

Network News

Network of Religious Communities

1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496 • Phone 882-4793 • Fax 882-3797 • www.ReligiousNet.org • ReligiousNet@aol.com

*Facilitating interreligious, ecumenical, and interracial cooperation among
judicatories, congregations, and religious organizations in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula*

November 2002

YOU are Invited— Annual Meeting & Program Nov. 21

M eet your interfaith neighbors and learn about the work and programs of the Network of Religious Communities at the Annual Dinner and Meeting to be held on Thursday, November 21, 2002, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Temple Beth Am, 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville, New York. The dinner, a choice of chicken or vegetarian pasta primavera, will be catered by Shepherds Restaurant and is by reservation only. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Anyone interested in attending should complete the reservation form on page 6 and return by November 15.

The Annual Meeting agenda will include: election of President, Treasurer, and Trustees; election of congregations and religious organizations to be represented on the Board of Governors; approval of the 2003 annual budget; and receiving of reports from various Network programs and committees. The Network President, the Very Reverend Allen Farabee, will preside.

A special program beginning at 7:30 p.m. is free and open to the general public. The focus will be *Women's Leadership Role in the 21st Century*, "A Religious Conversation." Helen Singh, a Professor at Erie Community College, will moderate a panel of interfaith women: Christine Kesterson, D.Min., Roman Catholic; Rabbi Jacqueline Mates-Muchin, Judaism; Sawsan Tabbaa, DDS, Muslim, and a representative of the Native American community.

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Network Supports WNY Muslim Community

R epresentatives of more than twenty denominations and religious organizations were present at a press conference held on October 1 at the Lackawanna Mosque, 154 Wilkesbarre Avenue, Lackawanna. The following statement was presented by The Very Reverend Allen Farabee, President of the Network of Religious Communities.

"At a regularly scheduled meeting on September 24, 2002, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Youngstown, the Board of Governors of the Network of Religious Communities of Western New York adopted the following statement:

'Be it moved that we as members of the Network would like to express our support of the Muslim community of Western New York. We value their contribution and recognize that the religious rights and freedoms of all are inseparably linked.

In further recognition of our responsibility to foster tolerance and understanding we agree to the following:

1) As the Network we will release a statement to the media acknowledging the contribution of the Muslim community and encouraging all to avoid any action or comment that would be discriminatory, hateful or divisive.

2) In our individual congregations, temples and mosques we will encourage mem-

*Cont'd on Pg. 7—Support For Muslim
Community*

President:

The Very Reverend Allen Farabee

Co-Executive Directors:

The Reverend Dr. G. Stanford Bratton

The Reverend Francis X. Mazur

Network News

Editor: Maureen Gensler

Guest editorials welcome

Please pass Network News on to others:

- Clergy Secretary
 Lay Leader Newsletter Editor

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**Network News is also
available at
www.ReligiousNet.org**

Network Co-Sponsors Interfaith Service For Peace & Unity One Year After 9/11/01

Members of many different religious communities gathered for an Interfaith Service for Peace and Unity one year after the terrible events of September 11, 2001. The service, sponsored by the Network of Religious Communities, the American Muslim Council, the Jewish Federation of Greater Buffalo and the National Conference for Community and Justice was held in the Atrium of Erie Community College, City Campus, on September 11, 2002.



The service included comments from three persons who had direct experience at the site of the World Trade Center. Words and

expressions of peace, unity, and hope were offered by representatives of Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Sikh, Unitarian, Baha'i, Native American and Christian religions. Periods of silence marked the times when the airliners struck the World Trade Center.

The service was a living testimony to the best of our religious traditions, enabling us to share our sorrow, standing with those who are inappropriately accused, lifting us from

despair to hope and empowering us to go forth again into the world to work for peace.

A Response to Remarks Made by Reverend Jerry Falwell on CBS's 60 Minutes

—Peter Allen Weinmann

President, Buffalo/Niagara Chapter, The American Jewish Committee

Recently, Rev. Jerry Falwell made some incendiary comments while being interviewed for CBS's 60 Minutes, referring to Islam as a "violent religion," and its prophet Mohammed as "a terrorist" and "war-like." Sadly, Falwell confuses fundamentalist Islamic terrorists with millions of peace-loving mainstream Moslems—at least two million whom are American.

