

# The Common Ministry at WSU

## 2012-2013 Annual Report



Interfaith  
House

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

Operating out of the **Interfaith House** at  
720 NE Thatuna St.  
Pullman, Washington 99163

June 30, 2012

# THE COMMON MINISTRY

At

## WASHINGTON STATE

## UNIVERSITY

*. . . An Open and Accepting Community. . . .*

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The Common Ministry at WSU operates  
out of the Interfaith House at WSU,  
located at 720 NE Thatuna St., Pullman,  
Washington 99163.

## A Safe Space for Spiritual Development

Interfaith House at WSU seeks to provide “A Safe Place for Spiritual Development” for students, staff, and faculty of WSU. Interfaith House seeks to create a safe space for diverse religious opinion by increasing respect and mutual understanding among people of different faith, ethnic, and cultural traditions and by fostering cooperation among religious communities and civic organizations.

Interfaith House at WSU also partners with Washington State University to promote Spirituality in Higher Education.

The Common Ministry at WSU is a Christian, Protestant, ecumenical organization. Our partners include United Methodist, Presbyterian (USA), Disciples of Christ, American Baptist, Episcopal (USA), and United Church of Christ churches. The Common Ministry and Interfaith House at WSU also partners with various religious organizations: Jewish, Muslim, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Catholic, Baha’i, Korean Evangelical and those not associated with institutional organizations, in order to promote dialog, peace, and unity in the community.

We are dedicated to helping all students growing in faith, to promoting reconciliation among religions, and to sharing the love of God to all.

*The Interfaith House is operated by the Common Ministry at WSU, a 501(c)(3) religious non-profit organization in the state of Washington.*

*The IFH at WSU RSO is an active Registered Student Organization (RSO) providing opportunities for spiritual development and fellowship at Washington State University.*

Dear Common Ministry and Interfaith House at WSU community;

It has been an honor to be your Interim Director for this past school year 2011-12. A year has gone by so quickly. Interfaith work and ministry is my passion. And it is with passion that I have served the Common Ministry, Interfaith House at WSU, the WSU registered student organization, the WSU campus faculty, staff, students, and the Pullman community.

There is a tremendous potential for doing a wonderful work here at Interfaith House at WSU. "A Safe Place for Spiritual Development" is a powerful phrase.

Safe means that we are an accepting community, with no judgments, and an open community. It means wherever you are on your journey you are welcome here.

Place means "a home away from home." One of the most important aspects of Interfaith House at WSU is that students find a 'home', a place to hang out and be.

Spiritual, which is such a common word, and a popular word, can mean so many things for so many people. Spiritual is at the heart of the human life, at the heart of human existence. To be spiritual is to have empathy and compassion for everyone. Everyone, no one is left out. This is uncomfortable at times, particularly when people who walk through the doors are not like you, who are so different in their faith, beliefs, and practices. Yet, a radical hospitality is to accept all. To open our 'home' to all is the mission of Interfaith House.

Development means growth. It means to expand; to not just learn, but to be transformed. It means to become a better you.

This is the radical vision and gift which I received while serving as Interim Director: "All who walk through these doors – this is my task – if they are a Christian, to help them become a better Christian; if they are a Jew, to help them become a better Jew; if they are a Muslim, help them to become a better Muslim; if they are a Buddhist, a Daoist, a Wiccan, a lover of Nature, an agnostic, or even an atheist, to be a guide to help them become more of who they are."

I thank Sue Durrant, President of the Common Ministry Council and all the members of the Council for their support and faith in me and for the gift of this opportunity to serve the Common Ministry and Interfaith House at WSU.

*If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a man changes his own nature, so does the attitude of the world change towards him. . . . We need not wait to see what others do.*

*Mahatma Gandhi*

Many thanks to and many blessings upon The Common Ministry and Interfaith House at WSU and upon the work you do and will be doing in the future. May the interfaith work you do continue to unfold and blossom into a gift for all to share.

Sincerely,



Rob Snyder, PhD  
Interim Director

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# C O N T E X T U A L

## **Common Ministry Directory**

### **NAME**

#### **American Baptist / Disciples of Christ**

Roy Johnson

Jodie Tooley

#### **Episcopal**

Rex Burns

Sue Durrant\*

Phil Mixer

#### **Presbyterian**

Lenore Chambers

Emi Dickens\*

Walt Miller

#### **United Church of Christ**

Chip Laird\*

Nancy Nydegger

#### **United Methodist**

Nicholas Cerruti

Todd Scranton

Mark Swanson

### **At Large**

Wes Howell

Andrew Palmini\*

### **Student Representatives**

Dan Warn

### **Campus Ministers**

Alissa Bertsch Johnson,  
Wesley Foundation (UMC)

### **Staff Members**

Rob Snyder*, Interim-Director	robsnyder@interfaith-house.com	Office: 509-335-5464
Lorraine Mason, Office Manager	office@interfaith-house.com	IFH: 509-332-2611
Wilhelmina Sarai-Clark, Community Liaison	wilhelmina@interfaith-house.com	

\*Executive Committee Members



## Common Ministry Committees and Endowment Board

### **Executive Committee**

Sue Durrant, President	Rob Snyder, Interim Director
Emi Dickens, Vice President	Andrew Palmini, Treasurer
Chip Laird, Past President	

### **Director Search Committee**

Nicholas Cerruti, Chair	Phil Mixter
Chip Laird	Larry Fox
Lenore Chambers	Libby Walker

### **Nominating Committee**

Nicholas Cerruti	Rob Snyder
Chip Laird	

### **Registered Student Organization Officers and Advisors**

Christine Byrnes, Co-Chair	Andrew Palmini, Treasurer
Erik Larson, Co-Chair	Nicholas Cerruti, Faculty Advisor
Sarah Moore, Officer	Rob Snyder, Faculty Advisor

### **Roger Williams Symposium Committee**

Rob Snyder, Chair	Chip Laird, Co-Chair
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### **Endowment Board**

Betty Adams	Emi Dickens
Jack Alexander	Kris Prieur
Ed Bennett	Jack Rogers

## Interfaith House Building Usage

### Office and Business Space

Barbara Aston	Korean Evangelical Church
Hillel (Jewish Student Organization)	Read for Life
Jeff Campbell (Personal Use)	Resonate Church
Jewish Community of the Palouse	Zoe Coffeehouse and Pub

### Multiple Meeting per Week

Alcoholics Anonymous	Read for Life
Meditation Classes	

### Weekly Meetings

Celebrating the Divine (formerly <i>Dances of Universal Peace</i> and <i>Eat, Dance, and Pray Together!</i> )	Interfaith Mythbusters
Common Ministry Director Meetings with Student Leadership	Korean Evangelical Church
Dances of Universal Peace	Math Group
Hillel	Presbyterian Men
Inspire!	Qur'an Study Group
	Resonate Small Group Study
	Secular Cougs
	Taize

### Monthly Meetings

AA Business Meeting	Interfaith Dialogue
Common Ministry Council Meeting	Jewish Community of the Palouse

### Periodic Use

Common Ministry—Various Meetings and Events	Muslim Student Organization at WSU
Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority, Inc.	Pullman Civic Trust
Human Development 205	Resonate—Various Meetings and Events
Inn at WSU	Sara Bowyer Presentation
Interfaith Dialog Potluck	Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc.
Jewish Community of the Palouse	Revolutionary Minds
Kappa Delta Chi	Whitman County Food Handlers Permit Class
<i>LandEscapes</i> Literary and Arts Journal	

### New to the Interfaith House This Year

Celebrating the Divine (formerly <i>Dances of Universal Peace</i> and <i>Eat, Dance, and Pray Together!</i> )	Resonate 24 Hour Prayer
Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority, Inc.	Sara Bowyer Presentation
Kappa Delta Chi	Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc.
Math Group	Whitman County Food Handler's Permit Class
Meditation Classes	
Muslim Student Organization	
Pullman Civic Trust	
Qur'an Study Group	

# REPORTS

## Interim Director Activity Report, Dr. Rob Snyder

This year went by so quickly. So much has happened in just 12 short months.

As an organization, we have . . .

- Continued our important presence as a pastoral resource, as well as a voice of ethics on the WSU campus.
- Presented an atmosphere of openness, inclusion, and radical Christian hospitality. Maintained the building upkeep and upgraded the cell towers to 4G. This increased our monthly income.
- Renewed our contracts with all of the building users who are paying to use the space.
- Maintained our Christian presence while expanding and fostering more interfaith dialog.
- Celebrated our 34<sup>th</sup> Roger Williams Symposium, though there was a low turnout, we have not broken the 34 years of offering such a resource on the campus and in the community. (*Appendix 1*)
- Expanded the student ministry with three programs now being offered by the director, Celebrating the Divine, Meditation Classes 4 times a week, and Interfaith Mythbusters. (*Appendices 2, 3*)
- Expanded our presence on the campus with the director's significant offering of classes on dream work and spirituality (*Appendix 4*), serving on panels discussing spirituality (*Appendix 5*) and contemporary issues such as gays coming out in the Church (*Appendix 6*), working with the Dean of Students and GIESORC offices, as well as helping to form and staff the WSU Spirituality project.
- Maintained the Registered Student Organization as well as moved over to the new internet format called CougSync.
- Produced and distributed Newsletters and fundraising letters to the IFH community. (*Appendix 3*)

The Interim Director has . . .

- Completed the tasks of the Office Manager and the Director until a new Office Manager could be found and trained.
- Trained the new Office Manager.
- Moderated the monthly Interfaith Dialog Group of Pullman.
- Submitted grants to BHECM and the Pride Foundation.
- Solicited support for the Roger Williams Symposium from the Office of the Dean of Students, the Honors College, and the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches.
- Interviewed, wrote articles, and advertised in the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, The Daily Evergreen, WSU Week, and the IFH Newsletter. (*Appendices 1, 3, 5, 7*)
- Installed a network backup drive and organized and cleaned out the network closet.
- Wrote a grant proposal for the Pride Foundation.
- The Director designed and produced IFH brochure. (*Appendix 13*)

As a result . . .

- We have increased our presence on campus.
- Many new students have walked through our doors.

# Interim Director Contact Report, Dr. Rob Snyder

<b>Student Contacts:</b>	<b>Number of People Reached</b>	
Celebrating the Divine	136	
Individual Counseling / Conversation with Students	180	
Interfaith Mythbusters	270	
Interviews with Students	4	
Lectures for Classes	8	
Meditation Classes (4 times a week)	400	
Retreat at the Monastery of St. Gertrude, Fall 2011	15	
RSO Organization and CougSync Setup	18	
Student Leaders	48	
Taize weekly program	153	
Welcome Back BBQ ( <i>Appendix 8</i> )	100	*****
Workshops on Dreams and Spirituality ( <i>Appendix 4</i> )	65	*****
Category Total:	1,397	
<b>Common Ministry Contacts:</b>		
Building Maintenance	15	
Common Ministry Committees	27	
Interfaith Dialog: Monthly Meetings	72	
Mailings, Letters, and Newsletters to our Mailing List ( <i>Appendix 3</i> )	1,200	
Meetings with Other Religious Leaders	15	
Monthly Council Meetings	108	
National Campus Ministers Association	32	
Roger Williams Symposium ( <i>Appendix 1</i> )	35	
Contact with Read for Life, Korean Evangelical Church, Math Group		
Contact with the Jewish Community of the Palouse		
Contact with Zoe Coffeehouse, Resonate Church		
Category Total:	1,504	
<b>Faculty &amp; University Contacts:</b>		
Lectures	400	
Meeting with various campus groups	9	
Meetings with Assistant Dean of Students	8	
Meetings with Campus Climate	14	
Meetings with Parking Services	8	
Meetings with WSU Administrators	8	
RSO Faculty Advisor	12	
Wellbeing Center, Rec Center	16	
Category Total:	475	
<b>Community Contacts:</b>		
Kiwanis Club	45	
Various Members of the Community	25	
Category Total:	70	
<b>Total:</b>	<u>3,446</u>	

