



FESTIVAL *of* FAITHS

SACRED EARTH SACRED SELF

MAY 13 - 18, 2014



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MANY FAITHS. ONE HEART. COMMON ACTION.

FESTIVAL of FAITHS

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The mission of the Festival of Faiths is to celebrate diversity in our faith traditions, express gratitude for our unity, and strengthen the role of faith in society through common action. The first Festival of Faiths was presented in 1996, and consecutive Festivals have been presented each year since under the sponsorship of the Center for Interfaith Relations.

CONTACT US

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TICKETS

With the exception of the Interfaith Service, all Festival of Faiths events require a ticket, available through Actors Theatre of Louisville's box office. Ticket prices for individual programs range from \$15 to \$25. Passes for the entire Festival are \$150. In addition, fees will apply to ticket sales.

To order Festival of Faiths tickets, call **(502) 584-1205** or **(800) 428-5849** or log onto www.FestivalofFaiths.org or scan the **QR code** shown here.

Please inquire about discounts for students.



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Cover image: Photograph of *Sea Pen Coral-Cnidaria anthozoa alcyonaria* by Henry Horenstein.

"This is one of my favorite images, although it is rarely shown. I love the sheer beauty of the coral. To me you can't create or stage anything quite as beautiful as what already exists in the natural world—especially what comes from the ocean." - Henry Horenstein
www.Horenstein.com

2014 FESTIVAL OF FAITHS

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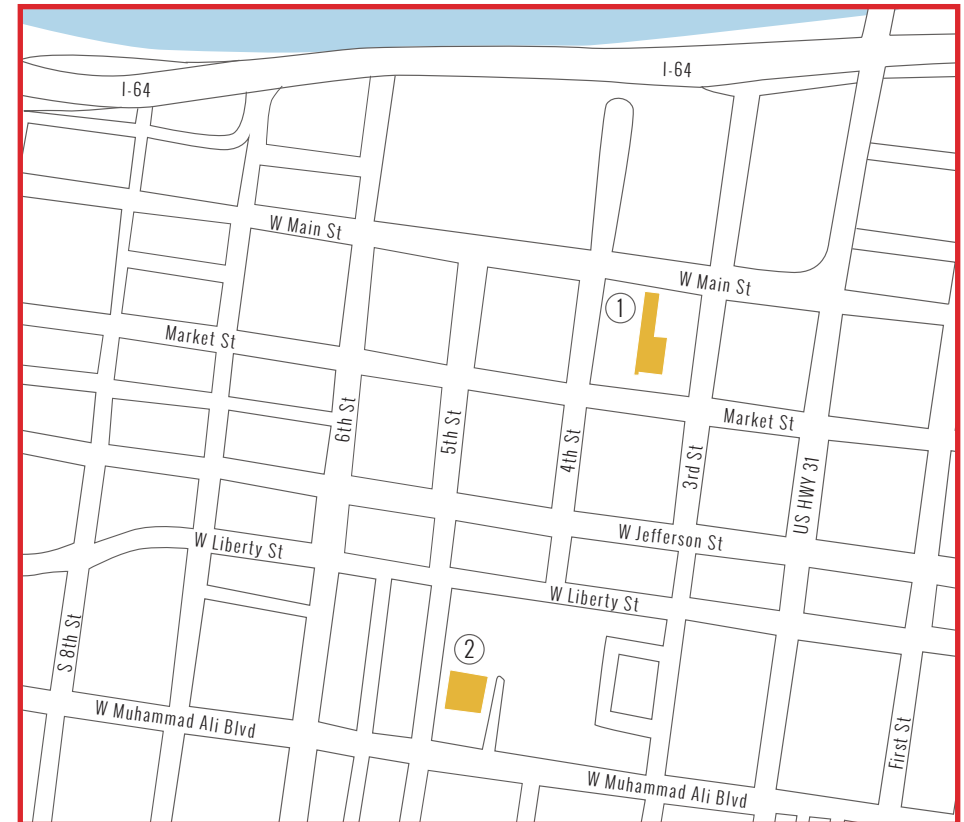
FESTIVAL of FAITHS