Falwell's bigoted comments are simply and utterly destructive in a world where people of goodwill are trying to reverse others'

impulses toward extremism and intolerance. To smear an entire religion—and its millions of adherents—with such false and defamatory comments is wrong. Moreover, such religious hatred clearly violates Judeo-Christian teachings of charity, compassion, and justice. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that intolerance anywhere is a threat to tolerance everywhere. Falwell's comments—intolerant to their core—are anathema to anyone who desires God's great gift, the gift of Peace.

...Closer Together *Our Community Offerings*

A Service For Hearts, Minds and Souls
20th Annual Intercultural/Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Tuesday, November 26, 2002, 7:00 p.m.
Hindu Cultural Center
1595 North French Road, Getzville

**Please Bring a Donation
of Non-Perishable Food**

Sponsored by
Network of Religious Communities • National Conference for Community & Justice (NCCJ)
For information call 716-882-4793

Religious Leaders Seek Better Buffalo Common Council Reduction Plan

On October 3, 2002, Religious Leaders For Peace With Justice met at the Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 179 East Ferry Street, in Buffalo, New York. The following statement was released to the media.

“We are religious leaders serving congregations, mosques, temples and religious organizations in the Buffalo Area. We care deeply about the people who live in the City of Buffalo and its surrounding cities and towns. We are well aware of the financial realities facing the City of Buffalo, the County of Erie and the State of New York. We are committed to joining with all persons of good will to build a just, healthy and vital community and region.

Because we care deeply about the future of Buffalo and Western New York we believe we must oppose the proposition, which

will appear on the November ballot, to reduce the size of the Buffalo Common Council. As individual citizens we will vote NO on the referendum proposition. As religious leaders we will counsel the members of our congregations and religious organizations to vote NO on the proposition to reduce the Buffalo Common Council to nine members.

We take this action because we seek:

1. A plan that will strengthen our community rather than racially divide the City of Buffalo and Western New York.
2. A just and fair plan that, while reducing the size of the Buffalo Common Council, will ensure that every citizen has a voice and a vote that counts.”

Visit Us on the Web at www.ReligiousNet.org

Keep up with the news. Click on the calendar to find out about upcoming events. Learn more about us—our mission, our purpose, and our programs. Find out about our officers and the organizations represented on the Board of Governors. Download the Network brochure, bylaws, recent resolutions/statements/press releases, and current and past editions of *Network News*. Forget when the radio and television shows air? Look for the schedule of programs. It's all there.

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

2003 Week of Prayer For Christian Unity Resources Available

“We hold this treasure – this gift – in earthen vessels...therefore we do not lose heart...” 2 Corinthians 4:5-18

The Week of Prayer For Christian Unity is traditionally held January 18-25 and observed internationally. The annual theme and text are chosen and prepared by representatives of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and representatives of the World Council of Churches. The texts are developed, adapted and published for use in the USA by the Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute.

Resources are available at www.atonementfriars.org and may be printed in black and white. Resources on the website include: a brief history of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; an ecumenical celebration of the word of God; an exegetical reflection on the scriptural theme; a daily scripture and prayer

guide; homily notes; music suggestions; sample pulpit and bulletin announcements and press release; and suggestions for promoting and observing the WPCU.

Resources available in print are in color. Orders must be pre-paid and will be ready for shipment in mid-October. Print resources include: a full-color (11” x 17”) poster with theme art and scripture passage in English or Spanish; daily scripture and prayer guide; a full-color, four-page worship service; prayer card; and worship bulletin cover. For further information, contact Week of Prayer, Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, Route 9, PO Box 300, Garrison NY 10524-0300.

Environment and Religion

—*The Reverend Charles Lamb*
Member of the Youngstown/Lewiston Clergy Group
Retired NE Regional Minister of the Disciples of Christ

It is a religious duty to work to protect the environment. Many Scriptures emphasize that humans have a responsibility to care for creation in behalf of the Creator, and not to despoil it. People in almost every religious tradition would agree with this sentiment.

Even without such Scriptures, we know instinctively that nature is precious. A pure mountain stream, a sunset in a clear sky, or a healthy forest, all speak to our souls of the importance of preserving our earthly home.

Today is the time for religious people, for all people of good will, to come forward to defend the environment because it is under relentless attack. The Bush administration has proven itself an enemy of the environment, and we read almost daily of new attempts to undermine or remove controls to protect our air, water, forests, and health.

We were one of the few nations in the world that refused to sign the Kyoto protocol to reduce global warming. President Bush halted the “roadless rule” prohibiting new roads in national forests, which would open up more areas for timbering.