RSO Report, Dr. Rob Snyder

8/22/2011	Balance		878.55
	Money Transferred from Foundation		<u>1,446.05</u>
			<u>2,324.60</u>
<i>Date</i>	<i>Reason</i>	<i>Person Reimbursed</i>	<i>Amount</i>
8/29/2011	Supplies for Welcome Back BBQ	Emi	64.48
8/29/2011	Supplies for Welcome Back BBQ	Sue	160.58
8/29/2011	Supplies for Welcome Back BBQ	Rob	36.06
8/29/2011	Supplies for Welcome Back BBQ	Rob	159.93
9/1/2011	Food for student weekly gatherings	Rob	184.87
10/13/2011	Food for student weekly gatherings	Rob	129.89
10/13/2011	Fod for St. Gertrude's retreat	Rob	151.91
11/2/2011	Food for student weekly gatherings	Rob	128.14
11/14/2011	New Student Programs	NSP	10.00
11/30/2011	Food for student weekly gatherings	Rob	89.08
12/6/2011	Food for student weekly gatherings	Rob	128.23
	<i>Actual spent according to WSU</i>		<u>1,243.17</u>
12/31/2011	Ending Balance		<u>1,081.43</u>
1/1/2012	Beginning Balance		<u>1,081.43</u>
<i>Expenses</i>	Jan 2012 Expenses for programs		102.72
	Feb 2012 Expenses for programs		141.30
	Mar 2012 Expenses for programs		136.64
	Apr 2012 Expenses for programs		<u>247.83</u>
	<i>Total Expenses since 01/01/2012</i>		<u>628.49</u>
	<i>Balance After Expenses</i>		<u>452.94</u>
<i>Income</i>	Honors College for RWS poster		<u>100.00</u>
	<i>Total Income since 01/01/2012</i>		<u>100.00</u>
Balance as of May 20th 2012 based upon reports from WSU			<u><u>552.94</u></u>

## Community Liaison Report, Wilhelmina O. Sarai-Clark

Several years ago the unpaid, voluntary staff position of Community Liaison was created to assume some responsibilities formerly filled by the Episcopal Campus Minister. With changes in programs and support, the responsibilities included offering a course on Religion and Culture, assisting with Taize services, assistance with faculty forums, and participation in diverse communities.

Recently, the focus has changed from student programs and consultations to an emphasis on relationships with other community organizations, programs, and concerns. These relationship-building methods currently include book studies, Interfaith throughout the Palouse area, awareness of problems associated with human rights, support of community efforts, and addressing student concerns and those of the immediate academic environment.

During this time of transition, a primary concern has become a non-denominational connection of the new with previous activities and directions, a historical perspective, as well as awareness of future needs and possibilities.

## Council President Report, Sue Durrant

The 2011-2012 year has been one of transition. It began in May with the hiring of Dr. Rob Snyder as Interim Director (3/4 time), a continuation of our strategic planning efforts, and the departure of Rev. Gail Stearns for her new position at Chapman University (CA). In May, we hired an Office Manager who then had to be terminated in June due to financial mismanagement. We were successful in hiring Lorraine Boro Mason in August, and she has been great at managing the various duties of this position. Andrew Palmini, an accounting major, has served as Treasurer and graduates May, 2012.

Our strategic planning efforts continued with a Council Retreat at the IFH on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Duncan Ferguson again served as our facilitator. Following our discussions, Duncan developed a first draft of the strategic planning document. This was reviewed and edited by volunteers who had attended the retreat. Duncan took this input and did a complete revision by the end of the summer. At the September Council meeting, time was spent in reviewing and assigning various goals to be accomplished in years 1-2-3-4. Then, in small groups, strategies were developed for most of the goals identified for year 1. Additional editorial revisions to the context section were finalized in January, 2012.

One of the main goals for this year was to hire a new Director. This began with the selection of the Search Committee that would develop and implement the search process for the selection of a new Director. A committee was appointed to recommend the composition of the Search Committee. The Search Committee was approved at the October Council meeting, and began to meet regularly (see Search Committee report for details).

In July, I wrote a letter (*Appendix 9*) to introduce our Interim Director, Rob Snyder, to the active supporters of the Common Ministry and to others on our general mailing list. Rob has worked hard to maintain the various student programs and to provide for student leadership development; to further partnerships with WSU, primarily through the Office of the Dean of Students; and to manage the IFH (see the Interim Director's report for further information).

Again this year, the Council Meetings were held on the second Monday each Month, with adjustments when necessary. This worked well as it avoided conflicts with many campus events. The Executive Committee (Sue Durrant, President; Emi Dickens, Vice President; Chip Laird, Past-President; Rob Snyder, Interim Director; Andrew Palmini, Treasurer) met the Tuesday or Wednesday prior to the Council meetings.

In addition to the regular business of the Common Ministry Council, Emi Dickens and I participated in the CMHE Retreat at the Lazy F Retreat Center in Ellensburg, WA, October 7-8, 2011. I also helped with the 2011 Dinner for Eight at the IFH on October 2<sup>nd</sup>; the CM Donor Reception on December 11<sup>th</sup>; the Roger Williams Symposium, March 23-24, 2012; and the Annual Dinner Auction fundraising event held at Banyan's on the Ridge on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.



As additional fundraising strategies will need to be implemented in the very near future, Emi Dickens and I began discussions to identify some possible approaches. A meeting was held with members from the 2003-2006 Fundraising Committee to review earlier strategies and accomplishments. We also met with a representative of the WSU administration to review the cooperative relationship that has existed over many years, and possible areas of assistance. Future efforts will be needed to replace BECHM funding (expires the end of 2012), and CMHE funding (expires the end of 2013). We need to expand our possible funding sources beyond the local community in order to stabilize our future budget needs.

The 2011 fiscal year (Jan-Dec) did end with a small surplus due to careful monitoring of expenses. However, we had transferred funds from the Reserve Account to the Operating (checking) Account to cover those lost through OM mismanagement. Monies received through the WSU Foundation were transferred to the Registered Student Organization Account (Interfaith House at WSU). This RSO account was utilized to cover the weekly meal expenses for Taize/Dances of Universal Peace and Interfaith Mythbusters programs. Council Members were asked to discuss the Common Ministry financial picture with their denomination and to encourage each to maintain their current levels of giving if at all possible. The 2012 budget was passed in December and included a budget line for expenses related to the search for a new full-time Director.

April included the interview schedules for three candidates for the Director position. Also, the annual fundraising Dinner Auction on April 22, 2012, at Banyans On the Ridge (see Dinner Auction report for details).

We hope to have a permanent Director of the Interfaith House in place by July 1. Over the summer, the Officers will meet to oversee the transition process and plan for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Yes, this has been a year with many challenges. Our Interim Director, Rob Snyder, has done an excellent job and we are appreciative of his leadership during this time of transition. In addition, I am grateful to all Council Members for your time, energy, and thoughtful input throughout this busy year. Thank you for your willingness to put in many additional hours to serve on various committees that resulted in a very good year for the Common Ministry/IFH. Also, I have appreciated the work of the Executive Committee; the efforts of our OM, Lorraine Mason; and the cooperating ministries and student leaders in making the programs and events so successful. Thank you all very much!

## Treasurer Report, Andrew Palmini

In July of 2011, I assumed the role of Treasurer and At Large council member at the Common Ministry at WSU. In the past year, the Office Manager, the Interim Director, and I have worked together to simplify the bookkeeping at the Interfaith House.

Given the situation left by the past Office Manager, we have taken steps in developing a standard procedure for accounting for income and expenses, developing a streamlined system for recording payroll tax, as well as greatly improving organization within the office. We are prepared and excited for the following years now that we have developed a system that can be replicated regardless of future personnel changes.

As I am soon to graduate, the executive committee has found a replacement for my position. We welcomed Susie Savino last month, and she has shadowed my position for several weeks now. She has shown great skill as an accounting student at Washington State University, and the Executive Committee is confident in her ability to face any challenge in the next fiscal year.

Treasurer Financial Report, Andrew Palmini

	Monthly Budget	YTD as of 12/31/11	% Annual	Annual Budget 2011	<sup>1</sup> Annual Budget 2012
<b>Income:</b>					
Public Support	1,416.67	22,544.18	133%	17,000.00	15,000
Local Churches	833.33	4,442.89	44%	10,000.00	5,000
Dinner Auction	1,000.00	10,206.00	85%	12,000.00	10,500
Building Use Donation	458.33	9,100.91	165%	5,500.00	10,600
Zoe Coffeehouse and Pub	647.92	8,083.44	104%	7,775.00	12,800
BHECM	750.00	8,529.28	95%	9,000.00	10,000
CMHE Regular Support	1,975.00	22,073.23	93%	23,700.00	24,000
CMHE Secretary	25.00	300.00	100%	300.00	0
Presbyterian Synod Cell Towers	1,658.98	21,603.19	109%	19,907.78	20,260
Student Raised Funds	83.33	989.00	99%	1,000.00	1,000
Stearns Student Fund	-	2,140.00	0%	N/A	0
Roger Williams Symposium	416.67	140.00	3%	5,000.00	5,000
Total Income:	9,265.23	110,152.12	99%	111,182.78	114,160
<b>Expenses:</b>					
CMHE Executive Secretary	25.00	10.00	3%	300.00	0
Director Salary	2,040.12	30,833.09	126%	24,481.45	50,400
Director Social Security Allowance	283.51	1,465.88	43%	3,402.14	0
Director Housing Allowance	1,666.67	10,416.67	52%	20,000.00	0
Director Pension and Medical	1,287.50	8,113.36	53%	15,450.00	0
Director Continuing Edu. Expenses	85.83	352.00	34%	1,030.00	500
Director Auto and Prof. Expenses	128.75	777.47	50%	1,545.00	1,500
Director Expenses - Other	-	33.07	100%	33.07	0
Treasurer Stipend	50.00	550.00	92%	600.00	600
Office Manager Salary	886.83	11,556.64	109%	10,642.00	12,640
FICA	67.81	2,846.94	350%	813.70	4,882
Dept Labor & Industry	62.23	740.47	99%	746.75	772
Stearns Student Fund	-	917.23	0%	N/A	0
Advertising	25.00	227.54	76%	300.00	300
Bank Fees	-	82.77	0%	N/A	0
Dinner Auction (Expense)	250.00	3,179.27	106%	3,000.00	3,000
Insurance	50.00	555.00	93%	600.00	600
Office and Household Supplies	125.00	1,914.84	128%	1,500.00	1,500
Computer	83.33	554.54	55%	1,000.00	500
Postage	83.33	659.24	66%	1,000.00	1,000
Fall BBQ	25.00	-	0%	300.00	0
Printing and Publishing	166.67	3,161.85	158%	2,000.00	2,500
Chamber Dues	9.58	120.00	104%	115.00	120
Cleaning Supplies	-	211.52	0%	N/A	100
Maintenance	83.33	1,065.14	107%	1,000.00	1,000
Repairs	166.67	1,342.18	67%	2,000.00	1,000
Custodial Services	166.67	1,359.69	68%	2,000.00	2,000
Summer Security	-	120.00	0%	N/A	200
Telephone	208.33	2,420.26	97%	2,500.00	2,500
Utilities	916.67	15,336.91	139%	11,000.00	14,000
Roger Williams Symposium	416.67	-	0%	5,000.00	5,000
Search Expense	-	535.95	0%	-	7,000
Total Expense:	9,360.50	101,459.52	90%	112,326.04	113,614
<b>Net Income:</b>		<b>8,692.60</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Budget for 2012 as approved on 12/12/2011

## Director Search Committee Report, Nicholas Cerruti, Chair

The search committee for the director of the Common Ministry formed in October, 2011. The committee consists of Nicholas Cerruti (Methodist and chair), Chip Laird (Congregationalist), Lenore Chambers (Presbyterian), Phil Mixter (Episcopalian), Larry Fox (Jewish), and Libby Walker (University member). The committee began meeting in November, 2011 and requested a budget of \$7000 from the Council for the search.