SACRED EARTH SACRED SELF: SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

EVENTS


QUICK REFERENCE MAP

-  **MAY 13** TUES 5:30 PM **Interfaith Service: A Call to Prayer**
-  **MAY 14** WED THEME FOR THE DAY: SACRED RELATIONSHIPS
 9 AM **Opening Reflection** *Melissa Nelson, Ph.D.*
 10:30 AM **Soil and Sacrament** *Fred Babnson, M.T.S.*
 2:30 PM **Healing Self, Healing Society** *Shaykh Hamza Yusuf*
 7 PM **Distant Neighbors** *Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder;*
Jack Shoemaker, moderator
-  **MAY 15** THURS THEME FOR THE DAY: NURTURING THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL THROUGH FOOD AND FARMING
 9 AM **Guided Meditation** *Gerardo Abboud*
 10:30 AM **Diminishing Health and Well-being** *Patrick Holden, CBE*
 2:30 PM **Restoring Health and Well-being: Models of Inspiration**
Monica Weis, SSJ, Ph.D.
 7 PM **Reflections Through Art**
Damage: Images of Our Earth in Crisis
Photographs by J. Henry Fair
Healing: "Forty Panes" *A film by Laura Dunn*
-  **MAY 16** FRI THEME FOR THE DAY: RE-IMAGINING THE EARTH-SELF RELATIONSHIP
 9 AM **Guided Meditation** *Gerardo Abboud*
 10:30 AM **Just Sustainabilities: Re-imagining E/Quality, Living within Limits** *Julian Agyeman, Ph.D.*
 2:30 PM **Re-imagining Civilization in the Age of Nature:**
Building Resilience *Kenny Ausubel*
Full Spectrum Leadership for Engaged Action
Nina Simons
-  **MAY 17** SAT THEME FOR THE DAY: AWAKENING THE DREAMER
 9 AM **Guided Meditation** *Gerardo Abboud*
 12:30 PM **Awaken the Dreamer Symposium** *Pachamama Alliance*
 7 PM **A Conversation Between Father and Son**
Ed Bastian, Ph.D., and Jonathan Bastian
InterSpiritual Exploration and Zikr *Ed Bastian, Ph.D.,*
Sheikh Kabir Helminski and Sheikba Camille Helminski;
Jonathan Bastian, moderator
-  **MAY 18** SUN THEME FOR THE DAY: EARTH AND SELF, A CALL TO ACTION
 10:30 AM **From Illness to Wellness: Our Planet and Ourselves**
His Holiness Pujya Chidanand Saraswatiji
and Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswati, Ph.D.



1. ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE • MAY 14 - 18

2. CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION • MAY 13, 5:30PM

 All events except the Interfaith Service on May 13th will be held at Actors Theatre of Louisville. The Interfaith Service will be held at the Cathedral of the Assumption.

Earth is sacred, as are the people of Earth. Earth and Self came forth from the same Sacred Source and have been united through a reciprocal relationship with each other. In our unity, we share a common fate. Human health, physically and spiritually, depends upon a healthy ecosphere, and this in turn depends upon the kind of relationship that we as sentient human beings create with Earth and all the life that it sustains.

FESTIVAL of FAITHS

SACRED EARTH SACRED SELF: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, MAY 13: OPENING OF THE 2014 FESTIVAL OF FAITHS

INTERFAITH SERVICE: A CALL TO PRAYER • 5:30 PM • CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

The call to prayer has been sounded for centuries by the chant of *Om*, the drums, the shofar, the bells, the gospel choir, and the adhan. Together, they create an interreligious hymn of praise to God, sung in many voices. With this hymn of praise in mind, the 2014 Festival of Faiths calls the followers of multiple faith traditions to prayer in the hope that together we will reach a re-awakened vision of a world that reveals its beauty and abundance in diversity. We pray in gratitude for Sacred Earth and Sacred Self and in repentance for the abuse to which they have been subjected by our behavior.