Despite his promise to enforce clean air standards, the president reneged on his campaign promise to cause polluting coal factories to install new pollution control devices when they remodeled. His so-called “Clean Skies” act actually weakens current clean air protections. The attempt by some in Congress to force automobile makers to build cars with greater fuel efficiency was resisted by the president and, largely due to pressure from his office, defeated by Congress.

Recently the Bush administration urged that mining companies be permitted to dump the residue of their excavations into creeks and streams. The decision to withdraw funding from many agencies that work for population control ignores the fact that out-of-control growth of population inevitably leads to more environmental destruction. The list goes on and on.

Religious people, people who have convictions that the earth and water and air are God’s and are to be used carefully and preserved for future generations, have a duty to cry out that this must stop. This is not “meddling in politics.” This is religious people, consistent with their calling and Biblical mandates, speaking out against injustice and working for righteousness. Fighting to protect the environment is a religious duty: failing to do so is to betray one’s own religion.

Food Pantry Volunteers Share Their Story

Jean and Dave Schnirel, members of Kenmore United Methodist Church, share their experience as regular volunteers at the Network of Religious Communities Food Pantry:

“What is it like to be a volunteer at the Network Food Pantry? It’s an adventure! No two days are alike. There is always opportunity for service and ministry.

Our adventure started 3-1/2 years ago when we wanted to use some of our retirement time helping people. The pantry had been closed for several days due to a big storm. When it reopened, 43 families crowded the hall and waited while we furiously bagged food to meet the demand. This was a most unusual day. It certainly got us into the spirit of helping others and affirmed that we were needed.

1000-1200 people receive food each month at the Network Food Pantry. These are the numbers. We see the faces. The faces belong to people who have had fires, have had wallets and purses stolen, have lost jobs, have entry level jobs and are trying to survive, and those who are physically, emotionally, or mentally ill. The need is great. It’s always a struggle to have enough food and volunteers.

It’s the people who come here and the people who work here that make volunteering here special. Consider joining us in the adventure of God’s work.

The schedule is flexible. The pantry is open Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There are referrals to process, food to bag, phones to answer. Call 882-4793 for more information. We hope to be working with you soon.”

Please help the Network Food Pantry continue its work so that families and individuals seeking help will not be turned away. Volunteers, nonperishable food items, and monetary contributions are always needed.

- Anyone interested in volunteering should call the Network office at 716-882-4793.
- Food donations can be delivered to the pantry at 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, between 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. any weekday—or, to make other arrangements for delivery, call the Network office.
- Monetary donations allow for the purchase of food as needed to supplement food donations. Checks should be clearly marked “Food Pantry” and made payable to and mailed to the Network of Religious Communities, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496.

New Food Stamp Guidelines Effective October 1

On May 13, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, which includes the Food Stamp Reauthorization Act of 2002—the nutrition title of the Farm Bill. This adds \$6.4 billion in new funds to the Food Stamp Program and other nutrition programs over the next ten years, through a number of program enhancements and simplifications. The new law expands eligibility for some groups. For some it increases the grant amount. More sweepingly, the law gives states new flexibility to improve the Food Stamp program for their low-income residents. Most of its provisions took effect October 1, 2002, although some phase in later. Following are some specific changes to the Food Stamp Program:

Gross Income Guidelines:

Household Size	Gross Monthly Income
1	\$960
2	\$1,294
3	\$1,628
4	\$1,961
5	\$2,295
6	\$2,629
7	\$2,962
8	\$3,296
Each additional member	+ \$334

Resource Rules: Each adult is allowed one registered vehicle to use for work, school or for seeking employment. A teenager is also allowed one vehicle for work or seeking employment. Households with members 60 years of age and older and disabled members are allowed up to \$3,000 in resources.

Standard Deduction: The standard deduction for households of five persons will be \$147 and for households of six or more persons will be \$168. Households of fewer than five will continue to receive the \$134 standard deduction.

Transitional Food Stamps: Households leaving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) will receive Food Stamps for five months after their case is closed.

Reporting: Food Stamp clients no longer have to report changes before their six-month recertification unless their gross income exceeds 130 percent of poverty. This rule does not apply to cash assistance households, households with no income, SSI recipients in group homes, seasonal migrant farm workers, those with a certification period of less than six months, and homeless households.