The first task of the committee was to develop a job announcement and position description. These were completed by the Christmas break. The requirements for the positions were documented experience with campus ministry and interfaith relations, an advanced degree in theology studies and excellent written and oral communication skills. In addition, the committee decided on places to advertise, which included the Chronicle of Higher Education, the National Association of College and University Chaplains, and Sojourners Magazine. The review date in the advertisement was February 15, 2012.

Receiving a total of 69 applications, the committee began the process of narrowing the field of candidates. The committee divided the applicants into two groups, and three committee members reviewed the candidates' CVs and cover letters for each group. Twelve candidates were selected for a short list and the committee began calling their references. The committee narrowed the list down again to six candidates who were phone interviewed. After the phone interviews, the committee recommended three candidates, Trish Eckert, Jacob Hofmeister, and Jennifer Seach for physical interviews.

During the search process, the committee came up with an interview schedule that included meetings with university officials (Associate Dean of Students, Mel Morgan and Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education, Mary Wack), members of the Interfaith Dialogue group, local clergy, and student groups (Inspire! and Interfaith Mythbusters). The candidates interviewed with the search committee and gave a presentation to the Council. The committee will make a recommendation to the Council on the order of candidates to make an offer for the position of permanent director at the April 30, 2012 meeting.

I would like to thank all the members of the search committee for all their efforts in the past six months. We look forward to a new era for the Common Ministry.

## Dinner Auction Report, Emi Dickens

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Auction fundraiser was held on April 22, 2012 at the Banyans on the Ridge Pavilion. The day turned out to be a gorgeous spring day. Guests enjoyed beautiful view of the Palouse Ridge Golf Course from the patio of the Pavilion during the Social Hour, which started at 5 p.m.

The Common Ministry Council members sold tickets or hosted tables for the auction. The auction planning committee members, Nancy Nydegger, Sue Durrant, Barbara Hammond, Toni Sarai-Clark, Janet McGough, Doug and Marcia Jacobs, Emi Dickens, and Lorraine Mason (Office Manager), solicited local businesses and individuals for auction items. The Committee worked hard to prepare the auction items for live and silent auction, and to set up items for display on the day of the auction.

Thanks to generous donations, we were able to raffle off five Raffle Baskets. Over 30 packaged items were sold through silent auction. The live auction started out with the dessert auction. Five delicious desserts were donated: Two plates of Nanaimo Bars, Bailey's Irish Cream Cake, Triple Chocolate Mousse, Lemon Bars, and Chocolate Brownies. The dessert auction raised \$600. This was a record high for the dessert auction.

The following 18 wonderful items and packages were donated by our generous supporters and auctioned off in our live auction.

- Two-day Retreat at St. Gertrude's Monastery for One Person
- Floral Arrangements for Eight Holidays
- Round of Golf for Two at Circling Raven Golf Course
- Combine Ride on the Flansburg Farm
- Weekend Retreat at the Hutton Hut
- Boat Trip on the St. Joe River or Coeur D'Alene River
- Two Bottles of Wine and Cougar Wine Tasting Set
- Pocket Knives
- Pastured Thanksgiving Turkey or Holiday Ham
- Interfaith House Fireside Dinner
- A Round of Golf for Four at Palouse Ridge Golf Course
- Lake-Side Cabin Stay at Heyburn State Park
- Day of Sailing on Lake Coeur D'Alene
- A Bouquet a Week for 12 Weeks
- Cougar Wrist Watch
- Handmade Fish Dipping Net
- Two Cougar Football Tickets to the Homecoming Game

Rob Snyder, Interim Director, served as the Master of Ceremonies. Our favorite auctioneer, Austin Booker, returned again this year as a great auctioneer for an entertaining and great auction. This was his 9<sup>th</sup> year with the Common Ministry Auction. The attendance was approximately 110 and everyone had a lovely evening. Thanks to the generous donors, the live auction (including desserts) raised a total of \$4,750.

It was nice to see a diverse group of people show up to support the mission of the Common Ministry. Special thanks to the auction planning committee members (listed above), Lenore and Doug Chambers, Rex and Beth Burns, Tim Paulitz, Andrew Palmini, and Susie Savino for their help with the auction setup. The preliminary gross income from the auction is \$11,446.00. A brochure for this event can be found as Appendix 10.

# PARTNERSHIP

## Cooperating Ministries in Higher Education (CMHE) Partnership Report, Sue Durrant

The CMHE Board met in the October 7-8, 2011, at the Lazy F Conference Center in Ellensburg, WA. Those attending represented EWU, WWU, WSU, UI, Evergreen State College, and the Presbyterian Synod. We again experienced warm fellowship and heart-felt discussion. Sue Durrant and Emi Dickens attended for the Common Ministry at WSU.

Those attending agreed that it important to meet annually to keep in contact with our member denominations and for the purposes of maintaining collegiality, even after the funding ceases (projected to be the end of 2013). For many years, funds from member denominations have assisted each of our five campuses (WSU, EWU, UI, WWU, Evergreen) in hiring an ecumenical director (part-time or full-time). We were sad to learn that the ministry at the University of Washington has dissolved.

Current member denominations of CMHE include: American Baptist, Evergreen Association; Disciples of Christ/Christian; Presbyterian (U.S.A.); and United Church of Christ.

Member campuses, and directors/campus pastors, include:

- Western Washington University: Is active again this year, and is known as *Progressive Christian Voices*. This campus ministry is provided at ¼ time.
- Eastern Washington University: Rev. Paul Rodkey serves this campus where students meet weekly. There are 18-20 faith groups on campus.
- Campus Christian Center, University of Idaho: Doug Wood and Rev. Carla Neumann-Smiley are the co-directors and coordinate various denominational programs. A community gardens is on the grounds at the Campus Christian Center. Plans include a *Sweet Music* and dessert fundraiser.
- Thurston County Ministries in Higher Education, Evergreen College: Chaplain Fred LaMotte serves this community with the *Common Bread* interfaith ministry. This features weekly programs and events. More outreach to help veterans is planned.
- Washington State University: Dr. Rob Snyder is the Interim Director of the Interfaith House / Common Ministry during this year of transition. A search committee convened Fall 2011 to develop the timelines and implement the procedures to search for a new director. Our previous director, Rev. Gail Stearns, accepted a position as Dean of the Chapel at Chapman University in California and began June 1, 2011.

The CMHE board continues to interpret the importance of higher education campus ministry to our denominations. The contact person for this board is Paul Rodkey.

## Wesley Board Foundation Partnership Report

Alissa Bertsch Johnson leads Inspire! Dinner and Fellowship every Wednesday night at the Interfaith House (*Appendix 2*). She does this as the Executive Director and Campus Pastor for the Wesley Foundation at WSU, which is a United Methodist Campus Ministry, and their partnership with the Common Ministry at WSU.

Recently, local students from Washington State University and the University of Idaho joined Phil Mixer (Episcopalian and Professor at WSU) and Alissa on a mission trip to Los Angeles, California to better understand homelessness. While in Los Angeles, students completed a project converting a Church garage into a clothing closet in Watts. Another student-group worked in Los Angeles on Skid Row to help homeless children and youth build a room for private counseling. The students participated in role playing games to help understand poverty and homelessness, and were taught about the history of gangs. The students had a free night in Santa Monica to enjoy the beach and ocean.

The mission trip was through the Sierra Service Project, which is an interdenominational Christian service organization affiliated with the United Methodist Church. It was reported to be a very successful trip. (*Appendices 11, 12*)



# MINISTRIES

## Common Ministry Programming and Events

Common Ministry (CM): **Dinner Auction Committee**: The Dinner Auction Committee held a pre-event work meeting at the IFH. At this meeting, baskets and items for the auction were prepared and packaged. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

CM: **Council Meetings**: During the academic year, the Common Ministry at WSU holds Council Meetings once each month at the Interfaith House. **Regular Meetings.**

CM: **Dinner for Eight**: This special dinner is auctioned off every year at our annual Dinner Auction fundraiser. The winning bidder invites seven guests, and Council members and students prepare and serve food from a menu that they caringly designed. The 2011 dinner party had a lovely time and enjoyed excellent food. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

CM: **Director Search**: The IFH staff had informal interviews with Director candidates, and gave tours of the IFH as part of the search process. Community members and students also had the opportunity to meet and talk with candidates. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

CM: **Office Manager Search**: The Office Manager search committees held meetings and interviews, and gave tours of the IFH as part of the search process. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

CM: **Roger Williams Symposium**: The Common Ministry Partnered with the Office of the Dean of Students to present the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Roger Williams Symposium. The IFH was used for one evening of the symposium. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

CM: **Treasurer Search**: The Treasurer search committee held meetings and interviews, and gave tours of the IFH as part of the search process. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

IFH Director (DIR): **Individual Student Counseling and Spiritual Guidance**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: The Interim Director met with individual students on a daily basis. Spontaneous walk-in request and pre-planned appointment-based meetings took place as needed. The Interim Director had 180 appointment sessions with students during the school year 2011-2012. This was one of the most personal and supportive ministries offered by Interfaith House. Students with deep serious personal, spiritual needs could meet with a trusted advisor and talk about what to do with their lives. **Regular Meetings. Periodic / One-Time Events.**

IFH DIR: **Meditation Classes**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: Many of the students had asked if they could learn to meditate. The Interim Director began teaching classes on meditation beginning in the Spring semester. The classes were only twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. The meditation classes were advertised through the CougarSync network on the WSU campus, and these advertisements were put into the Daily Evergreen, the student newspaper for WSU. As a result, students new to Interfaith House began to drop in and attend the classes. After just a few weeks the students wanted to meet more often than just twice a week.

Meditation classes were then held four times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. More and more students began to join the group and learn simple mindfulness techniques. The classes grew to about 18 to 20 different individuals, mostly students, but some staff from WSU came on a regular basis. The students were graduate students and undergraduate students. The daily average for meditation classes grew to 8 to 10 students. At times the room would be bursting at the seams with 13 to 14 people attending the classes. There was a total attendance of around 400 students for the spring semester.

The meditation classes continued through May and June as there were about a half-dozen students who were still in Pullman during this time period and were very interested in continuing meditation. **New. Regular meetings.**

IFH DIR: **Public Speaking Engagements**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: The Interim Director was invited to come speak in classrooms, community gatherings in Pullman, and public events on the WSU campus. The Interim Director was able to present the ministry and service of Interfaith House to a wide audience of individuals throughout the Pullman and WSU community. The Interim Director was able to address about 250 unique individuals through these engagements. **New. Regular Meetings. Periodic / One-Time Events.**

IFH DIR: **Workshops on Dream Interpretation and Workshops on Spirituality in Higher Education**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: The Interim Director of Interfaith House working with the Coordinator for the Wellbeing Program at the Recreation Center at WSU, organized and presented eight workshops on Dream Interpretation and six workshops on Spirituality in Higher Education. These workshops were offered at the Interfaith House and on the WSU campus. Most of the students attending these workshops were totally new to Interfaith House. There were approximately 65 students who attended these workshops. **New. Regular Meetings.**

Interfaith House Registered Student Organization (IFH RSO): **Celebrating the Divine**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: This is a newly created student ministry. Several students from the Taize group had expressed the desire to have a broader perspective and approach to the ministry. They also expressed an interest to have more meditation. Celebrating the Divine was birthed and became a ministry which attracted up to 16 to 18 different students. The program was focused on doing spiritual practices which would awaken one to the divine presence in one's life. A multi-religious perspective was taken, sacred scriptures and readings from many of the world's religions were used. A variety of different spiritual practices from the world's religions were used as well. Mindfulness practices, meditation, walking mindfulness, attunement, and centering prayer are just a few of the practices used in this ministry. There was a consistent 8-9 students who would come on a weekly basis. There was an additional 8-9 students who would drop in on an occasional basis. There was a total attendance of around 136 for the Spring semester.