COST: Free and open to all who wish to attend.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14: SACRED RELATIONSHIPS

At the core of every faith tradition is the belief that when human beings are in right relationship with the Earth, conscious of its mystery and blessedness, they are also in relationship with the Divine. We are privileged to be able to intensify this consciousness through interfaith exchange, drawing upon the rich template of religious diversity in our community and nation. The first day of the Festival will explore the web of sacred relationships that place us in kinship with each other and with the Earth. Events will also call attention to the interdependent nature of these relationships, committing Earth and Self to a common fate.

OPENING REFLECTION: INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

9 AM - 10 AM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Melissa Nelson, Ph.D.

Dr. Melissa K. Nelson is a cultural ecologist, media-maker and indigenous scholar-activist. She is an associate professor of American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University and president of the Cultural Conservancy, a Native-led indigenous rights organization, which she has directed since 1993. Her work is dedicated to indigenous revitalization, environmental restoration, intercultural understanding and the renewal and celebration of community health and biocultural diversity. Nelson edited and contributed to *Original Instructions – Indigenous Teachings For A Sustainable Future* (2008) and regularly publishes in books and journals. She has produced four documentary films and serves on the board of directors of Bioneers and the Center for Whole Communities. She is a former board member of the United Religions Initiative and the Interfaith Council of the Presidio. Nelson is Anishinaabe / Métis / Norwegian and an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians.



COST: Free / Ticket is required. Order by telephone (502) 584-1205 or pick up at the ATL box office.

SOIL AND SACRAMENT • 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Fred Bahnson, M.T.S.

In his writing and teaching, Fred Bahnson calls attention to the sacred relationship between food and faith, which he terms *sacramental*. His writings attest to the prophetic character of the Earth as the outward sign of an inner holiness. These writings have received consistent awards: 2006 - Pilgrimage Essay Award; 2008 - William Raney scholarship from Bread Loaf Writers' Conference; 2009-10 - Kellogg Food & Community fellowship; and 2012 - North Carolina Artist fellowship in creative nonfiction.



A book signing will follow the presentation.

COST: \$15

HEALING SELF, HEALING SOCIETY • 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Shaykh Hamza Yusuf

Shaykh Hamza Yusuf is president, co-founder and senior faculty member of Zaytuna College, America's first Muslim liberal arts college. He is also an advisor on Islamic studies at Stanford University and at Berkeley's Graduate Theological Union. In addition, his work includes an outstanding publication record as author and translator of books and articles on Islam. He has recently been ranked as "the Western world's most influential Islamic scholar" by *The Muslim 500*, edited by John Esposito and Ibrahim Kalin.



A book signing will follow the presentation.

COST: \$15

DISTANT NEIGHBORS • 7 PM - 9 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder

Jack Shoemaker, moderator

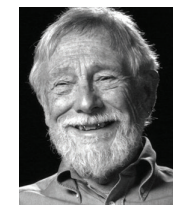
Wendell Berry is the author of more than fifty books of poetry, fiction and essays and has been for the past 50 years America's foremost teacher on the subject of the wholeness of nature, embodying all life, human and earth.

Gary Snyder is an award-winning poet and essayist and is also Professor Emeritus in Writing at the University of California at Davis. Among his prestigious awards is a Pulitzer Prize, bestowed in 1975, for *Turtle Island*, which takes its title from the indigenous name for the North American continent.

Jack Shoemaker began a long and distinguished literary career as a bookseller in 1963 in Santa Barbara, California. He is co-founder, vice president, and editorial director of Counterpoint Press, located in Berkeley, California.

Advance copies of *Distant Neighbors*, a collection of correspondence between Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder, will be available for purchase.

COST: \$25



THURSDAY, MAY 15: NURTURING THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL THROUGH FOOD AND FARMING

Food and farming have the potential to enrich us in body and spirit, affirming the wholeness of the human person and its integral relationship with the nurturing Earth. Our current culture of egoism fails to heed the wholeness wherein Earth and Self are interrelated in a dynamic unity. Earth reflects this culture of egoism in its polluted waters, air and soil. The delusion of egoism is that the Self is separate from Earth. This delusion strains the relationship between ourselves and Nature, and also between ourselves and the Author of Nature.