Restoration of Eligibility to Certain Immigrants: Effective October 1, 2002, disabled qualified immigrants are eligible for Food Stamps. Effective April 1, 2003, qualified immigrants will become eligible after they have lived in the U.S. for five years. Effective October 1, 2003, all qualified immigrant children will be eligible.

For additional information on determining Food Stamp eligibility, call the Food For All office at 716-882-7705. Food For All is a program of the Network of Religious Communities.

Thank You for Food Pantry Donations

The Network of Religious Communities Food Pantry is grateful to the following individuals, congregations, and organizations for their donations of food to help the hungry in our community.

Amherst Community UCC
Belmont Shelter, Buffalo
Bethlehem Chapter 634 O.E.S.
Blakely, Anne
Central Park United Methodist, Buffalo
Central Presbyterian, Buffalo
Christ United Church of Christ, Buffalo
Christ United Methodist, Snyder
Church of the Advent, Kenmore
Cleveland Heights Christian, Cktg.
Costello, Marie
Church of the Nativity UCC Vacation Church School
Durham Memorial AME Zion, Buffalo
Egbertsville United Church of Christ
First Presbyterian, Buffalo

First United Methodist, Buffalo
Food Shuttle of WNY
Forest Ave. Christian, Buffalo
Good Shepherd Lutheran, Tonawanda
Gullen, Connie
Hellenic Orthodox Church of the Annunciation/Bflo
HolyTrinity Lutheran, Buffalo
Inner Harbor Yacht Club
Kaczor, Audrey
Kenmore Baptist
Kenmore United Church of Christ
Kenmore United Methodist
Lafayette Presbyterian, Buffalo
Loaves & Fishes Dining Hall, Buffalo
Lucid & Beryl

Parkside Lutheran, Buffalo
Petko, Kim
Pilgrim St. Luke's UCC, Buffalo
St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo
St. Paul's United Church of Christ, W. Seneca
St. Paul's Lutheran, Williamsville
Trinity United Church of Christ, Cktg.
Trinity United Methodist, Amherst
Trinity United Methodist, Grand Island
United Methodist Women
Unity Church, Buffalo
University of Buffalo RAs
University United Methodist Church, Buffalo
Westminster Presbyterian, Buffalo
Zion UCC, Tonawanda



Chaos, Cooperation and the Reality of the Eternal

—The Reverend G. Stanford Bratton
Co-Executive Director, Network of Religious Communities

It has been a chaotic and difficult year. We have experienced the attacks on September 11th, the dramatic decline of the stock market, the proposed war with Iraq, the increasing national and state budget deficits with their impact upon welfare, health care and local governmental services and the sniper shootings near Washington D.C. Locally, the potential Seneca Nation of Indians Casinos in Niagara Falls and Buffalo, the arrest of the six men from Lackawanna and the conflict over Buffalo Common Council downsizing have dominated the news.

It has been a particularly challenging year for organizations like the Network of Religious Communities. In a time when people are suspicious of strangers, seek safety and security, experience the desire for revenge and think first of their own families and communities, we are called to foster understanding, seek common ground, facilitate cooperation and enable religious organizations to work together for peace, justice and the common good.

Often during the past year I have thought of the old adage “when the going gets tough, the tough get going.” That phrase, I have come to conclude, is more than a rallying cry for persons engaged in interreligious and ecumenical cooperation; it gives expression to key beliefs and teachings that lie at the heart of our many religious communities.

This fall I reacquainted myself with a book written fifty years ago by the noted preacher Harry Emerson Fosdick. Dr. Fosdick begins *A Faith for Tough Times* with the pronouncement that “The Eternal is Real!” He says, “Just such chaotic times as these can light up religious faith’s profoundest meaning: its assertion that this fugitive earthly scene is permeated with the eternal; that transiency is not the last word in this universe.” Dr. Fosdick’s words remind us that the motivation for our efforts is not rooted in the events described by CNN and the Buffalo News, nor even our own passions, but in the sacred writings of our religious traditions which point us toward a reality that lies beyond the chaos of the present.

It is the sacred writings of our religious traditions, pointing toward what is really real, that calls us to our essential task of building bridges, caring for the most vulnerable in our midst, and working together for justice, peace and the common good. Likewise, our success is not measured by the standards of the chaotic present, but by a higher reality revealed to us through the sacred scriptures and writings of our particular religious tradition.