This ministry has had a profound impact on the students in helping them find their own path in life. Many of the students found a peace at the center of their being. Other students began to experience an opening to something greater than themselves. Still others began to find what one might call the Divine or God, where previously they did not have such a perspective. **New. Regular Meetings.**

IFH RSO: **Fall Student Leadership Retreat**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: In the Fall semester, the Interim Director led a group of 15 participants on a retreat to The Monastery of St.

Gertrude in Cottonwood Idaho. The focus of the retreat was to move inwards. Another goal of the retreat was to give the students a time away from their normal routine. The Interim Director led the students in several guided meditations. He taught the students how to do walking meditation. There were opportunities to apply the mindfulness practices to walking in nature at the students' leisure. The Interim Director also did a journeying exercise with the students using the Native American tradition of drumming. Additionally, the students participated in the prayers and worship services of the Sisters at the Monastery. **Periodic / One-Time Event.**

IFH RSO: **Interfaith Mythbusters**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: Interfaith Mythbusters is a weekly discussion that is open and affirming of all traditions. There was a regular group of about 9 to 10 students. There were other students who would drop in irregularly and the group would go up to about 12 to 14. The goal was to have students share their own personal journey of faith and meaning. Student leaders would plan the direction and content for the meetings in the fall semester. With the spring semester there were a new group of students and this became a self-organizing group. Frequently a student would bring in a topic, or a reference, or a video or film to talk about, watch, listen to and then an open discussion would follow. The idea was to explore all of the various avenues in the variety of different religious traditions. The focus of the group began to move toward the meaning and purpose of life in general and how the life of a student could have greater purpose. There was a total attendance of around 270 for the 2011-2012 school year. **New. Regular meetings.**

IFH RSO: **Student Leadership**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: During the Fall semester the Interim Director met with 4 to 6 students on a weekly basis to plan the two ministries of Taizé and Interfaith Mythbusters. With the end of the Fall semester, many of the students graduated, left to study abroad, or stopped going to school. In the Spring semester there was a whole new group of students who began to come to Interfaith House. The organization and focus began to be more self-organizing based upon the interest and focus of the students. **Regular Meetings.**

IFH RSO: **Taizé Prayer Service**, Rob Snyder, Interim Director: Reflection is meant to refresh and renew us from the demands of constant activity and connection—we are always online or on the go or simply involved in something. Yet many of today's Christian services involve an endless liturgy or a great deal of activity that does not offer one the opportunity to simply rest and be still. The Taizé service, developed by monks in France, allows participants a beautiful, reflective time of renewal without doctrine or specific theology—this allows persons of any faith or no faith to join in community and sit in a place of peace.

The Taizé service is based on centering silence and a unique type of music: inclusive, non-preaching songs written in several languages and performed by accomplished musicians. Gail Stearns had gathered the first community in her region in the Taizé style; she has visited the original Taizé community many times and understands how to create a Taizé service that best offers a respite from a busy life and a space for spiritual renewal.

Program response: There was a core of 8 to 10 students who would attend regularly. There were other students who would come on an occasional basis. Thus the number would go from an average of 9 students up to 15 and back down to 9 again. The students were from a number of different backgrounds. We had Wiccan, Nature Focus, Christians, Muslims, and Buddhists who would attend. There was a total attendance of around 153 for the whole fall semester.

Toward the end of the semester, the students were expressing their interest in having the Taize service become more broad, to include other traditions and not just focus on Christian songs and meditations. The reflective readings were always from multiple traditions. We had two student musicians and one student who helped organize the worship service. At the end of the Fall 2011 semester the students decided to disband and to create something new. **Regular Meetings.**

IFH RSO: **Welcome Back BBQ:** On the first day of school each academic year, the Interfaith House RSO has a BBQ in the courtyard in front of the Interfaith House. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, and beverages are offered free of charge. It is a time to welcome new and returning students, to fellowship with others, to answer questions that students may have about what the Interfaith House has to offer, and to direct students to resources and groups in our community. The IFH Director welcomed back the students and invited them to come and participate in our various programs. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Interfaith Dialog,** Rob Snyder, Interim Director: The Interim Director was the organizer and facilitator for the monthly Interfaith Dialog meetings of religious leaders in the Pullman area. The purpose of the Interfaith Dialog Group is to develop relationships among and within various faith communities in the Pullman and surrounding area. When an interfaith crisis arises, the Interfaith Dialog Group can mobilize the local faith communities to respond appropriately. The Interfaith Dialog Group develops friendships and respect for people regardless of their faith convictions. The Interfaith Dialog Group is an opportunity for individuals to share about their personal faith, the work they are doing in the faith community and is an opportunity to educate and strengthen interfaith dialog in general. The Interfaith Dialog Group is a model of solidarity and how interfaith dialog can take place. There was a total attendance of around 72 for the 2011-2012 school year. **Regular Meeting.**

**Interfaith Dialog Potluck:** The Interfaith Dialog group, which consists of leaders of various faith traditions throughout the Palouse, meets regularly at the IFH, and holds its annual potluck at the IFH. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

## Organizations at the Interfaith House

Alcoholics Anonymous: **The Living Sober Group**: The Alcoholics Anonymous Preamble states: Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

The Living Sober group has been meeting at 12:10pm, seven days a week since 1989. We adhere to the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions of AA and strive to serve other alcoholics seeking a safe, anonymous place to recover from alcoholism. **Regular Meetings.**

**Barbara Aston**: Barbara has a warmly arranged space that she uses to guide people along their spiritual journey. **Office Space.**

**Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority, Inc.**: The Gamma Alpha Omega sorority had an enchilada feed. They cooked great food and sold it by the plate and delivered it to faculty and students around the university. They had between 50 and 70 customers. Proceeds from sales went to raise funds for two scholarships that they will be awarding on March 31, 2012. They hosted a similar dinner fundraiser in the Spring of 2011 to raise funds for scholarships. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Hillel**, Pat Carter: 2010-11 has been a good year for WSU-Hillel. Regular meetings usually draw 6-8 students, with the composition of the group varying from week to week, and with holiday events attracting a greater percentage of the membership. The composition of the group also changes significantly from year to year as seniors graduate and new students join; at this point we now have more than 100 students on our email list and have started an alumni list to better keep in touch with graduates. Like the population of WSU, most participating students are from Western Washington. Students meet weekly at the Interfaith House on either Tuesday or Friday night. On Tuesday, the students generally talk about subjects of Jewish interest, plan upcoming events, watch movies or just eat and chat. On Friday meeting nights, students share a Shabbat meal together, and occasionally they hold Shabbat at the Snake River dunes at sunset. In addition, the WSU-Hillel celebrated the major holidays that occurred during the academic year, including travel to the synagogue in Spokane for High Holiday services; a “Hookah in the Sukkah” event; a Chanukah party; a Tu B’Svat Seder; a Pesach Seder; and a Purim party. In addition, the students attended several WSU sporting events together, and also spent a weekend skiing together. Fruitful contact between Hillel and the Jewish Community of the Palouse continued this year, with between 5 and 10 Hillel students attending monthly Friday night services at the Interfaith House with the JCP, and with several services being led by the Hillel students. Some Hillel students also attended the JCP fall picnic and the JCP Sukkot and Chanukah parties. Because many members of the JCP are WSU faculty, the interaction of Hillel students with the JCP has led to an increased informal dialogue between students and faculty, and the JCP families have provided a home-away-from-home atmosphere that the students can enjoy if they wish. **Regular Meetings. Office Space.**

**Human Development 205:** A Harvest Fest was hosted by the Human Development 205 class. This was a social event for the fall season, particularly designed to welcome foreign students as part of the community. The class put up a lot of great decorations, had food booths, face painting booths, games, and crafts. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**The Inn at WSU:** The Inn at WSU hosted a prayer event for the United U Conference. The event was held for 24 hours, with people coming throughout the day and night to pray and worship. **New. Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Inspire!**, Alissa Bertsch Johnson: The Wesley Foundation at WSU holds one of its programs, *Inspire! Dinner and Fellowship*, at the Interfaith House each week on Wednesday nights from 5-7pm. We begin with a home-cooked meal provided by the Wesley Foundation or one of our donors, followed by a student-led program. During the Fall semester we worked our way through the Book of Acts and focused on how the early disciples spread the Gospel throughout the Holy Land. During the Spring we began by asking our students what questions they had about faith or what doubts they struggled with. We then took that list and spent a week on each topic (ex. The Problem of Evil). Our *Inspire!* program is planned and led by our student peer ministry team in cooperation with Alissa Bertsch Johnson, UMC Campus Minister, and The Rev. Mary Beth Rivetti, rector at St. James Episcopal. Each week our *Inspire!* program is different. We might do a traditional bible study one night and “Glee” song mash-ups the next! If you’d like to learn more about the ministry of the Wesley Foundation or how to support our ministry, please contact our campus minister: [alissakjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:alissakjohnson@gmail.com). **Regular Meetings.**

**International Christian University (ICU):** ICU is a Japanese University that was studying at the Intensive American Language Center at WSU during the summer of 2011. They held a mixer with students from their American Studies Class. **New. Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Jewish Community of the Palouse (JCP),** Myron Schreck: The Jewish Community of the Palouse has offices in the Interfaith House on the campus of Washington State University. The JCP offers cultural, religious and social activities for Jews living in Pullman, Moscow and the surrounding areas of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho including Washington State University and the University of Idaho. We are an unaffiliated community that is open to all members of the Jewish faith. It is our goal that Jews of all backgrounds, whether Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or Reconstructionist, feel comfortable participating in our community. Families of mixed marriages are also welcome and encouraged to participate. Our activities include High Holiday services, Sukkot, Chanukah, and Purim celebrations, Friday Night services and potlucks. Parents operate a Sunday School program for children 5 to 11. We have no Rabbi, so we depend on our members to help organize events, programs and lead services. JCP members assist the WSU Hillel student group, and students are always welcome to attend our activities, religious services and celebrations. Thank you. **Regular Meetings. Office Space.**

**JCP Rosh Hashanah Service:** The Jewish Community of the Palouse, which meets regularly at the IFH, held a Rosh Hashana Service in celebration of Rosh Hashanah, at the Interfaith House. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Jeff Campbell:** In the Spring semester, Jeff began renting office space four afternoons per week for personal writing time. **New. Office Space.**

**Kappa Delta Chi:** The Kappa Delta Chi hosted a Sope Fundraiser for their National Foundation, and had approximately 50 attendees. **New. Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Korean Evangelical Church,** Pastor Jinhee Han: The Korean Evangelical Church has services every Sunday at 11am with about twenty-five members. This year, about ten members participated in Bible study every Friday at 2pm. From Monday to Friday, we have morning prayer meetings from 6 to 7am with about two to five members. If necessary, we hold Bible studies for newcomers and provide counseling for students with regard to their faith. **Regular Meetings. Office Space.**

**LandEscapes Literary and Arts Journal:** *LandEscapes* held a release party for the 2011 edition of the journal at the IFH. The journal's mission is, "To serve as a mirror for student culture and creative ability at WSU". **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Mathematics Group,** Kevin R. Vixie: The mathematics group was studying geometric measure theory and geometric analysis—I was teaching about eight students an introductory course on those subjects. We used the kitchen to prepare potluck meals before the lectures and we very much enjoyed the relaxed and informal atmosphere that we found. It was precisely what we were looking for.