GUIDED MEDITATION

9 AM - 10 AM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Gerardo Abboud

Gerardo Abboud was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, into a Christian family and was educated as an engineer. He subsequently worked as a financial analyst at Ford, but left this life behind in the 70s to journey to India and Nepal to study Buddhism and the Tibetan language, as well as to discover his own inner richness. After 14 years in the East, he returned to Buenos Aires, where he now serves as president of the Dongyuling Center, which offers free teachings in Buddhist theory and practice. Since 1992, he has served as the Dalai Lama's interpreter in Latin America.



COST: Free / Ticket is required. Order by telephone (502) 584-1205 or pick up at the ATL box office.

DIMINISHING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Patrick Holden, CBE and panel

Patrick Holden operates the longest established organic dairy farm in Wales and has for many years taken a leadership role in promoting a sustainability revolution in the way that food is produced and made available to consumers. In this role, he has served as director of the Soil Association and later as the founder of the Sustainable Food Trust. He is an advisor to the Prince of Wales' International Sustainability Unit and was named Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2005, in recognition of his contributions to organic farming.



COST: \$15

RESTORING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: MODELS OF INSPIRATION

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Monica Weis, SSJ, Ph.D., and panel

Dr. Monica Weis is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph and emerita professor of English at Nazareth College in Rochester, New York. She is a longtime member of the International Thomas Merton Society and a frequent presenter at national and international conferences. Included in her publications are two books on Thomas Merton [*Thomas Merton's Gethsemani: Landscapes of Paradise* (UPK 2005) and *The Environmental Vision of Thomas Merton* (UPK, 2011)], and a third is planned on Thomas Merton and Celtic Spirituality.



A book signing will follow the presentation.

COST: \$15

REFLECTIONS THROUGH ART • 7 PM - 9 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

DAMAGE: IMAGES OF OUR EARTH IN CRISIS Photographs by J. Henry Fair

HEALING: "FORTY PANES" A film by Laura Dunn

Photographer J. Henry Fair is best known for his *Industrial Scars* series, in which he researches our world's most egregious environmental disasters. As a prominent lecturer, he has toured the world with his stunning collection, and his works are included in the permanent collections of several notable museums, including the Hood Museum at Dartmouth College, the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston, South Carolina, and the Cooper Union in New York City. He is the author of the book, *The Day After Tomorrow: Images of Our Earth in Crisis*.



Laura Dunn is the director/producer/editor of Two Birds Film. She has produced outstanding documentaries on contemporary social justice issues, including ecological abuse, environmental racism and population concerns. Her latest documentary, "Forty Panes: A Portrait of Wendell Berry," challenges us to imagine a better, healthier, saner world.



A book signing will follow the presentation.

COST: \$15

FRIDAY, MAY 16: RE-IMAGINING THE EARTH-SELF RELATIONSHIP

Today amid the increasing threats to health, safety and even survival posed by a broken world, more and more people are committing themselves to reducing their environmental footprint and to opening their hearts in compassion to all living creatures. We cannot deny that we have created a world that we did not intend to create. Our responsibility is to begin to live an intentional life in harmony with Sacred Earth. In its steadily emergent creation of new forms and species, Earth inspires wonder and offers promise. To be in harmony with Earth is to become ever more conscious of this wonder and promise.

GUIDED MEDITATION • 9 AM - 10 AM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Gerardo Abboud

For a biographical note on Gerardo Abboud, please refer to Thursday, May 15, 9 AM.

COST: Free / Ticket is required. Order by telephone (502)-584-1205 or pick up at the ATL box office.

JUST SUSTAINABILITIES: RE-IMAGINING E/QUALITY, LIVING WITHIN LIMITS

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Julian Agyeman, Ph.D.

Dr. Julian Agyeman is professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts. His range of expertise is broad, including botany, geography, conservation policy and environmental education. He is the originator of the concept of *just sustainability*, which combines a commitment to preserving nature's ecosystems with safeguarding justice toward all life – human and earth. He has written widely on the subject of justice and equity issues, having authored over 150 publications. In addition, he is widely involved in journalistic activities, both nationally and internationally.



A book signing will follow the presentation.

