

The 2013 Festival of Faiths Prepares Community for Dalai Lama's Visit

This year, the Center for Interfaith Relations is hosting a special Festival of Faiths to help prepare the community for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's visit to Louisville in late May. The Festival of Faiths, now in its 18th year, will take place May 14-19 at the Actors Theatre of Louisville and the Galt House Hotel. Programming will reflect the historic meeting of the Dalai Lama and Thomas Merton in 1968, featuring renowned experts on meditation and compassion, drawn from the faith traditions of the world and recent scientific research on compassion. Programs will include daily guided public meditations, keynote addresses, films and a dedication to Thomas Merton "in his own voice."

Presenters include molecular biologist turned Buddhist monk Matthieu Ricard; globally recognized ecumenical teacher Fr. Richard Rohr; Rabbi Arthur Green, a preeminent authority on Jewish thought and spirituality; Seyyed Hossein Nasr, one of the world's leading Islamic scholars and spiritual leaders; Arjia Rinpoche, director of the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center in Bloomington, Indiana; and many more.

Festival highlights include a mini-retreat on Tibetan Buddhism; presentations on how compassion is defined in Eastern and Western spiritual traditions; programming for middle school and high school students; and discussions about sacred silence from the Christian, Islamic, Jewish and Hindu traditions. The festival's signature events will take place Saturday, May 18, when festival presenters will engage in an interfaith dialogue focused on compassion and Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer will host a dialogue on compassionate governing. On Sunday, May 19, several Festival of Faiths presenters will join His Holiness the Dalai Lama on stage during his public talk at the KFC YUM Center.

Tickets for the May 2013 Festival of Faiths will be available in March through the Actors Theatre of Louisville box office. All events, regardless of whether or not they are free, require a ticket for entry. A complete schedule of events and information about pricing is available online at www.festivaloffaiths.org. For questions, call (502) 583-3100 or email festivaloffaiths@interfaithrelations.org.

The Dalai Lama's visit to Louisville is hosted by the Drepung Gomang Institute. For details, contact Lisa Morrison, Director of Media and Public Relations, at 812-272-3551 or dllouisvillemedia@gmail.com or visit DalaiLamaLouisville.org.

Free Lectures on Healing and Cancer at Gilda's Club

Anyone interested in learning more about how the mind-body-spirit connection can affect the healing process and reduce stress on a cancer journey is welcome to attend two free discussions at Gilda's Club with international speaker, retreat leader and full-time oncologist Dr. Rob Rutledge, MD, FRCPC.

The series will begin on Wednesday, May 8 from 6-7:30 PM with the talk, "The Body-Mind-Spirit Connection: Making a difference on the cancer journey." Participants will learn integrated cancer care, including how to empower the body, scientifically proven healing techniques and how to work with difficult emotional issues. The second lecture, "Skills for Healing Seminar," will take place on Saturday, May 11 from 9 AM - 12 PM. Participants will learn how to get complete cancer care, including mindfulness-based stress reduction, simple relaxation and meditation techniques and how to work with our greatest difficulties.

Dr. Rob Rutledge is a Radiation Oncologist in Halifax, Nova Scotia, specializing in breast, prostate and pediatric cancers. He is also an associate professor in the faculty of medicine at Dalhousie University and has facilitated 33 retreats in 21 cities across Canada and abroad. To date, more than 1,400 people have attended his retreats, designed to provide an integrated approach to the cancer diagnosis and ways to heal through the body, mind and spirit. Rutledge also leads the Healing and Cancer Foundation (HealingAndCancer.org) and is co-author of *The Healing Circle*.

Light refreshments will be served and the lectures are free, though reservations are recommended.

Location: Gilda's Club, 633 Baxter Ave., Louisville. To reserve space for these events or to learn more about Gilda's Club, call 502-583-0075 or visit GildasClubLouisville.org.

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