The proximity to Zoe's, the availability of the kitchen, the friendliness of the Interfaith House staff and Director all contributed to the success of the course. Cheers and Thanks. **New. Regular Meetings.**

**Muslim Student Association at WSU:** The Muslim Student Association, which helps new International Muslim students to adjust and to erase misconceptions, hosted two member meetings at the Interfaith House. The first meeting was their Annual Election of Officers. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Presbyterian Men's Group,** Pastor Norman Fowler: Our group is a group of men from First Presbyterian Moscow that work in Pullman mainly associate with campus. The group has been going several years now and has become a source of support and encouragement for those that attend. We discuss faith and life and lean on each other for guidance and clarification around these issues. We appreciate the space we use at Interfaith House each Tuesday noon. Grace and peace. **Regular Meetings.**

**Pullman Civic Trust:** Pullman Civic Trust had a committee meeting in the library. **New. Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Quranic Studies,** Hanieh Hashemiah: In these studies, we try to choose a topic to study about. Generally, nobody will be the main speaker or the chief of our studies like a position that a clergy man or a priest usually has in these kinds of studies. All members are expected to search about the chosen topic in the Quran and find the related verses and reflect on them. More importantly, all members are expected to reflect on the Arabic original verses and not just rely on the translations, trying to find out with a complete open-mind and wide attitude what the Quran is really saying regardless of what we have been taught or said since our childhood, or what our scholars or narrations tell about it, considering the whole context and the original language while comparing to other related verses. It is about detecting what the Quran means by each topic or verse, not what narrations say. Then we discuss about our findings in the meeting, reading the related verses together. Each time for each topic, one person volunteers to be responsible for the



topic so that we make sure at least one person did the research thoroughly to discuss it with others, if in case others couldn't have the chance to study the topic. That person is changing when the topic changes and he/she doesn't have the position of a more knowledgeable person or a clergy, or even speaker, but just someone who represent his own thinking on the topic and the verses according to the Quran and discuss it with others and others have the equal rights to discuss their own thoughts and ideas and to disagree. Nobody gives a speech; we discuss with each other and give our own thoughts. In our meetings, all kinds of comments or criticism and even questioning the Quran is allowed. The purpose of these meetings was to know the Quran more deeply and accurately as a free person, not as a Muslim; therefore everybody, even atheists, are welcome and encouraged to come. At the beginning, we sent an email to many of our friends including some atheists, inviting them to attend these meetings. No atheist agreed to come, but we had some non-Muslims attending our meetings sometimes. We had any kinds of discussions in our meetings including questioning the existence of God.

We could only study about one topic during our experience at the Interfaith House, which was "Zakat" (the obligatory charity tax for Muslims), and we had fewer people attending compared to last year and fewer sessions had been held than what was expected. **New. Regular Meetings.**

**Read for Life,** Thomas Salsbury and Ashley Schur: Read for Life is a registered student organization whose primary activity is tutoring elementary children in reading and writing. The group convenes twice weekly at the Interfaith House and serves between 15 to 25 children in any given afternoon. Sessions run from 5pm to 7pm. In addition to tutoring in literacy, the student group plays games with the children and provides a light, sit-down snack. Each semester ends with a small party to celebrate the children's accomplishments in reading and to recognize the leadership efforts of the student organizers. Ashley Shur is the outgoing president of the group. She will begin her third and final semester in the Elementary Education Certification Program at Washington State University before student teaching in the spring of 2013. Next year's president is Dani Ferguson who will be a senior communication major, and has been involved in Read for Life for two years.

All of the participating children are from local Pullman, WA schools. The vast majority of the children are English language learners. There is much academic, linguistic and cultural diversity among the children. The demand for tutors exceeds availability; thus, tutors often work with more than one child at a time. Tutors receive volunteer hours that are used toward graduation requirements, and many (though not all) of the tutors hope to be elementary teachers upon graduation. The leadership team works hard to raise money for the organization and find materials for the children. They sell home-baked goods at the student union and have met with local groups, such as Rotary, to apply for grants. All of the money raised goes to purchasing snacks and materials for the children. **Regular Meetings. Office Space.**

**Resonate Church,** Chad McMillan: Resonate Church is about to celebrate it's 5th birthday this coming August. In our short history, we have transformed a small college ministry into a thriving 700 person church, still aimed at the collegiate mindset. We found that collegiate ministry, while targeting a crucial time in one's life where many future-oriented decisions are made (career, spouse, habits, etc.), was less beneficial in that many college ministries were merely a segment of one's life and even of their spirituality. By deciding to turn a ministry into a church, we actually made a place where people could be more known and less isolated/hidden.

This year, in addition to the things we did on our campuses (Washington State University and University of Idaho) we sent 120 students on missions across the nation and around the world, with over 50 of these serving internationally. We also saw 70 people baptized as believers in Christ. Additionally, we partnered with WSU and UI to bring in a speaker from the organization

"Hello Somebody" which strives to end poverty and bring education to the countries of Rwanda, Haiti, Guatemala, and others. This summer we are partnering with WSU's Alive! student orientation to provide a Movie In The Park event as well as education events about spirituality while in college. Lastly, our growth over the past year required us to move our Pullman location out of Schweitzer's Event Center to the Gladish Community Center.

Throughout our growth, we have maintained our focus on college students. Nearly 90% of our congregation is university students. Our entire staff raises their own personal support in order to minister to this highly strategic but non-self-sustaining population. It is our joy to have partners such as the Common Ministry that allow us to continue to reach students, change the world and continue the mission Jesus gave his followers to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded." **Office Space.**

Resonate Church: **International Student Christmas Party:** Resonate Church held a dinner for international students to welcome them and to share the reason we celebrate Christmas. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

Resonate: **24 Hour Prayer:** Resonate Church had a room available at the Interfaith House for any member of their Church to come and pray, day or night, during Lent. **New. Periodic / One-Time Use.**

Resonate: **Bible Studies and Small Group Studies:** Studies were held throughout the school year to increase knowledge and promote Biblical discussion. **Regular Meetings.**

Resonate: **Intern Interviews:** Resonate Church reserved the Library of the IFH to hold interviews for their new interns. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

Resonate: **New International Students Welcome Party:** Resonate held a gathering for new international students before the 2011-2012 school year started in August. The gathering consisted of games, food, and other fun activities. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

Resonate: **Resonate Church Thailand Team:** The Thailand Team organized a Brunch and Art Auction for a Mom's weekend fundraiser in April 2011. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Revolutionary Minds:** Revolutionary Minds, whose purpose is, "valuing the voices of the oppressed" held a Spoken Word / Open Mic night in the lounge. **Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Sara Bowyer Presentation:** Sara Bowyer was a graduate student during the 2011-2012 school year. She chose the Interfaith House as the venue at which to present her senior thesis. **New. Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Secular Cougs,** Craig Wheeler: The goal of Secular Cougs is to promote open discussion of all things, including those things that are often taboo, and to provide a community for those lacking belief in god. Anyone is welcome to come to our meetings and participate in the discussion, ask questions about the secular community, or even bring a topic of their own. **Regular Meetings.**

**Sigma Lamda Beta International Fraternity Inc:** Sigma Lambda Beta is a group that seeks to further cultural awareness and promote community service. They hosted a Pozole Dinner Fundraiser to benefit their fraternal organization. Tickets were pre-sold to this successful event. **New. Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Whitman County Environment Health Department Food Handlers Permit Class:** The Common Ministry organized a Food Handler's Permit Class and test, which was administered in the dining room and lounge of the Interfaith House. Several members of the Common Ministry council and staff attended, as did members of various groups meeting at the Interfaith House. **New. Periodic / One-Time Use.**

**Zoe Coffeehouse & Pub,** Mike Wagoner, Owner: Many times we are asked "Who is Zoe?" or "May I talk with Zoe, please", but actually there is no person named Zoe. "Zoe" is one of the many Greek words used in scripture which is translated into English as "life." Zoe life is the only real and genuine life, the absolute fullness of life, both essentially and ethically, which belongs uniquely to God. It has always been our desire that, no matter how subtle, Zoe Coffeehouse be centered, not around an individual, but on the very One Who is Zoe Himself.

Zoe Coffeehouse & Pub (affectionately called Zoe Underground by many of our customers) is a safe haven for members of the WSU family to come to study, relax, or commune with friends old and new. Looking around the room you will see students lost in their laptops, church groups and campus ministries shepherding new ones one-on-one, or staff & faculty relaxing and enjoying a hand-crafted microbrew after work. In the evenings the room comes to life with the sound of music, whether it's the WSU School of Jazz enjoying their weekly Monday night jam sessions, or other aspiring student groups and local musicians.

In the '60's and '70's, the K-House was the hub of student unrest regarding human equality and social injustice. Many now-existing WSU student clubs and organizations had their beginnings in that "underground coffeehouse." In keeping with tradition, Zoe Coffeehouse hosts a monthly "open mic" for a student group called Revolutionary Minds, "...a non-violent group promoting the use of the pen and paper as a conduit for individual and collective revolution of the mind." The group hosts "open mic" nights once a month at Zoe Underground; usually consisting of poetry, music, and dialogue focused around issues of race, class, gender, and sexuality. In their own words to us, "Revolutionary Minds...is a space welcoming all viewpoints to be heard, debated, and respected. 2013 will be our fourth year hosting open mics, and Zoe Coffeehouse has been an unwavering supporter of our events. Without their donated space Revolutionary Minds would struggle to find a prime location to host events."

Zoe Coffeehouse has allowed many of the WSU students, staff, and faculty to come in contact with the Interfaith House and the Common Ministry literally thousands of times each school year; yet, most still have no idea of the existence of the Common Ministry nor its purpose or mission. Hopefully in the future there could be more mutual "self-promotions" which could benefit both our missions. **Business.**

# A P P E N D I C E S



# POETRY AS THE VOICE OF THE DIVINE: IN THE GOSPELS AND Gnostic SCRIPTURE

with Dr. Willis Barnstone

**March 23, 2012** - Friday evening lecture: "The Poems of Jesus and Poetry in the New Testament."  
CUE, Room 203, 7-9 pm

**March 24, 2012** - Saturday morning lectures: "Gnosticism and its Relationship to Christianity."  
Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 NE Campus Avenue, 9-noon

*The Library Journal* in its 7/15/09 issue wrote, "In an achievement remarkable by almost any standard, and surely one of the events of the year in publishing, renowned poet and scholar Barnstone has created a new and lavish translation—almost transformation—of the canonical and noncanonical books associated with the New Testament. In part a continuation of his work in *The New Covenant*, Commonly Called the New Testament (2002) and *The Other Bible* (2005), and in many ways the completion of the pioneering efforts of other modern translators like Robert Alter, Reynolds Price, and Richmond Lattimore, *The Restored New Testament* offers a completely new version of familiar and unfamiliar texts, restoring the likely Hebrew forms of names, and strongly emphasizing the poetic and almost incantatory passages that have been obscured within the New Testament.

**The sponsors of this event are:**

- Evergreen Association of American Baptists
- Office of the Dean of Students
- Honors College at WSU
- Students of Interfaith House at WSU

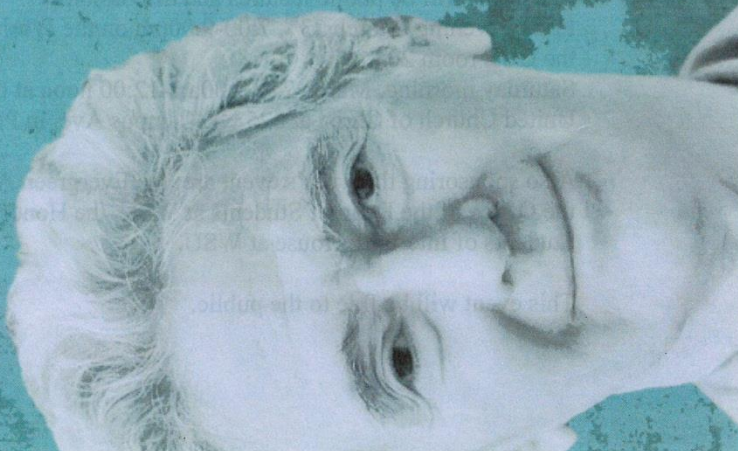


**Interfaith House**  
THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

**WASHINGTON STATE**



*World Class. Face to Face.*



The Common Ministry and The Interfaith House at WSU present the 34th Annual Roger Williams Symposium March 23-24, 2012.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For thirty-three years, The Common Ministry has invited nationally-known theologians and scholars to the Palouse for the Roger Williams Symposium—an event that highlights the intersection of religion, academics, faith, and learning in today's world.