COST: \$15



RE-IMAGINING CIVILIZATION IN THE AGE OF NATURE

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

BUILDING RESILIENCE

Kenny Ausubel

FULL SPECTRUM LEADERSHIP FOR ENGAGED ACTION: BODY, HEART, MIND AND SPIRIT

Nina Simons

Kenny Ausubel is the CEO of Bioneers, an organization that he co-founded in 1990 with his wife and partner, Nina Simons, for the purpose of disseminating sustainable alternatives to practices that contribute to climate change and to social injustice. In pursuit of this goal, he not only supports and encourages scientific and social innovation, but he communicates with a broad audience through multiple media outlets. He produces an international radio series, has written four books, contributes to *The Huffington Post* and has made an award-winning documentary, *Hoxsey: How Healing Becomes a Crime*, which screened at the Kennedy Center for members of Congress.

Leadership and women's issues define the primary interests of Nina Simons. In her writings and teaching, she establishes a close relationship between the two interests. She is convinced that leadership requires mindfulness, and she attests that this attribute is at the heart of the leadership practiced by women. Simons brings to the causes that she supports a characteristic originality, evident in her having co-founded in 1990 Bioneers (www.bioneers.org) with her husband and partner, Kenny Ausubel, and more recently, in pursuing the subject of leadership, she determines to "redefine its landscape."

A book signing will follow the presentation.

COST: \$15



Photographs of Foxhollow Farm, Crestwood, Kentucky, by Annie Langan

GUIDED MEDITATION • 9 AM - 10 AM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Gerardo Abboud

For a biographical note on Gerardo Abboud, please refer to Thursday, May 15, 9 AM.

COST: Free / Ticket is required. Order by telephone (502) 584-1205 or pick up at the ATL box office.

AWAKEN THE DREAMER SYMPOSIUM

12:30 PM - 5 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Jon Symes and Barbara Jefferson

The Pachamama Alliance is a non-profit organization with the mission of empowering indigenous people of the Amazon rainforest to preserve their lands and culture and, using insights gained from that work, educating and inspiring individuals everywhere to bring forth a thriving, just and sustainable world.

The Awakening the Dreamer Symposium is an action-oriented program, designed to give participants the opportunity to learn about the current global crisis, how it came about, and what the human family can do to bring about a transformational change on planet Earth through environmental sustainability, spiritually fulfilling lifestyles, and social justice for all living species. For more information about The Pachamama Alliance and its larger educational program, Up to Us, visit www.pachamama.org.

Jon Symes is Outreach Director for The Pachamama Alliance and author of the book *Your Planet Needs You*. He has taken The Pachamama Alliance's transformational educational programs to audiences and partners around the world, including China, New Zealand, Ecuador, Ireland and India. Symes also has a blog on Speaking Tree.

Barbara Jefferson is WakeUp & Training Coordinator at Generation Waking Up, a youth affiliate of the Pachamama Alliance. Jefferson trains and supports young leaders in the field who are building community and taking action to bring forth a just and sustainable future.

COST: \$25

A CONVERSATION BETWEEN FATHER AND SON • 7 PM - 9 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

Ed Bastian, Ph.D., and Jonathan Bastian

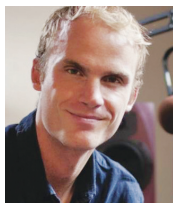
INTER-SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION AND ZIKR

Ed Bastian, Ph.D., Sheikh Kabir Helminski and Sheikha Camille Helminski;

Jonathan Bastian, moderator.

Ed Bastian holds a doctorate in Buddhist Studies and is the founder and president of the Spiritual Paths Foundation. His career has combined research, award-winning publication and teaching in Buddhism and world religions with ecology. He is the former co-director of the Forum on BioDiversity for the Smithsonian and National Academy of Sciences, where he was also a teacher of Buddhism and world religions. He has produced documentaries on religion for the BBC and PBS and has served in leadership roles on interfaith and ecofaith organizations. Currently he is an adjunct professor at Antioch University in Santa Barbara, where he is teaching courses on Buddhism, meditation and religion.

