

Invitation and Information

FOUNDERS OF RELIGION



MODEL FOR HUMANITY

Views of distinguished scholars of
Aboriginal Spirituality, Hinduism, Buddhism,
Judaism, Christianity, Islam,
Sikh Religion and Humanism (Atheists and Agnostics)

Introduction to World Faiths
Spiritual and Multi-faith presentations, poems and songs
World Religions' Exhibition and Displays
Lunch, Refreshments and Dinner

Sunday, October 26, 2008
10:00 am - 6:00 pm
J. G. Hagey Hall, University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada



1-877-INFO-WRC

www.WorldReligionsConference.org

FOUNDERS OF RELIGION *MODEL FOR HUMANITY*



Distinguished scholars from various faiths and philosophical traditions will deliberate at the conference and present the beauties of their respective faiths and theme 'Founders of Religion - Model for Humanity'. Faith groups will present spiritual poems and songs, and set up displays.

You are cordially invited to this Multi-faith event on Sunday, October 26, 2008 at 10:00 am at the Humanities Theatre of J. G. Hagey Hall, University of Waterloo, Ontario. Complimentary Lunch, Refreshments and Dinner will also be provided. No Admission Charge.

R.S.V.P. Suggested

**Information & Public Relations
World Religions Conference 2008**

Local Phone: (519) 623-2786
Toll-Free: 1-877-INFO-WRC (1-877-463-6972)
Email: info@WorldReligionsConference.org

Or R.S.V.P. & Register online at
www.WorldReligionsConference.org

WORLD RELIGIONS CONFERENCE

Comments from some Dignitaries

"... This unique event - the largest multi-faith conference of its kind in Canada - brings together individuals from a wide range of religious beliefs The fact that you have been assembling in a spirit of dialogue and congeniality for almost three decades speaks to your commitment to foster mutual understanding, respect and acceptance and, thus to make the world a better place. ..."

(Prime Minister Stephen Harper)



"... We believe that mutual respect and a genuine desire for understanding are key to a peaceful world... The World Religions Conference embodies these very values as it brings together people of beliefs in a spirit of cross-cultural and inter-faith appreciation and acceptance. ..."

(Premier Dalton McGuinty)



"... Endeavors such as the World Religions Conference are vital for they demonstrate to the world that despite the richness of our differences, we have so much in common and can live together in a spirit of understanding and compassion. ..."

(Supreme Court Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin)



memories



memories

Speeches ● Discussion ● Spiritual Poems and Songs ● Food ● Religions' Exhibition

PROGRAM

October 26, 2008

Presided and Moderated by
Michael Melling
CTV News Anchor



An experienced reporter and anchor of CTV Southwestern Ontario news team. Had one-on-one interviews ranging from the Prime Minister of Canada to rock groups. Covered a variety of stories from the mass murders in Shedden, Ontario and the tensions in Caledonia, to lighter features on gliding to tattoos. Previously employed at Report on Business Television in Toronto, Michael holds an MA in International Journalism from Cardiff University, UK, and a Bachelor of Commerce from Queen's University. He also studied French and International Business at IECS Strasbourg, France.

Opening Session

10:00a ~ 12:20p

- 10:00a **Doors Open (Registration and Social)**
- 10:30a **Opening World Religions Multi Media Presentation**
- 10:40a **Welcome by the Presiding Chair**
— Michael Melling, CTV Anchor
- 10:45a **Readings from the Holy Scriptures - All Faiths**
- 11:01a **Opening Ceremony**
— Introduction of Speakers and Dignitaries
— Unveiling of the World Religions Conference Plaque
- 11:08a **Opening Messages**
— Mayor Brenda Halloran, City of Waterloo
— Mayor Carl Zehr, City of Kitchener
— Mayor Doug Craig, City of Cambridge
— Mr. Ken Seiling, Chair of the Region of Waterloo
- 11:16a **Welcome Remarks - On behalf of the President of Univ. of Waterloo**
— Dr. Deep Saini, Dean - Faculty of Environment, UW
- 11:18a **Messages from Guest Dignitaries**
— National, Provincial and Local leaders
- 11:32a **Introductory Remarks**
— Lal Khan Malik, National President, —
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada
- 11:38a **Introducing My Faith**
— Representative Speakers of All Faiths and Philosophies
(Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Aboriginal Spirituality,
Humanism, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism)*



Theme Session

1:20 ~ 4:45p

"Founders of Religion - Model for Humanity"

