyous and live in safety.

All living beings, whether weak or strong,

In high or middle or low realms of existence, small or great,

Visible or invisible, near or far, born or to be born,

May all beings be happy.

Let no one deceive another, nor despise any being in any state.

Let none by anger or hatred wish harm to another.

Even as a mother at the risk of her own life

Watches over and protects her only child,

So with a boundless mind should one cherish all living things,

Suffusing love over the entire world, above, below

and all around without limit,

So let one cultivate an infinite good will toward the whole world.

Standing or walking, sitting or lying down; during all one's waking hours,

Let one cherish the thought that this way of living is the best in the world.

Abandoning vain discussion, having a clear vision,

Freed from sense appetites, one who is made perfect will never again

know rebirth in the cycle of creation of suffering

for ourselves or for others

Dean Williams is a Buddhist chaplain and an ordained priest in the Soto Zen Buddhist lineage. Besides leading the Jijuyu-ji Zen Group of Cleveland, Williams also teaches at the Mansfield Zen Sangha and the Zen Society of Wooster. On invitation, he teaches meditation to non-Buddhist groups and speaks about Buddhism to local groups and churches. Williams is a volunteer with Hospice of the Cleveland Clinic. He is a founding member of the Cleveland Chapter of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship.

Judaism

Representative: Rabbi Bruce Abrams

Presentation: A Lesson from the Prophets

Prayer:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

Cause His countenance to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

Lift up His face to you and bless you with peace.

Rabbi Bruce Abrams is actively involved in community affairs and interfaith activities. In partnership with inner city ministers and Imams he founded Goshen, a catalyst for redevelopment, building 50 homes and a senior citizen's center in one of the most blighted areas of Cleveland. He is a founding board member of Community Shares, which provides funding to grassroots non-profit agencies. Rabbi Abrams holds a BA in Psychology, Masters Degrees in Theology and Philosophy, Ordination and Doctor of Divinity from the Hebrew Union College.

Sikhism

Representative: Mr. Paramjit Singh

Presentation: 2004 Sikh Declaration of Guiding Principles for Civil Society, presented at the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Annual Conference, NY, NY, September 2004.

Excerpt:

"It is a transgression of the divine principle of unity in god's creation to profile and divide people into 'us' and 'them.'"

Further reading: *The Sikhs and Sikhism*, by W.H. McLeod
Sikhism, by Gurinder Singh Mann
The Guru Granth Sahib, by Pashaura Singh

Paramjit Singh was educated as an engineer in his native India. In 1962, he moved from Calcutta to Cleveland. In 1965, he earned an MBA from Case Western Reserve University. Singh is a past president of the Federation of India Community Associations. He is a founding member of Project Seva, a national organization to serve the under-privileged. He has served and continues to volunteer for many community associations and now counts himself as the longest living Sikh in Ohio.

Sufism

Representative: Rev. Sarah Weiss, MA, LMT

Presentation: The Message of Unity by Hazrat Pir-O-Murshid Inayat Khan

Prayer:

Send Thy peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting,
that our souls may radiate peace.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may think, act,
and speak harmoniously.

Send Thy Peace, O Lord, that we may be contented and
thankful for Thy bountiful gifts.

Send Thy Peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife
we may enjoy Thy bliss.

Send Thy Peace, O Lord, that we may endure all; tolerate all
in the thought of Thy grace and mercy.

Send Thy Peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a divine
vision, and in Thy light all darkness may vanish.

Send Thy Peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we
Thy children on earth may all unite in one family.

Sarah Weiss is a Shafayat (healing conductor/trainer) and a member of the Shafayat's Council in the Sufi Healing Order. Weiss works with traditional medical and mental health professionals to support their clients. She is a founding trustee of The Fraternity of Light, (a school of mysticism in the tradition of Pir-O-Murshid Hazrat Inayat Khan) a Kefayat (leader) in the Fraternity of Light Healing Tradition and a Siraj (minister) of the Universal Church of the Prophets. She also lectures at area universities and health care facilities and teaches courses in intuition and healing.

Islam

Representative: Dr. Ali AlHaddad

Presentation: A Reading from the Koran

Prayer:

In the name of God, the all-inclusive and ever-lasting Mercy.

Praise is to God, the Lord of all beings, the all-inclusive and
ever-lasting Mercy, the Master of the Day of Judgment.

