

SHARING OUR RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS
A Festival of Faiths

**A variety of workshop presented by the religious traditions of Western New York
and organized by the Network of Religious Communities**

SUNDAY APRIL 29, 2007

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Stella Niagara, Stella Niagara, New York.

Worships offered on April 29, 2007

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Presenters: Sardar Rafiq Ahmad and Tariq Chaudari

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was established in 1889 by Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908). He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days, the Awaited One of the world community of religions (The Mahdi and Messiah). The Community he started is an embodiment of the benevolent message of Islam -- peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God -- in its pristine purity." It diligently defends Islam, and attempts to remove misunderstandings about Islam. It advocates peace, tolerance, love and understanding among followers of different faiths, and encourages interfaith dialogue. It firmly believes in, and acts upon the Qur'anic teaching: "**There is no compulsion in religion**" (2:257) It **strongly rejects violence and terrorism** in any form and for any reason.

BAHA'I

Presenter: Dr Emelia Phillips, Amherst Spiritual Assembly of Baha'is.

The Baha'i Faith is an independent religion founded by Baha'u'llah who Baha'is believe is the promise of all ages foretold by all the Prophets of the past. Its purpose is to unite humankind. Baha'is consider all religions are one and to be one of the same spiritual foundation and the purpose of religion is to unite the humankind.

BUDDHISM

Presenter: Dr. Jeanette Ludwig, is a member of the Mountains and Rivers Order of Zen Mountain Monastery in Mt Tremper, New York. She teaches at the University of Buffalo and sits with the Buffalo Zen Dharma Community in Buffalo.

After looking at the story of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, we will identify the key teachings that millions of Buddhists have used to guide their lives for 2,500 years. We will also briefly investigate **the** role that meditation plays for in the Buddhists, both lay and monastic.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Presenter: Dr. Steve Free, President, Buffalo Stake

The workshop will present basic doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It will include introduction to The Book of Mormon and beliefs about: the importance of family, the role of parents, Family Home Evening program, humanitarian Aid and welfare programs to help the poor.

HINDUISM

Presenters: Dr Dilip Sinha and Dr. Vijay Chakravarthy, Hindu Cultural Society WNY

The workshop will present the basic principles of Hinduism, why it is a misunderstood religion, and the common rituals and practices.

ISLAM

Presenter: Mr Faizon Haq, Islamic Cultural Association WNY and Dr. Bayram Arman, Muslim Public Affairs Council of the Niagara Frontier.

The workshop will present a basic and broad overview of the origin and tenants of Islam and as it relates to society today.

JUDAISM

Presenter: Rabbi Jerry Seidler, Temple Sinai and the Buffalo Board of Rabbis

This workshop will focus on three ancient pillars of Judaism: torah (teaching), avodah (service) and g'milut chasadim (acts of kindness) by focusing on three contemporary pathways to Jewish spirituality: eco-kosher living (the torah of human consumption), niggun (chanting as the service of the heart), and tikkun olam (repairing the world).

SIKHISM

Dr. Surjit Singh, Niagara Frontier Sikh Society

The workshop will present the emergence and evolution of Sikhism under the guidance and inspiration of Ten Human Gurus from mid fifteenth to sixteenth century, and how the religion tried to bridge the gap between various belief systems by showing that the essential truth was the same, and each religion tries its best to make better human beings.