- 1:20p **Introduction to the Theme Session — Moderator**
- 1:24p **Islamic Perspective — Naseem Mahdi, Toronto**
- 1:39p **Islamic Spiritual Poem or Song — Ahmadiyya Muslim Students Group**
- 1:45p **Hindu Perspective — Dr. Raj Dubey, Waterloo**
- 2:00p **Hindu Spiritual Poem or Song — Brahmarishi Mission & Hindu Club**
- 2:06p **Sikh Perspective — Gursev Singh, Waterloo**
- 2:21p **Sikh Spiritual Poem or Song — Sikh Student's Association, UW**
- 2:27p **Aboriginal Spiritual Perspective — Myeengun Henry, London**
- 2:42p **Aboriginal Spiritual Poem or Song — Aboriginal Community of KW**
- 2:48p **Jewish Perspective — Dr. Daniel Maoz, Kitchener**
- 3:03p **Judaic Spiritual Poem or Song — Local Jewish Community**
- 3:09p **Coffee Break — Complimentary Refreshments and Social**
- 3:40p **Announcing rules of the Q/A Session — Moderator**
- 3:43p **Christian Perspective — Dr. David B. Perrin, Waterloo**
- 3:58p **Christian Spiritual Poem or Song — Local Christian Community**
- 4:04p **Humanist Perspective — Doug Thomas, Elmira**
- 4:19p **Secular Poem or Song — Society of Ontario FreeThinkers**
- 4:25p **Buddhist Perspective — Susan Child, Waterloo**
- 4:40p **Buddhist Spiritual Poem or Song — Local Buddhist Community**

(* The order of speeches was determined via random draw on Nov. 24, 2007)

Concluding & Interactive Session

4:46 ~ 5:45p

- 4:46p **Vote of Thanks - Recognition of Speakers and Volunteers**
— M. Amir Sheikh, Regional President, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at
- 4:52p **Open Questions Session with all Speakers**
- 5:40p **Closing Remarks — Moderator & Chair**
- 5:43p **Silent Multi-Faith Prayer — All Faiths**
- 5:45p **Complimentary Dinner and Social**

(Program Agenda Subject to Change)

Speaker Profiles

28th World Religions Conference



Representing Islam

Naseem Mahdi - Toronto

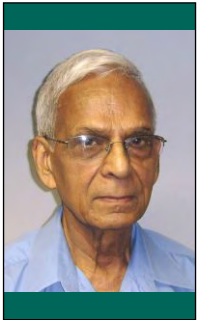
An inspiring presenter and scholar, Naseem is the Missionary In-charge and Senior Vice President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, Canada. Graduate of Islamic Studies, with a keen interest in world religions. Served the Muslim Communities in Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Canada. Chief Editor of the Ahmadiyya Gazette. Recipient of Governor General's Award for Community service. Strong proponent of interfaith dialogue, who has traveled across Canada each year to participate in numerous multi-faith events.



Representing Humanism

Doug Thomas - Elmira

Acclaimed writer, teacher, and columnist for Humanist Network News, Doug graduated from the University of Western Ontario, majoring in North American History and Literature. His articles have been published by the International Humanist and Ethical Union and by Humanist publications in India and Scotland. He is the Managing Editor of Canadian Freethinker Magazine, Director of the Society of Ontario Freethinkers, and a member of the Humanist Association of Canada.



Representing Hinduism

Dr. Raj Dubey - Waterloo

Brilliant speaker and scholar, Raj is a founding member of the Brahmarishi Mission of Canada and Spiritual Heritage Education Network of the Waterloo region. Translated, edited and compiled five publications related to the ancient Indian Philosophy. Gave numerous seminars and lectures on methods of knowledge, yoga and art of peaceful and harmonious living both in Canada and abroad. Former faculty member of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Waterloo.



Representing Christianity

Dr. David B. Perrin - Waterloo

An accomplished presenter and academic, Dr. Perrin is the President and Vice-Chancellor at St. Jerome's University, the public Roman Catholic university federated with the University of Waterloo. Holds a Ph.D from the University of Ottawa and a Licentiate in Theology from the Institute of Spirituality Rome, Italy. Authored several books and many articles on Christian spirituality. Past President of the international Society for the Study of Christian Spirituality.



Representing Sikhism

Gursev Singh - Waterloo

Teacher and motivational speaker, Gursev graduated from University of Waterloo and has a B.Ed. from Queen's University. Spirituality is one of his foremost passions. A musician who loves singing the hymns from the holy Guru Granth Sahib. In his free time he shares his singing and experiences at Sikh retreats, conferences, and congregations across North America. Gursev is a High School teacher in Kitchener-Waterloo.



Representing Judaism

Dr. Daniel Maoz - Kitchener

Engaging speaker and Jewish scholar, Daniel is member of both Orthodox and Reform Jewish communities of Kitchener-Waterloo. Professor of two university Jewish Studies programs. An active volunteer for the Chevra Kadisha (ritual burial) and for the YMCA Cross-Cultural Host Program over the past several years. Holds a Ph.D from France and M.A. in History. Widely published and internationally presents his research in Jewish Studies.



Representing Aboriginal Spirituality

Myeengun Henry - London

Aboriginal traditional counselor and member of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation. Graduate of the Indigenous Wellness and Addictions Prevention program at Canadore College. Nominee for the Premier's award and Student Leadership award. Current chair for the Aboriginal Circle of Education. Practitioner of Aboriginal medicine and ceremonies. Worked with the homeless as a street patrol front-line worker and coordinator for the Aboriginal traditional healers program at Anishnabe Health, Toronto.



