

SPECIAL INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNITY EVENT

28 JANUARY 2024, 7PM – 10PM EST

*...with Representatives from Six (6) Other Religious Faiths
...to collaborate and explore sacred architecture, get to know one another, heal divides, deepen understanding of self and others, create community, and build an inspiring future.*

In-Person @ DDSC Temple

...with Khenpo Samdup Rinpoche & Representatives from Wiccan, Judaism, Muslim, Hindu, Catholic, and Baptist religions

- ***37 Bodhisattva Practices Recitation***
- ***Mindfulness Meditation***
- ***Explanation of DDSC's sacred Shrine Hall & Drikung Kagyu and its Practices***
- ***Informal Dialogue / Discussion with Q & A***
- ***Spiritual Journey to Buddhism by Sangha Members***

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTO GALLERY OF 2024 Interreligious Community Event @ DDSC](#)

VIDEO CLIPS OF INFORMAL GROUP DIALOGUE / DISCUSSION

<https://youtu.be/FXMfjqlyl4?si=wls7lwEQ2rRIMyPT>





SHARING SACRED SPACES An Interreligious Communities Project

A Pledge of Solidarity

PREAMBLE

We, as a cohort of members from various faith-based organizations serving northern Virginia and Washington D.C., as well as individual practitioners of faith and spirituality, join together in this pledge, having completed the first phase of a profound interfaith journey together.

Over the past year and a half, we have visited one another's sacred spaces – mutually offering and receiving one another in hospitality within our places of spiritual gathering. We have shared meals together and become aware of the depth of meaning behind some of the facets of our community life and religious calendars. In sharing these intimate experiences, we have witnessed each other's humanity, goodness, and kindness.

We have learned about individual spiritual journeys from members of our various faith communities, and we have discovered a shared, deeply human search for community and belonging. We also discovered a shared fire in our bellies for divine or deeper connection. In learning what people love and value in their faiths, we have sparked our own desire for greater understanding. Our journey has invigorated our own values and love for our faiths and traditions.

In addition, we have connected deeply through dialogue in different contexts, listening for understanding of different perspectives, thinking and brainstorming together, and practicing being present even when difficult, due to different perspectives or pain that triggers our own painful memories.

With humility and empathy nurtured in this process, we have grown our capacity to be role models and leaders in interfaith engagement and, with our fellow travelers on this path, we have sprung a true interreligious network for the future of our region.

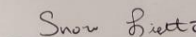
OUR PLEDGE

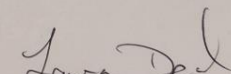
As such, we commit to practice these ideals:

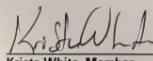
- To support each other and others who are committed to cultivating religious and spiritual life as a way to strengthen the entire fabric of our community;
- To honor the traditions of spiritual individuals – those affiliated, worshiping, or practicing with the communities listed here; and to honor the traditions and spiritual strivings of other individuals and faith communities in our region;
- To actively look for ways to stand in solidarity with each other and to serve our wider community;
- To stand together against any attempt to disrespect or harm the well-being of any community of faith or practice or its sacred space;
- To celebrate our shared values of compassion, respect, peaceful coexistence, and harmony in diversity; and
- To actively engage in the principle of listening deeply, and to learning from and with one another.

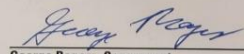
Signed this day, the fifteenth of September, two thousand twenty-four, at the Historic Blenheim Interpretive Center at 3610 Blenheim Boulevard in Fairfax, VA, by the following representatives:

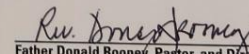

David Dashifen Kees, Priestess
The Firefly House

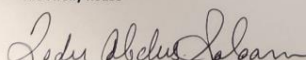

Snow Lietta, Priestess
The Firefly House

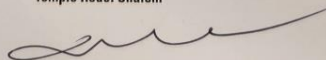

Laura Deal, Member
The Firefly House

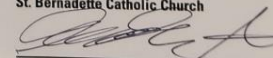

Krista White, Member
The Firefly House

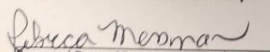

George Rogers, Congregant
Temple Rodef Shalom

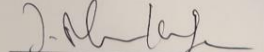

Rev. Donald Rooney, Pastor, and Director
of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs,
Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Virginia
St. Bernadette Catholic Church

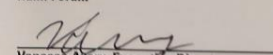

Qadir Abdus-Salaam, Director of Interfaith
Relations/Engagement
Masjid Muhammad, The Nation's Mosque


Quang Bui, President
Drikung Dharma Surya Center


Ibrahim Anli, Executive Director
Rumi Forum


Reverend Becca Messman, Senior Pastor
Burke Presbyterian Church


Mani Jagadeesan, Director
Chinmaya Somnath


Vanessa Avery, Executive Director
Sharing Sacred Spaces