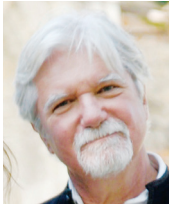
Jonathan Bastian is an award-winning public radio and television host. He currently hosts *Morning Edition* on WFPL and also *Up Front with Jonathan Bastian*, a weekly TV program, which airs across six states on KET. Before his work in Louisville, Bastian created and hosted "Page by Page," a weekly public radio program that was syndicated on multiple public radio stations across Colorado. He has interviewed many influential writers, thinkers and policy makers, including Congressman John Lewis, Jared Diamond, Oliver Sacks and many others.



Sheikh Kabir Helminski and Sheikha Camille Helminski together direct The Threshold Society (www.sufism.org), a non-profit educational foundation for the study of Sufism. Both Camille and Kabir have long associations with the Mevlevi Order based in Turkey, and have brought its spiritual culture to more than 100,000 people in the United States and Canada, primarily through programs that they direct involving touring Whirling Dervishes. In addition, they have made available through their translations into English many classics of the Sufi tradition, including *Rumi's Sun* and *The Rumi Daybook*. Camille holds the distinction of being the first woman to translate a substantial portion of the *Qur'an* into English, published under the title of *The Light of Dawn*.



Camille has done much to spread awareness of the important role of women in Islam through her teaching and her book, *Women of Sufism*. For his outstanding role as educator and spiritual leader in Islam and the Sufi tradition, Kabir was named in 2009 one of the "500 Most Influential Muslims in the World."



A book signing will follow the presentation.

COST: \$15

SUNDAY, MAY 18: EARTH AND SELF, A CALL TO ACTION

To say that Earth and Self are sacred is to acknowledge that they are loved by their Divine Source. In this love, they have value and meaning. Persons of faith cannot serve God and at the same time remain indifferent to or abusive of the Earth and its species, which God loves. The consistent Divine love for Earth and Self is apparent in the interdependent relationship that they have with each other, bound in reciprocal interaction. Each shares in the sacredness of the other.

FROM ILLNESS TO WELLNESS: OUR PLANET AND OURSELVES

10:30 AM - 12:30 PM • ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

His Holiness Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji and Sadviji Bhagawati Saraswati

His Holiness Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji has lived his motto, "In the service of God and humanity," since he was eight years old, when he left his home to live in the Himalayan jungles and forests under the guidance of a spiritual master. Today, as a spiritual and humanitarian leader, he conducts the Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh and the India Heritage Research Foundation that runs and sponsors free schools, women's vocational training programs, health clinics and environmental programs. He was a leader in developing the first *Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, and he is the founder of Ganga Action Parivar, a project dedicated to rescuing the Ganges River from pollution. His many awards from international and interfaith organizations attest to his commitment to a "religion of unity," in the service of which he travels the world, and others travel to him to receive his "darshan."



Sadviji Bhagawati Saraswati was raised in a traditional American family in Hollywood, California, and was educated at Stanford University, from which she was awarded a Ph.D. in psychology. Before completing her studies, she took up residence at Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh, India, where she has lived ever since. In June 2000, she was initiated into the order of Sanyas by her guru, His Holiness Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji Maharaj, and pledged her life to service, renunciation, purity and devotion. Sadviji teaches meditation at the Ashram, but extends her teaching activities worldwide. She is the founder and president of the Divine Shakti Foundation, which offers education to children and vocational training as well as empowerment to women.



A book signing will follow the presentation.

COST: \$15

MAY 14 - 18, 2014

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW: IMAGES OF OUR EARTH IN CRISIS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY J HENRY FAIR

ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE

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PRESENT
the Louisville Premiere of
GROWING CITIES
A FILM ABOUT URBAN FARMING IN AMERICA



"...I'VE WATCHED MANY, MANY FILMS ABOUT FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ...
GROWING CITIES IS THE MOST INSPIRING ONE I'VE EVER SEEN."
- Chris Hunt, Director Sustainable Table



Friday, May 16th 6PM
(film starts at 6:30)
Louisville Main Library
301 York Street
FREE

PLEASE RESERVE AT THE LINK (RECOMMENDED)
<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/623942>



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LED BY SHEIKH KABIR HELMINSKI
AND SHEIKHA CAMILLE HELMINSKI



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SACRED EARTH SACRED SELF: FESTIVAL PARTNERS



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