Representing Buddhism

Susan Child - Waterloo

Susan is the founder of the Waterloo Riverview Dharma Centre, a non-sectarian Buddhist centre, where she is the spiritual coordinator and teaches Buddhism and meditation. A dedicated Buddhist practitioner, since 1990, Susan has been engaging in intensive study, and retreat practice in Asia, Europe and North America with respected Dharma teachers in the Theravadan and Tibetan traditions of Buddhism. She is actively involved with local interfaith groups and initiatives.

OUR PARTNERS

Disclaimer: Views expressed at this conference are those of the speakers and may NOT necessarily reflect the views of the Federation of Students or the University of Waterloo or any other organization.

ORGANIZERS



Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at
5 Elliot Street, Cambridge,
Ontario N1R 2J3



Ahmadiyya Muslim
Students' Association
Univ. of Waterloo & Wilfrid Laurier

Message from our Premier Sponsor

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at

*T*his conference was envisioned by the founder of worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, who claimed to be the divinely appointed Promised Messiah and al-Imam al-Mahdi^{as} in 1889.

*T*he Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at organizes it in many countries on a regular basis. Scholars of various religions express the beauties of their respective faith, in a peaceful and brotherly atmosphere.

*T*he Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at is an embodiment of the benevolent message of all world religions — peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God.

*I*n Canada, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at has been organizing this conference for 28 years.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at

National Head Office:
Bai'tul Islam Mosque
Maple, Ontario, Canada

www.ahmadiyya.ca
www.alislam.org

Some glimpses from recent World Religions Conferences



December 2, 2006: My Faith and Freedom of Conscience - Waterloo
Hon. Mike Colle, Ontario Minister of Citizenship presenting recognition



October 1, 2005: Basis and Concept of Salvation - Kitchener
Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper addressing the opening ceremony



October 2, 2004: Why Religion? - University of Waterloo, Ontario
Hon. Joe Volpe (Minister of Citizenship) addressing the opening ceremony



October 4, 2003: In Search of the Existence of God - University of Waterloo
Speakers representing various faiths at the Questions Session



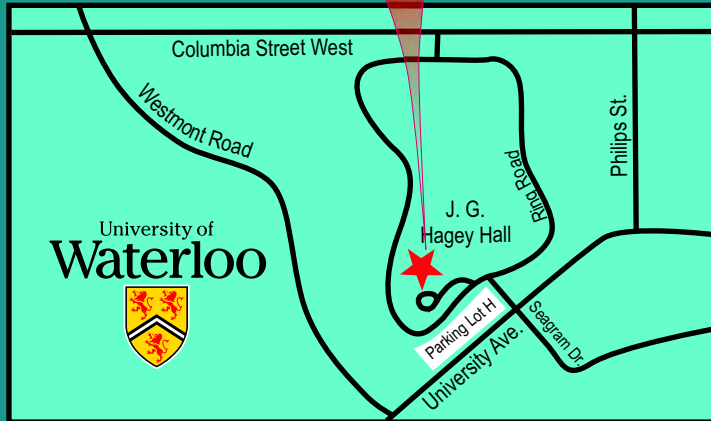
October 5, 2002: World Peace - What Religions Can Achieve - UW
Speakers Representing Various Faiths and the Moderator Dave Levac (MPP)

Topics covered and venues of past World Religions Conferences

- May 1981 — Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders
Brier Park School, Brantford
- Oct. 1981 — Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1982 — Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders
Brier Park School, Brantford
- Sept. 1983 — Life and Teachings of Various Religious Founders
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1984 — Concept of Salvation
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1985 — Human Rights in Religion
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1986 — The Rights of Men and Women in Religion
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1987 — Existence of God in Religion
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1988 — Life After Death
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1989 — World Peace
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1990 — Drug Abuse
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1991 — Solution of Modern Social Problems
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Sept. 1992 — Racial, Religious and Cultural Tolerance
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1993 — War or Peace - What Awaits Humanity?
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1995 — Family Values in Religion
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1996 — Role of Religion in the Future
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1997 — Are There Any Absolute Universal Values?
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1998 — Mankind in the Next Millennium
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 1999 — Morality in the Next Millennium
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 2000 — Changing Faces of the Family - Religious Perspectives
North Park Collegiate, Brantford
- Oct. 2001 — Reconciling the Existence of God & Human Suffering
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- Oct. 2002 — World Peace - What Religions Can Achieve
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- Oct. 2003 — In Search of the Existence of God
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- Oct. 2004 — Why Religion?
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- Oct. 2005 — The Basis and Concept of Salvation
Centre in the Square, Kitchener
- Dec. 2006 — My Faith and Freedom of Conscience
University of Waterloo, Waterloo
- Nov. 2007 — How Religion Can Protect the Environment
University of Waterloo, Waterloo



No Admission Charge
Complimentary Parking in Lot H
 (Guaranteed if you arrive before 12:00 noon)
www.worldreligionsconference.org
Toll Free: 1-877-INFO-WRC
Local Phone: 519-623-2786
Fax: 1-866-524-4621



Editing and Graphic Design Volunteered by Nabeel Rana
 Copyright ©2008 Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at
 5 Elliot Street, Cambridge, Ontario N1R 2J3