Recently, I had the opportunity to hear Imam Wallace D. Mohammad, head of the Muslim American Society, speak at Buffalo State College. I was amazed at his enthusiasm when he spoke about the unprecedented levels of understanding and cooperation which he sees occurring among the leaders of the great world religions. His enthusiasm was not tampered by events of the present nor concerns about the survival of Islam; he spoke as one who had seen a vision of the eternal which can and will transform this earth and all of us who call it our home. For Imam Wallace D Mohammed the Eternal is Real.

Cont’d from Pg. 1—Annual Meeting

Panelists will address the questions:

- What has been the role of women in your religious tradition?
- What has been and is the role of women as religious leaders in your tradition?
- What is your vision of women’s leadership in the 21st century?

For additional information, please call the Network office at 716-882-4793 ext. 201 and visit the website www.ReligiousNet.org.

Network Dinner & Annual Meeting Member* & Visitor Reservation

Please Print Clearly

Member* Congregation/Religious Organization:

Name of Member* Congregation/Religious Organization _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Name of Voting Delegate: _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Auxiliary Member*/Visitor:

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Dinner Reservation—Deadline November 18

(Please select choice of Chicken or Pasta Primavera):

_____ Total Number of Dinner Reservations Needed

_____ # of Chicken Dinners

_____ # of Pasta Primavera Dinners (Vegetarian)

\$ _____ Amount Enclosed (Total No. of Dinners x \$10)

Return the completed form with payment to the Network of Religious Communities, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496.

* If you wish to become a member of the Network, please see page 9.

U.S. Navy Offers Opportunity For Clergy

Whether on land or thousands of miles out to sea, members of the Chaplain Corps are the spiritual and emotional guides for a large and diverse group of Sailors, Marines, Coastguardsmen, and their families. Members of the clergy play a vital role in helping their fellow sea service personnel negotiate the crucial moments of their lives. They provide moral support for young people away from home for the first time, lend advice to individuals facing personal or emotional difficulties and provide spiritual assistance to people from all walks of life.

Navy chaplains serve on ships and at foreign and domestic bases throughout various Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard commands. As a Navy chaplain, some of your responsibilities may be to:

- Conduct worship services in a variety of settings;
- Perform religious rites and ceremonies such as weddings and funeral services;
- Counsel individuals who seek guidance;
- Oversee religious education programs, such as Sunday school and youth groups;
- Visit and provide spiritual guidance and care to hospitalized personnel and/or their family members;
- Train lay leaders who conduct religious education programs;
- Promote attendance at religious services, retreats and conferences.

The Navy accepts clergy from over 100 denominations and faith groups. Qualified applicants must be U.S. citizens at least 21 years of age; meet certain medical and physical fitness standards; hold a B.A. or B.S. degree, with not less than 120 semester hours from a qualified educational institution; and hold a post-baccalaureate graduate degree, which includes 72 semester hours of graduate-

level course work in a field of theological or related studies. At least one-half (i.e. 36) of these hours must include topics in general religion, theology, religious philosophy, ethics, and/or the foundational writings from one's religious tradition. Accredited distance-education graduate programs are acceptable. Chaplains then attend the Navy Chaplain School in Newport, R.I. for a basic orientation course.

The Navy also has a "Chaplain Candidate Program Officer" (CCPO) program for seminary students who might be interested in obtaining a commission before completing their graduate studies. The CCPO program offers significant pay advantages once a chaplain enters active duty. The program also includes on-the-job training under the direct supervision of an active duty chaplain.

The Chaplain Corps is a high-profile community where you will have the opportunity to practice a full scope of religious ministry. In addition to the excellent training and preparation in religious and administrative positions you'll receive, you will also have the chance to see many places and meet many people you'll remember for the rest of your life.

According to Captain Vince Arnold, Chaplain Program Manager, Navy Chaplains have a tremendous opportunity to aid members of the sea services as they navigate uncharted waters. "You don't have to know everything. It's a challenging ministry that I refer to as 'not for the faint at heart.' While many in the sea services may be familiar with navigation via the aid of satellite-based GPS, there is always a need for the ultimately more reliable celestial navigation."

For additional information visit the web site for Navy Chaplains www.navy.com/traincareer/officer.

Cont'd from Pg. 1--Support For Muslim Community

bers to foster the rights of every individual, and in the atmosphere of today, particularly the Muslim community, to practice their religion in an environment that is free from fear or persecution.'