This year, our speaker is Dr. Willis Barnstone, speaking on *Poetry as the Voice of the Divine in the Gospels and Gnostic Scriptures*.

Dr. Barnstone is one of America's most prolific and highly regarded translators and poets. He is a Guggenheim Fellow, Pulitzer Prize finalist in poetry, and a distinguished Professor Emeritus at Indiana University.

Among Dr. Barnstone's publications are: The Other Bible (Harper-Collins, 1984), To Touch the Sky: Poems of Mystical, Spiritual & Metaphysical Light (New Directions, 1999), The Apocalypse: Book of Revelation (New Directions, 2000), The Gnostic Bible (Shambhala, 2003) with co-author Marvin Meyer, The Restored New Testament (W. W. Norton, 2009), and his most recent publication The Poems of Jesus Christ (W.W. Norton, April 2012)

Jesus Christ, whose teachings have been on the lips of millions for two millennia, is revealed here as one of the greatest poets of all time. What happened to deafen us to the poetic nature of his words? In migrating from Aramaic speech into written Greek translation, and later into English translation, the lyrics got locked up as prose.

In The Poems of Jesus Christ Willis Barnstone unveils the essential poetry of the Gospels by taking the direct speech of Jesus from Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John, and lineating and titling Jesus's words as individual poems. Jesus's poems are wisdom lyrics and narrative parables, rich with garden, animal, and nature imagery. Austere and poignant, they carry the totality of the Gospels' message through the intensity of a single voice—the Gospel of Jesus.

The event will be public lectures and discussions.

Friday, March 23, 7:00-9:00pm on the Washington State University campus in the Smith Center for Undergraduate Education (The CUE) room 203.

Saturday, March 24, 9:00am-12:00pm at the Community Congregational United Church of Christ at 525 NE Campus Ave, Pullman, WA.

Also sponsoring this year's event are the Evergreen Association of American Baptist Churches, the Office of the Dean of Students at Washington State University, the Honors College at WSU, and The Students of Interfaith House at WSU.

This event will be free to the public.





March 2012  
Volume 29 Number 3

Micah 4:4

news@thefigtree.org  
(509) 535-1813 • 535-4112

Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest  
online in color at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org)



**Interfaith House**  
THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

34th Annual

**Roger Williams Symposium**  
**March 23 & 24, 2012**

*Poetry as the Voice  
of the Divine in the Gospels  
and Gnostic Scripture*  
featuring

**Willis Barnstone**

Author: *The Poems of Christ* (2012)  
*The Gnostic Bible* (2003)

**Free Lectures and Discussions**  
7 pm to 9 pm Friday - WSU CUE 203  
9 am to 12 pm Saturday -  
Pullman United Church of Christ  
525 NE Campus Ave.

**For details & to RSVP**  
[interfaith-house.com](http://interfaith-house.com)  
509-332-2611

## Author speaks on Jesus' words as poems

Author and poet Willis Barnstone will speak on "Poetry as the Voice of the Divine in the Gospels and Gnostic Scriptures" Friday and Saturday, March 23 and 24, for the 34th annual Roger Williams Symposium, sponsored by the Common Ministry at Washington State University (WSU).

Speaking of Jesus as one of the greatest poets of all time, he will address such questions as: What happened to deafen people to the poetic nature of his words? In shifting from oral Aramaic into written Greek, and later into

English, the lyrics were locked up as prose.

The Guggenheim Fellow and Pulitzer Prize finalist in poetry, is professor emeritus at Indiana University. He has written *The Poems of Jesus Christ* (2012), *The Restored New Testament* (2009) with co-author Marvin Meyer and *The Gnostic Bible* (2003).

In *The Poems of Jesus Christ*, he reveals poetry through seeing the words of Jesus in Mark, Matthew, Luke and John, as wisdom lyrics and narrative parables full of natural imagery.

Willis will lead lectures and discussion at 7 p.m., Friday, at the WSU Center for Undergraduate Education in room 203 and 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, at the Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 NE Campus Ave., in Pullman.

The Common Ministry invites theologians and scholars for the Roger Williams Symposium to highlight intersections of religion, academics and faith.

For information, call 332-2611 or visit [interfaith-house.com/symposium](http://interfaith-house.com/symposium).

# THE DAILY EVERGREEN

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1895



**Interfaith House**  
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509-332-2611





# Interfaith House

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

**A Safe Place  
For Spiritual Development**

## **Celebrating the Divine**

**Mondays 5-7:30pm**

Exploring and Developing Spiritual Practices  
Come Eat, Pray, and Dance Together

## **Inspire! Christian Fellowship**

**Wednesdays 5-7pm**

Free Dinner followed by worship and fellowship  
Offered by the United Methodist & Episcopal  
Churches. All students are welcome!

## **Interfaith Mythbusters**

**Thursdays 5-7 pm**

Free meal, Dialog & Explorations  
Students of all religions & beliefs wanting to  
learn about others welcome!

720 NE Thatuna, Pullman WA 99163  
509-332-2611

[interfaith-house.com](http://interfaith-house.com)

Facebook: *Interfaith House at WSU*





# Interfaith House

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

Fall 2011

## *From the President of the Council —Fall Appeal for Annual Support*

Dear Friends,

The Common Ministry is dedicated to offering a safe space for spiritual development to all WSU students, and to fostering religious pluralism and tolerance in the WSU community. Thanks to your continuing support, we are able to provide vibrant programs at the Interfaith House. The Interfaith House is buzzing with various activities every day, and student participation in the programs is steadily increasing.

This year has been financially challenging for us. Some of our traditional institutional funding sources have experienced a decline in giving, and that has impacted their ability to contribute at the same level to the Common Ministry. Others have changed their policies in how they direct their resources for campus ministry, resulting in less direct funding to the Common Ministry. Our ability to maintain the Interfaith House and to provide a place for dialog, hospitality, and spiritual growth, requires that we find additional sources of support.

All of us are experiencing a need to reevaluate how we use our limited resources. If you are in the position to make an end-of-the-year contribution to help support our work, we would be very grateful. In addition, if it is possible to consider giving on a monthly basis for 2012 year, even a small amount, this would be very helpful in allowing us to meet our building maintenance and programming needs in the coming year.

The Common Ministry continues to be dedicated to sharing the love of Christ and welcoming all who enter our doors. We know that *'it is in giving that we receive.'* Your support is need more than ever. An envelope is enclosed for your use. Please make checks to: *The Common Ministry at WSU.*

In thanks and peace,

Sue M. Durrant, President  
Common Ministry Council

**Reflections: "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, . . . 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed thee . . . and a stranger and welcomed thee? As you did it to one of the least of these you did it to me.'" Matthew 25: 33-40**

Students are "hungry" for spiritual food and fellowship. At Interfaith House we are here in service to the students at Washington State University. All are welcomed and fed with food for the body and food for the soul. We can only continue this ministry with your help and support. Help us feed and comfort and console all who knock on our door with your generous support.

Sincerely, Rob Snyder - Interim Director

## Student Retreat at St. Gertrude's

By Dylan Judge-Hoff

For the third year in a row, I enjoyed a retreat at St. Gertrude's Monastery near Cottonwood, Idaho. Sponsored by the Interfaith House, this yearly retreat has been one of the highlights of my year each time I attend.

St. Gertrude's is a Catholic monastery that shares a similar understanding of hospitality to what the Interfaith House tries to engage in. What we sometimes refer to as "radical hospitality" is the norm for the sisters of St. Gertrude's. They go so far as to allow any visitors to join them for their daily prayer vigils and partake in Sunday communion.

Our group of 15 settled into the farmhouse St. Gertrude's rents out to large retreat groups on Friday, Oct. 7. After getting acquainted, settling in and enjoying our first few hours together, we began a weekend of relaxation and reflective meditation.

The Director of the Interfaith House, Rob Snyder, took time each day to lead our group through meditation practices based on breathing exercises that are friendly to use for anyone of any religious persuasion.

Through these breathing exercises, we practiced both looking inward to calm ourselves and trying to expand our sense of peace and tranquility into the surrounding area.

The beautiful environment surrounding St. Gertrude's aided greatly in our abilities to achieve

a relaxing state of mind during our retreat. The monastery is located on a large hill, with a beautiful view of the surrounding Idaho countryside from the guesthouse.

The St. Gertrude's retreat epitomizes everything the Interfaith House works for. It is a beautiful, spiritual environment where people of various religious traditions can come together and not only meditate together, but share each other's faith with one another. My biggest regret about graduating in May is that I won't be able to enjoy this yearly retreat anymore.

*Dylan Judge-Hoff is a senior journalism major at WSU*

---

### ***Inspire: A great place of acceptance and relaxation***

By Jeff Harris

What is the *Inspire* program? It is a get together for students who share a common ground in particularly a religious background, but all are welcome to join no matter what denomination they are from. *Inspire* is great for students who may be catching up on rest before an exam or after an exam.

It is a relaxing, safe place in which one may express their ideas in intellectual conversation, or may just listen to others ideas. *Inspire* consists of peer ministers who are about the same age as the students coming to the meetings who plan some of the activities that the program carries out. Sometimes the

activities involve skits, sometimes talking about controversial issues and talking about solutions to them, dealing with spirituality.

*Inspire* is a great conduit for getting involved in other projects that are in the works. A group from *Inspire* normally goes on a mission trip every spring in which the experience is a life changing one.

Another example of going beyond in getting involved is that there are numerous activities in which getting involved helps the community. Sometimes playing music at other programs that are similar to *Inspire*, or helping at the Red Cross blood donations, etc. The mission trip was personally one of the best experiences for me that came as a result of attending *Inspire*.

I felt so comfortable around the group that I decided it would be good for me to use my spring break to help give back to the community by helping on the mission trip. We attended a Shashone Banock reservation in Blackfoot Idaho and helped the kids on the reservation with their studies while helping with a little manual labor as well. I met some awesome kids, got to work with them and help them in their studies and best of all, I got to bond with them during their recess.

The kids actually got me into a little bit of trouble because I helped them too much when they were on their typing programs. They had always wanted to get to the fun typing games and they would have me type fast through it for them so they could do the fun features in the typing pro-



gram. It was one of the best experiences and I also bonded closely with colleagues outside of *Inspire*.

Overall, *Inspire* is a friendly space that accepts all people in all walks of life. All beliefs and opinions are welcome during the discussion and are not discriminated against. *Inspire* is a great place to learn, make friends, and give back to the community which makes it such an awesome experience weekly throughout the stressful academic year.

*Jeff Harris is a student at WSU.*

## **Taize Keeping On The Lights**

By Hajera Ahmed

Want a chance for self-reflection, calming music, good conversation, and centering during a busy week? *Taize* service, held every Tuesday from 5:30-7:30 is a chance for students to get together and sing in devotion and Love.

It brings together students of different backgrounds with different beliefs on the common ground of spiritual opening and Presence of mind. The service is opened with calming, live music and choral like singing [anyone can come] and sprinkled with readings on diverse spiritually relevant themes.

The 10-20 minute silent meditation held in the middle of the service is a really wonderful apex to the whole thing. Afterward, we all join together in a delicious evening meal [which varies each

week] and discuss various topics around the table.

Each service brings me into better Cosmic alignment. I find that the period of silence between the music and readings to be incredibly expansive, especially since there are a whole group of people encircled around Light [very metaphorical] building energy both before and after the silence. I imagine a pulsating body of light growing during the silence, effecting all of WSU campus, all of Pullman, by extension the state of Washington, the United States, America, and the World. Ultimately, this small bulb of silence effects the Universe. Anyone who is interested in Loving People, Good Words, Spirit, Light, and Music should join us at the Interfaith House! Love and Light to All!

*Hajera Ahmed is a senior philosophy major at WSU*

## **Interfaith Mythbusters**

By Arlie Reeves

*Interfaith Mythbusters* provides a unique environment in which students may share their beliefs and learn about the beliefs of others in a friendly and encouraging setting. Consisting of a group of students from many different faith backgrounds, *Mythbusters* meets weekly for a discussion followed by a delicious dinner, which we all cook together. Each week a different topic is discussed: religious holidays, acceptance of oneself, enlightenment, etc. Such topics allow for a broad discussion encompassing individual religious

beliefs and philosophies. Students are also encouraged to share readings from their sacred texts or from other sources that complement their personal responses.