You, we worship, and on you, we rely.

Lead us into the Straight Path, the path of those whom you have
blessed, and not those who incurred your wrath,
nor those who have gone astray.

Amen.

For further investigation:

What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam, by John Esposito,
Oxford Press.

Understanding Islam, by Christine Huda Dodge, Adams Media.

Dr. Ali AlHaddad grew up in Iraq in a Muslim family. He attended a Jesuit high school in Baghdad, where he learned about Christianity. He then studied medicine which has put him in close touch with all humanity. Dr. AlHaddad has spent the second half of his life in Cleveland, savoring the city's rich religious diversity. He is a member of the ecumenical organization InterAct Cleveland and of the group Religion of Peace, which seeks to teach fellow Clevelanders about Islam and the Koran.

Performers and Artists for Nuclear Disarmament

Representative: Mark George, DMA

Presentation: Klavierstück in A Major, Op. 118 No. 2 for piano,
Johannes Brahms

Mark George is Director of Distance Learning at the Cleveland Institute of Music. With his chamber ensemble, North Coast Trio, he was grand prize winner of the 1992 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. He is principal keyboard of the Cleveland Chamber Symphony and RED {an orchestra}. He is a part-time professor of music literature at Case, and has taught piano, music history and music theory at Baldwin-Wallace College, Mount Union College and Cuyahoga Community College.

Christianity

Representative: Sister Donna Kristoff

Presentation: A reading from the work of Thomas Merton

Prayer:

Almighty and merciful God, Father of all, Creator and Ruler of the
Universe,
Lord of History, whose designs are inscrutable, whose glory is without
blemish, whose compassion for the errors of humankind is inexhaustible,
in your will is our peace!
Grant us prudence in proportion to our power,
Wisdom in proportion to our science,
Humaneness in proportion to our wealth and might,
And bless our earnest will to help all races and peoples to travel, in
friendship with us,
Along the road to justice, liberty and lasting peace.
But grant us above all to see that our ways are not necessarily your
ways,
That we cannot fully penetrate the mystery of your designs
And that the very storm of power now raging on this earth
Reveals your hidden will and your inscrutable decision.
Grant us to see your face in the lightning of this cosmic storm.
O God of holiness, merciful to all,
Grant us to seek peace where it is truly found!
In your will, O God, is our peace!
Amen.

Sister Donna Kristoff is an artist and teacher and has been an Ursuline Sister for 45 years. For more than 30 years, she has counted Thomas Merton as a mentor. She is coordinator and secretary of the Cleveland Chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society.

American Indian

Representative: Robert Roche

Presentation: A reading from Earth Prayers

Prayer:

Oh, Great Spirit,
I pray for myself in order that I may be healed.
Oh, Great Spirit,
I pray for my close friend who is sick and needs help.
Oh, Great Spirit,
I pray for this world so that all these atomic weapons
And other bad things that we point at each other
Will someday soon all be destroyed.
I pray that adversaries will communicate
And all of the mistrust will be healed.
Oh, Great Spirit,
I pray for the environment.
I pray for its cleansing
And the renewal of our Mother Earth.
– Ed McGaa, Eagle Man

In 1992, Robert Roche co-founded the American Indian Education Center, an agency devoted to helping all Ohio indigenous peoples develop self-sufficiency, self-determination and self-esteem. Roche has been active in the American Indian Movement since 1969, when he was a volunteer with the original Cleveland American Indian Center founded by Russell Means. He is project director of the Red Spirit Circle, a Cleveland-area Native American drug prevention program. Roche also teaches the history and dynamics of the American Indian Movement at Oberlin College.

Hinduism

Representative: Dr. Chaya Swamy

Presentation: "World Peace"

Presenters: Jayanth, Vibha, Avinash, Ranjani,
Nishant and Amala.

Prayer:

May everyone be happy
May everyone be safe
May none fall on evil ways
Let the strong help the weak
Let universal peace be the goal
Om! Peace!Peace! Peace!

For further reading:

The Bhagavad Gita
Self Unfoldment, by Swami Chinmayananda

Dr. Chaya Swamy is a physician, composer and singer. She teaches Sunday School at the Chinmaya Mission at the Shiva-Vishnu Temple in Parma. She also volunteers at the Free Clinic and for organizations that assist the elderly and victims of domestic violence.