We are not unmindful of the widespread concern for safety and security in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. Nevertheless, we remember that many of our own religious communities were once viewed as 'strange,' 'suspicious,' or 'dangerous.' We ask the entire community of Western New York to remember that we enjoy the freedom to worship as we choose because we live in freedom, with due process of law and the political covenant that allows each of us to be different from the rest.

Western New York has been blessed by all its people, races, ethnic groups, and religious traditions. We cherish this diversity and witness to its fruitfulness by our belonging to each other in the Network of Religious Communities."

The Very Rev. Allen W. Farabee is President of the Network of Religious Communities and Dean of St. Pauls Episcopal Cathedral in Buffalo, New York.

Additional comments were offered by:
 Father Herman Schick, Council of Orthodox Christian Churches
 Rev. Peter Drilling, St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church
 Rev. Joel Miller, Unitarian Universalist Churches WNY
 Deacon James Anderson, New Hope Baptist Church
 Ms. Jayne Murray, Religious Society of Friends
 Rev. Francis Mazur, St. Gerards Roman Catholic Church
 Rev. Wayne Sova, South Buffalo Ecumenical Association
 Rev. G. Stanford Bratton, Co-Executive Director, NRC
 Dr. Khalid Qazi, American Muslim Council

Calendar of Events

November 14, 5:30 p.m.

WNY Peace Center Annual Dinner

Buffalo Convention Center, Franklin Street; speaker from Peaceful Tomorrows; for information and reservation call 716-894-2013.

November 19, 11:30 a.m.

Annual New Clergy & Religious Leaders Luncheon

Network of Religious Communities, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo; free and open to all religious leaders new to the area or newly ordained within the past year; for information call Maureen Gensler 716-681-2246; see back page.

November 21, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Network Annual Meeting & Program

Temple Beth Am, 4660 Sheridan Drive, Williamsville

5:30 p.m.—*Dinner & Annual Meeting of the Network of Religious Communities*; \$10; reservation by November 18.

7:30 p.m.—Program free and open to the general public "*Women's Leadership Role in the 21st Century, A Religious Conversation.*"

For information and reservation call 716-882-4793 ext 20

See Page 1.

November 22-24

The Spirituality of Thomas Merton Conference & Retreat

St. Joseph University Church, 3269 Main Street, Williamsville; sponsored by St. Joseph University Church & Catholic Campus Ministry, University at Buffalo; themes from the writings and life of the great spiritual master and contemplative monk; directed by Father Patrick Collins, a Merton scholar and much published author; November 22, 7:00-9:00 p.m., November 23, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon & 2:00-4:00 p.m., November 24, 2:00-4:00 p.m.; for reservations call 716-833-0298.

November 24, 6:00 p.m.

The Psalms in Song Concert

St. George Orthodox Church, Nottingham & Amherst Streets, Buffalo; presented by the Pan-Orthodox Choir of WNY; meditation commentary by Father Herman Schick; sponsored by the Council of Orthodox Christian Churches; free & open to the public; for information call 716-823-2846 or 716-875-4222.

November 26, 7:00 p.m.

Our Community Offerings, Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Hindu Cultural Center, 1595 North French Road, Getzville; for information call 716-882-4793 ext. 201; see Page 2.

December 1, 4:00 p.m.

Annual Performance of G. F. Handel's *Messiah*

St. Paul's Cathedral, 128 Pearl Street, Buffalo; The Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys and the NYS Baroque Orchestra; admission \$10 (\$7 students and seniors); for information call 716-855-0900.

December 2, 7:30 p.m.

World AIDS Day Interfaith Healing Service

Canisius College Montante Cultural Arts Center, 2001 Main St., Buffalo; featuring performances by the Canisius College Chorale, the Gay Men's Chorus and the UB Zodiac Dance Company; sponsored by AIDS Family Services; dessert reception; all invited; for information call 716-881-4612.

December 4, 1:00 p.m.

Annual Luncheon for Network Food Pantry Volunteers

Network of Religious Communities, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo

December 6, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Advent Celebration

St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church, 51 Colonial Circle, Buffalo; sponsored by Church Women United; for information call 716-882-4793.

December 20, 12:30 p.m.

A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten

St. Paul's Cathedral, 128 Pearl Street, Buffalo; featuring The Cathedral Girls' Choir; free admission; for information call 716-855-0900.

January 18-25

Week of Prayer For Christian Unity

See Page 3.