As we experience a world of religious conflict, it is our purpose to establish an interfaith group built by relationships and mutual respect. Through discussions and getting to know one another, we have "busted myths" about various religious theologies and practices, often stereotyped ignorantly and incorrectly by society. It is not a place for conversion or any expressions of negative energy, but rather a place for a growth in knowledge and acceptance of people, religions, and cultures that vary from our own.

My experience with *Mythbusters* has been life changing. One might assume that a group comprised of all different faiths would be fatal when discussing faith itself, but it is entirely the contrary. This group is inspiring and always full of love and acceptance, regardless of faith differences. Separately, we are individuals with belief systems. Together, we are the beginning of peace between religions, cultures, and people.

*Arlie Reeves is a student at WSU.*

### **Interfaith House Staff**

Rob Snyder, Interim Director

Alissa Bertsch Johnson, Wesley

Foundation Director

Wilhelmina Sarai-Clark, Community  
Liason

Mary Beth Rivetti, Rector of  
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Lorraine Boro, Office Manager

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**Interfaith House**  
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### ***Interfaith Campus Ministry: by Dr. Rob Snyder***

A new initiative has just been launched at Washington State University. *Spirituality at WSU* is the result of joint efforts by the Common Ministry and Interfaith House at WSU and the Dean of Students Office at WSU. *Spirituality at WSU* is intended to help students explore their own unique spirituality during their time at WSU. This is a safe, open, and welcoming approach intended to reach out to all students of all faiths and no faiths. *Spirituality at WSU* affirms all expressions of spirituality. Students are 'hungry' and seeking for meaning and purpose in their lives. We at the Common Ministry and Interfaith House are committed to helping students explore and discover their own journey of learning not only who they are but who they want to be. We support students who are facing the challenges of the modern world, encouraging them to reach beyond their limits. Developing an open mind, questioning their beliefs, and trying to understand other's beliefs are all part of the modern day spirituality. We are here to help students discover their own meaning and purpose. Students who cultivate their spirituality frequently find there are many benefits on such a path. They can begin to find balance in their emotional and physical life. They may develop skills to help them navigate the challenging dynamics of modern life. We are here at Interfaith House at WSU to feed the 'hungry', comfort those in need and visit and support all who are seeking the higher aspects of life.

Webpage: [spirituality.wsu.edu](http://spirituality.wsu.edu)

***Save the Date***

**ANNUAL BUFFET-AUCTION**

***Sunday April 22, 2012***





World Class. Face to Face.

## Dream Workshops By Dr. Rob Snyder



Interfaith  
House

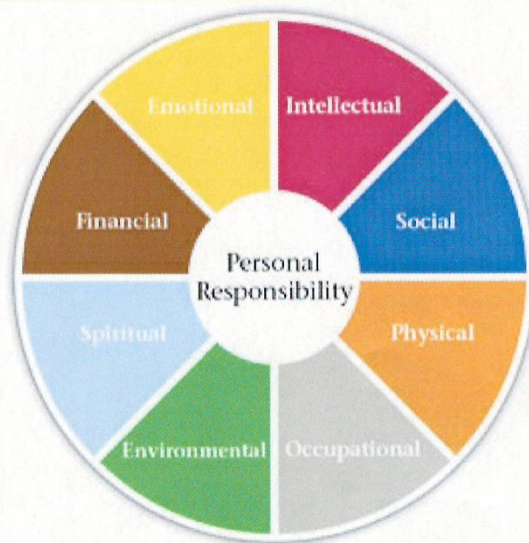
### Spiritual



The basis of **Spiritual Wellbeing** is finding meaning and purpose to our life and our place in the greater universe. Referring to the purpose we discover for ourselves and the unique way that we have chosen to harmonize with the world around us can help us choose actions that are consistent with our personal beliefs and values. Reconciling our actions with our beliefs can be central to the development of spiritual wellbeing, among many other facets of our life.

### Dream Workshops

Dreams are a deep source of wisdom if we learn to listen and pay attention to them. These workshops will introduce you to the mindful art of dreaming. You will learn how to begin the process of listening to your dreams, how to interpret your own dreams and the language of dreams. Dreams open up a whole new world of your life.



#### SEP 7: The What and Why of Dreams

- 12:10-12:50 • *Interfaith House Lobby*
- 5:00-6:00 • *Smith Gym 203*

#### SEP 21: Dream Interpretation

- 12:10-12:50 • *Interfaith House Lobby*
- 5:00-6:00 • *Smith Gym 203*

#### OCT 19: The Masculine and Feminine Within

- 12:10-12:50 • *Interfaith House Lobby*
- 5:00-6:00 • *Smith Gym 203*

#### NOV 16: Myths, Dreams and Realities

- 12:10-12:50 • *Interfaith House Lobby*
- 5:00-6:00 • *Smith Gym 203*

Attendance at all/previous workshops is not required.

Interfaith House – 720 NE Thatuna – Pullman WA 99163 – 509.332.2611 – [www.interfaith-house.com](http://www.interfaith-house.com)



# THE DAILY EVERGREEN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1895

## Panelists talk spirituality

*Panelist discussed definitions of spirituality and its importance on college campuses nationwide.*

**By Andrea Castillo**  
Evergreen Staff

A group of about 30 students, faculty and Pullman community members joined together on Tuesday for an Under the Big Tent debate to discuss whether public universities should fund students' spiritual development.

The debate, held at the Compton Union Building Lair at noon, was titled "Spirituality: A Private matter at a Public University" and featured four panelists who discussed their views on spirituality then answered audience questions.

Franci Taylor, a retention counselor at the Native American Student Center, started off the debate by explaining how she uses spirituality as a way to maintain an inner peace. She said spirituality is not a quick fix, rather, it is a skill that is learned. As such, she said spiritual development belongs in universities.

"Spirituality is how you walk your road," she said. "(It is) a way of maintaining balance, being part of a community."

Craig Wheeler, another panelist, had an opposing view to Taylor's. Wheeler, who is a member of the Secular Cougs student group, said there is a fine line between spirituality and religion. He said he is not against students exploring their own spirituality, but it should be done on their own time and with their own resources.

"We already have places to discuss spirituality," Wheeler said. "Putting government funding into spirituality is going against separation of church and state."

Interfaith House Director Rob Snyder said this debate



JAMES NISBET/THE DAILY EVERGREEN

See **SPIRITUAL** Page 3

Rob Snyder steaks on spirituality during the Big Tent public debate Tuesday afternoon in the CUB.



# THE DAILY EVERGREEN

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1895

## NEWS

### SPIRITUAL | Continued from page 1

surfaced because deans at universities around the U.S. have begun to hear directly from students that they want spirituality to be included in well-being preparation in college. He said spiritual development is very important at universities because academia is about figuring out who we are, and spirituality is a part of that.

Snyder identified himself as Christian but acknowledged the wisdom in other traditions. He said spirituality is about addressing core values such as finding meaning in life, improving oneself and relating to different types of people.

Brad Stewart, wellbeing coordinator and the University Recreation Center, said he sees spirituality as being bigger than religion because it can be different for every person. He said research has linked

spirituality to students getting better grades, having a lesser chance of depression and high retention rates.

"Institutions have a duty to support students in all aspects of well-being," Stewart said.

Sophomore finance major Joshua Anderson said he attended the debate because he likes to hear other peoples' opinions on religion since he feels the topic is a taboo in American society. He said he does not agree with public universities funding students' spiritual development.

"Everyone has a say in their beliefs; everyone has a say in how they want to live their life," Anderson said. "(But) I don't think we should fund any kind of student organizations because I think people would rather pay \$100 less in tuition."



**Interfaith House**

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

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**Roger Williams Symposium**

**March 23 & 24, 2012**

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7 pm to 9 pm Friday - WSU-CUE 203

9 am to 12 pm Saturday -

Pullman United Church of Christ

525 NE Campus Ave.

**For details & to RSVP**

**[interfaith-house.com](http://interfaith-house.com)**

**509-332-2611**



**GIESORC and The Office of the Dean of Students present:**

# **“Out” Christians & Affirming Churches**

**A multid denominational panel of church  
leaders from GLBTQ-friendly churches**

**CUB Lair  
March 27th, 7:30-9PM**

**What does it mean to lead a faith community where members can be “out”?**

**How do churches *show* that they are GLBTQ friendly?**

***These questions and more will be answered by panelists from:***

**St. James Episcopal Church  
The Interfaith House  
The United Church of Christ  
The United Church of Moscow  
The United Methodist Church**





COMMENTARY

# Cultivating the Spirit in university students

**F**requently, when talking with my students they will say, "I'm spiritual, not religious." Casual observation over the past 12 years while teaching at both Washington State University and the University of Idaho, and doing campus ministry, the number of students who are self-identifying with the popular phrase seems to be growing.

I believe one reason for this is that all human beings are spiritual, even if they do not identify with a religion. By the very nature of being human, we ask basic questions of ourselves. These significant questions that preoccupy students are essentially spiritual questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Do I have a purpose in life? What values do I hold? Where am I going?

When students ask these questions they are expressing their own "spiritual quest." It does not matter what faith they may have been raised in or not raised in. Asking such questions is a dynamic expression of seeking answers to such questions.

If you were to ask any of these students, as I have done over the years, what this phrase means, you will probably get a different answer from each student. Perhaps part of the dynamics in such a phrase is that one is expressing a desire to be free to explore their values and their perspective of existence.

Being "spiritual" is not like being "Episcopalian."

that they are open to look at and examine other faith traditions. Through this openness they are expressing a profound spiritual truth that wisdom may be found in many places. These students are acknowledging the spiritual nature of all humans. Students have an interest in spirituality and believe in the sacredness of life.

Today's students demonstrate a level of religious tolerance and acceptance that I believe is a reflection of the universality of humanity and the quest for making sense and meaning in our lives. Students desire to put more emphasis on their "inner" development: their values, beliefs, emotional maturity, moral development, spirituality and self-understanding.

Interfaith House (formerly K-House or Koinonia House) has changed its name to reflect our increasing involvement with working with people from different faith background for understanding, reconciliation and peace. At Interfaith House students can find "a safe place for spiritual development." The spiritual outlook is one which embraces all levels of existence, both the physical world known to the scientist and the metaphysical world known to the mystic. The spiritual outlook includes both of these without destroying anything in them.

The study of nature is one of the most beautiful and profound ways of reaching the Ultimate Goal. The teaching and practice of love is the essence of spirituality. Many spiritual traditions teach the core ideas of mercy and compassion. Our hope is that all students who walk through our doors will discover the love, the light, and the mercy of the Infinite One.



**Rob Snyder**

Faith Matters

Being "spiritual" is not like being "Episcopalian." There is an identity, a setting of boundaries and perhaps even a little separating one's self from others by "identifying" with a specific religion. Though as an Episcopalian myself, I do not feel separate from others. Personally, I also identify myself with many other faith traditions as well. In the quest to answer such questions students are making meaning in their lives.

Another aspect, which students have frequently communicated to me, is

The study of nature is one of the most beautiful and profound ways of reaching the Ultimate Goal. The teaching and practice of love is the essence of spirituality. Many spiritual traditions teach the core ideas of mercy and compassion. Our hope is that all students who walk through our doors will discover the love, the light, and the mercy of the Infinite One.

**Rob Snyder** is the interim director of Interfaith House and the Common Ministry at Washington State University.





# Interfaith House

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

A Safe Place for Spiritual Development

**Come Join Us!**

**Welcome Back BBQ**

**Aug 22, 5-7pm**

**720 NE Thatuna (next to the old Bookie)**

The WSU students of The Common Ministry invite you to come enjoy burgers, friends, and a great time.