May 8

20th Annual Appreciation Dinner

Hearthstone Manor, 333 Dick Road, Depew; sponsored by the Network of Religious Communities; details to be announced later.

Is your
Adult Education Program
Looking for a Good Speaker on

**Non-Violence &
Alternatives to Violence?**

Call Audrey Mang at 716-832-0507

Mini-Grants Available For Child Health Programs

The Erie County Eat Well Play Hard Program is a public health initiative focused on preventing childhood obesity and long-term risk of chronic disease. The program is offering mini-grants of up to \$500 to promote healthy eating and physical active lifestyles. This program targets children ages 2-5 and their families and communities. For information call Eat Well Play Hard at 858-2726.

Church Building Needed

The Holy Christian Orthodox Church is looking for a church building or something appropriate for a mission in the City of Buffalo. Please contact Bishop Miller at 716-833-7393.

Television	Channel	Day	Time
Story Time Puppets Puppet Therapist Janet McDonald, Co-Host Dan Mackowiak, and Jr. Puppeteers tell stories with a positive message to children, parents, and teachers	20 Adelphia	Every Friday	7:35 p.m.
Challenge for the 21st Century Making the connection between faith and life commitments; Moderator Rev. Dr. G. Stanford Bratton, Co-Executive Director, Network of Religious Communities	7 WKBW	1st Saturday	7:00 a.m.
Kaleidoscope Multi-faith program featuring segments on religious activities and matters of concern in the community	2 WGRZ 20 Adelphia	1st Sunday Every Friday	6:30 a.m. 6:35 p.m.
In Process Discussion of today's issues as they relate to the religious community; Moderator Rev. Dr. G. Stanford Bratton, Co-Executive Director, Network of Religious Communities	4 WIVB 20 Adelphia	2nd Sunday Every Wednesday	5:30 a.m. 5:35 p.m.
Radio	Channel	Day	Time
Crossroads Life experience interviews; rotation of regular monthly hosts	96.1 WJYE-FM	Every Sunday	6:00 a.m.

~Tune In~

Network of Religious Communities' Radio and Television Ministry Offers a Variety of Quality Programs

Become a Member of the Network of Religious Communities

**Membership Form
Congregation/Religious Organization**

Our congregation would like to join the Network and we agree with the purposes. Enclosed is our 1-year membership contribution of:

- \$100 for congregations with 100 or more members.
- \$50 for congregation with less than 100 members.

Our religious organization would like to join the Network and we agree with the purposes.

- Enclosed is our 1-year membership contribution of \$50.

We have also enclosed a special gift of \$_____ to support the work of the Network.

We would like more information. Please contact us.

Date _____
 Congregation/Religious Organization _____

 Address _____
 _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 E-Mail _____
 Contact person _____

Please send completed form to:
 Network of Religious Communities
 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209-2496

The Purposes of the Network are:

- To facilitate communication and increased understanding among the members and between the members and the wider community;
- To foster cooperation within and between the faith communities to which the members belong;
- To facilitate collaboration in areas of common concern and in response to needs in the wider community; and
- To promote justice, peace and the common good in Western New York and the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario.

**Membership Form
Individual**

I would like to join the Network and I agree with the purposes.

Enclosed is my 1-year membership contribution of \$25.

I have also enclosed a special gift of \$_____ to support the work of the Network.

I would like more information. Please contact me.

Date _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 E-Mail _____

Please send completed form to:
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Network of Religious Communities
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo NY 14209-2496

New Clergy & Religious Leaders' Luncheon
Tuesday, November 19, 2002
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Network of Religious Communities
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo
Across the Street from Millard Fillmore Hospital—
Parking available behind the building
No Charge for Lunch

The New Clergy & Religious Leaders' Luncheon, sponsored annually by the Network of Religious Communities, provides an opportunity to meet others new to the area, learn the ins and outs of Western New York's religious community, and discover essential resources.

If you are a clergy person or religious leader or know of one new to the area or newly ordained, please contact Maureen Gensler at 716-681-2246 for a reservation.

Have You Changed Your Address?

Please help us update the *Network News* mailing list. If your name and/or address are incorrect on the mailing label, complete the form and return to the Network office. Also include a copy of the label attached to this newsletter so that we can make the correction in the database. Thanks for your help!

My name and address should appear as follows on the *Network News* mailing list:

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Phone _____

- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Send completed form and copy of label to:

Maureen Gensler, Network of Religious Communities
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209-2496

FAX: 716-882-3797