**An Open and Accepting Community**

The Common Ministry at WSU's

24<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Auction

## **A Special Evening with Friends**



Sunday, April 22, 2012

Banyan's on the Ridge  
Banquet Facility

Austin Booker, Auctioneer

5:00pm Social Hour, Silent  
Auction

6:00pm Dinner, Live and Silent  
Auctions

## Auction Recommendations:

- Please pick up a bidding number for the Live Auction. They are available at the registration table.
- The Silent Auction will close toward the end of the Live Auction (time will be announced shortly before) and the highest bidder's name will be highlighted on the bid sheet.
- Please pay for and take auction items home this evening. Cash or checks, please! If you forgot your checkbook we can accommodate . . . talk with Lorraine, Emi, or Sue.
- Certificates may have expiration dates, so winning bidders please check your certificates for expiration dates.
- Please contact individuals donating services within two months after the auction to make arrangements for collection.
- For tax guidance, the buyer should consult his/her tax advisor.

## Auctioneer

Austin Booker

## Raffle Baskets

(Take a chance, or several, on these great baskets or items!)

"Cooking Inspiration" Basket donated by  
Emi Dickens and Barbara Hammond

"Feel Good" Basket donated by  
Sue Kreikemeier, Emi Dickens,  
Marcia Buehler, and Brused Books

Nia Class Gift Certificate for 9 classes  
donated by  
Danielle Eastman

Zoe's Gift Certificate (\$40 value)



## **7. Boat Trip on the St. Joe River or the Coeur d'Alene River**

Enjoy a boat trip and the beautiful landscape along the St. Joe River or the Coeur d'Alene River, and a lunch with Ed and Marge Bennett.

Donors: Ed and Marge Bennett

## **8. Two Bottles of Wine from Merry Cellar, and a Cougar Wine Tasting Set**

Are you a wine connoisseur? You will enjoy these wines, 2010 Harvest White and 2009 Crimson red, and they will satisfy your wine pallet. Who can resist drinking wine with these Cougar-logo etched wine glasses and a carafe?

Donors: Merry Cellars  
Sue Durrant

## **9. Pocket knives**

No. 1 Original Brass Knife by Colonel Littleton, with a 1 5/8" blade, 2 1/4" when closed. This stainless steel-bladed knife serves a multitude of purposes.

Vintage Rare Schrade U.S.A. SC503 Scrimshaw Single Blade Pocket Knife in a leather holder.

Donor: Joanne Washburn



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## **10. Your Choice: Thanksgiving Turkey or Holiday Ham**

The Zakarison's pastured Thanksgiving Turkey is a Board Breasted White turkey averaging 13-14 pounds by the mid-October pick up date.

Vandal Holiday Ham is sugar-cured and smoked to perfection—fully cooked to serve hot or cold.

Donors: Eric and Sheryl Zakarison  
Ron Richard & Vandal Brand Meats

## **11. Interfaith House Fireside Dinner for Six to Eight People**

Make an evening of it, enjoying music and conversation with your favorite people during five courses of gourmet food lovingly prepared and served by the Common Ministry Council. Our chefs and wait staff ask the successful bidder to trust them to create a menu and an evening that will please you! We will negotiate a date convenient for you in the next year.

Donor: The Common Ministry Council

## **12. Round of Golf for Four at Palouse Ridge Golf Course and a Gift card (\$25) to Banyans on the Ridge or Fireside Grille**

Enjoy a round of golf with your friends, enjoy the view, and then the fine food at the Banyans restaurant or Fireside Grille. If you have been wanting to experience the Palouse Ridge Golf Course, we know you'll want to outbid everyone!

Donors: Palouse Ridge Golf Course, Mel Taylor  
Fireside Grille, Thomas Byrne

#### **Common Ministry Council Members**

Rex Burns  
Nicholas Cerruti  
Lenore Chambers  
Emi Dickens, Vice-President  
Sue Durrant, President  
Wes Howell  
Roy Johnson  
Chip Laird  
Walt Miller  
Phil Mixter  
Nancy Nydegger  
Andrew Palmini, Treasurer  
Todd Scranton  
Mark Swanson  
Judie Tooley  
Dan Warn

#### **Common Ministry Staff**

Dr. Rob Snyder, Interim-Director  
Alissa Bertsch Johnson, Methodist Campus Pastor  
Wilhelmina Sarai-Clark, Community Liaison  
Lorraine Mason, Office Manager

#### **Buffet Auction Committee**

Emi Dickens  
Sue Durrant  
Barbara Hammond  
Doug Jacobs  
Marcia Jacobs  
Lorraine Mason  
Janet McGough  
Nancy Nydegger

#### **Many Thanks to Our 2012 Raffle, Live, and Silent Auction Item Contributors:**

Mel Taylor	Palouse Ridge Golf Course
Fireside Grille	Thomas Byrne
Jill Aesoph	St. Gertrude's Monastery
Sue Durrant	David and Sylvia Hutton
Mary Lauver	Eric & Sheryl Zakarison
Bill Hendrix	Ed and Marge Bennett
Merry Cellars	Jane Lear
Mike Wagoner/Zoe	Martin and Marcia Buehler
Jane Stratton	WSU Athletic Foundation
Jan & Walt Miller	Danielle Eastman
Joanne Washurn	Alex & Barbara Hammond
Tim Paulitz	Wilhelmina Sarai-Clark
Emi Dickens	Bruised Book Store
The WSU Bookie	Crimson and Gray
Pets are People Too	Harriet McQuarie
Palouse Pets	Beata Vixie
Jack and Belle Rogers	
Casa de Lopez Restaurant	
Ellen and Bill Johnston	
George & Marilee Martin	
Ron Richard/Vandal Brand Meats	
Pat, Doug & Aaron Flansburg	
Nancy Nydegger/Just Trade	
Mitch Chandler/Neill's Flowers & Gifts	
Coeur D'Alene Casino, Resort, Hotel	
Common Ministry Council	

...and any others to whom we apologize  
for not mentioning.



**Interfaith  
House**

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

# No easy answers for homelessness

For Spring Break, 14 Washington State University and University of Idaho students and two nonstudent adults (myself and Phil Mixer, Episcopalian) spent our days working and learning about homelessness in Los Angeles through the Sierra Service Project, a United Methodist-affiliated service learning organization.

We split our team into two groups with me leading a team to work at Central City Community Outreach on Skid Row and Phil's group heading to Watts to work at a United Methodist church.

On Monday, I loaded my team in our van and slowly worked our way up the 101 Freeway. The students were full of energy — laughing and snapping pictures of downtown Los Angeles until we crossed into Skid Row. Suddenly the van was silent. For outside, the world had changed. Gone were the fancy cars and skyscrapers with well-dressed people heading to work and in their place were blocks upon blocks of people sleeping on the streets.

On any given night in Los Angeles there are approximately 85,000 people without a home and only a total of 65,000 beds in shelters and missions — 4,000 of the remaining 20,000 live on Skid Row.

After a day of dry-walling, our students gathered to debrief the day. Among our team were several students from Vietnam for whom this was their first urban U.S. experience. One of the young women was absolutely beside herself. She simply could not understand how a nation as prosperous as the U.S. could have so many people without homes. "Why are there homeless?" she asked. Not an easy question to answer and not an easy problem to solve.

Over the next few days, our students began to grasp the complexity of urban homelessness through conversation with

different people and agencies that serve them. They got to take a guided tour of the Watts section of Los Angeles and Compton, learning about the history of race relations and how it contributed to the modern homelessness problem. They toured Homeboy Industries, a

Jesuit-ministry aimed at rehabilitating ex-gang members and the recently incarcerated. They even got to spend an afternoon on Skid Row experiencing what it would be like to suddenly find themselves homeless and on the streets.

At the end of the week, our team came back with stories about people they met on Skid Row and ex-gang members who were creating a new life for themselves. They came home with an appreciation for the people who dedicate their daily lives to helping get the homeless back on their feet. But most important, they returned with a better understanding of the cycle of homelessness as well as a passion to help change the stigma surrounding it.

Before we left the Palouse, I had several people express their concerns about our safety and whether it was worth the risk. What I found that week is that in order to live out our faith and respond to Christ's call to care for those marginalized in society, we have to be willing to take some risk. And in this case, not only did we come home safe, we came home transformed.

Alissa Bertsch Johnson is the executive director/campus pastor for the Wesley Foundation at Washington State University, a United Methodist Campus Ministry.



Alissa Bertsch Johnson

Faith Matters







#### PAST STUDENT COMMENTS:

Becca, an upper class student:

*"In this place, I have come to know what my personal beliefs are. In the process of learning what those are, I have forged strong friendships and a more personal relationship with God, thus making my time here at WSU even better!"*

Dan, who organized students to get involved in community service, stated:

*"Here people are free to be themselves without fear of judgment."*

Arlie, had this to say:

*"My experience with Interfaith Mythbusters has been life changing. One might assume that a group comprised of all different faiths would be fatal when discussing faith itself, but it is entirely the contrary. This group is inspiring and always full of love and acceptance, regardless of faith differences."*

*"When I came here my senior year, I found community and a place to grow – I should have come sooner!"*

Matt Collins, Music

Come discover your own path!



We welcome Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Baha'is, Daoists, followers of nature traditions, agnostics, atheists, and those of no tradition whatsoever.



**Interfaith House**  
THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU  
(across from Wilmer-Davis)

720 NE Thatuna, Pullman WA 99163  
509.332.2611

[www.interfaith-house.com](http://www.interfaith-house.com)

[office@interfaith-house.com](mailto:office@interfaith-house.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/InterfaithHouseWSU](https://facebook.com/InterfaithHouseWSU)



# Interfaith House

THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

**A Safe Place  
For Spiritual Development**

*An Open  
and  
Inclusive  
Community*

## MISSION

### *"A safe space for spiritual development"*

Interfaith House at WSU seeks to provide "A safe place for spiritual development" for students, staff, and faculty of WSU. Interfaith House seeks to create a safe space for diverse religious opinion by increasing respect and mutual understanding among people of different faith, ethnic, and cultural traditions and by fostering cooperation among religious communities and civic organizations.



Student Retreat - St. Gertrude Monastery 2011

### WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER

- A Space to Study, Talk and Relax
- Interfaith Staff Available for Conversation
- Free Coffee and Internet
- Interfaith Meditation/Prayer Room
- A Home Away from Home
- Event and Meeting Space
- Zoe Underground Coffeehouse

### SOME OF THE GROUPS WHO MEET HERE

- Episcopal Ministries
- Inspire! - United Methodist
- Presbyterian Men's Group
- Korean Evangelical Church
- Hillel - Jewish Student Organization
- Jewish Community of the Palouse
- Muslim - Quranic Study Group
- Meditation Classes
- Workshops on Spirituality
- Interfaith Mythbusters
- Secular Cougs - Atheist and Agnostic
- Read for Life
- Math Group
- Alcoholics Anonymous

### WHO ARE WE?

The Common Ministry at WSU is a Christian, Protestant, ecumenical organization. Our partners include United Methodist, Presbyterian (USA), Disciples of Christ, American Baptist, Episcopal (USA), and United Church of Christ churches. The Common Ministry and Interfaith House at WSU also partner with various religious organizations: Jewish, Muslim, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Baha'i, Korean Evangelical Church, and those not associated with institutional organizations, in order to promote dialog, peace, and unity in the community.

### Spirituality Project at WSU

Interfaith House partners with the Office of the Dean of Students to assist students in exploring their spirituality during their time at WSU. This project and website is not affiliated with any faith, and is a neutral source of information on spirituality and how it can be explored. All expressions of spirituality are affirmed, including any freely chosen religious faiths, traditions, non-theist philosophies or scientific exploration. Please visit [www.spirituality.wsu.edu](http://www.spirituality.wsu.edu) for more information.



## *All Are Welcome!*

### WE ARE A PLACE OF RADICAL HOSPITALITY

We are dedicated to helping all students growing in faith, to promoting reconciliation among religions, and to sharing the love of God to all.

