

*The Whole World is....*

# One World

*One World is a publication of Cultural Crossroads, Inc.*

Vol. 5, No. 2

Autumn, 2008



## IT'S FESTIVAL TIME IN KANSAS CITY!



One commonality shared by all cultures is celebrating in community. Some of the earliest festivals, dating from prehistoric times, are harvest festivals, both before and after the actual harvest itself. Through these public festivities, the community would gather to share in prayers for a bountiful harvest and for sustenance through the coming winter, give thanksgiving for the bounty of the harvest, and to reinforce the bonds of community.

True to this ancient tradition, there are numerous festivals held in the Kansas City area (and within a short driving radius) which take advantage of the autumn season to lure us to one “last” outdoors adventure. Autumn in the Midwest combines colorful foliage and pleasant temperatures with the annual renewal of back-to-school schedules.

The last of summer and the first of autumn are crowded with harvest festivals and art fairs and cultural and multicultural festivals (see box on Page 2 for just a few of these events. Check community calendars and the internet for more information).

Cultural Crossroads is proud to be involved in two of these fall festivals this year – the Independence Heritage Festival on Saturday, September 27, at McCoy Park in Independence (across from the Truman Library) and the World Music and Arts Festival on Saturday, October 4, at Longview Community College.

**Volunteer Opportunities** are available at these festivals and at Cultural Crossroads programs in schools and libraries (see Page 4 for dates and locations). Contact us if you would like to spend an hour or so introducing children to the wonders of our cultural diversity.

\*

### IN THIS ISSUE

**DIVERSITY IN RELIGION:** The Cultural Conversations series at Plaza Library concluded with “Diversity in Religion” with Rev. Vern Barnet and members of the Kansas City Interfaith Council. See report and photos in this issue.

\*



## FALL FESTIVALS IN OUR AREA

Fall festivals in and around Kansas City include the following events. This list is intended as simply a sampling of some of the many cultural festivals and fairs during this time of year, with an emphasis on multicultural events. It is not intended to be all-inclusive – check community calendars in the various media and on the internet for more information – and more festivals!

September 5-6	Southwest Missouri Celtic Festival	Buffalo, Missouri
September 6-7	Grinter Apple Festival	Grinter House, KCKS
September 5-7	Greek Food Festival	Church of Annunciation, KCMO
September 19-21	Plaza Arts Festival	Country Club Plaza, KCMO
September 20-21	PeaceWorks “Unplaza” Art Fair	All Souls UU, KCMO
September 27	Independence Heritage Festival	McCoy Park, Independence
October 4	World Music and Arts Festival	Longview Community College
(weekends)	Oktoberfest celebrations	Hermann, MO
		Leavenworth, KS
		Lee’s Summit, MO
		St. George Church, KCKS
November 15-16	St. Petka Serbian Food Festival	

Throughout the fall, you will also find the Renaissance Faire in Kansas City, Kansas, and Native American powwows through Kansas. (*Know of a festival we should have on this calendar? Let us know and we’ll add it to our online calendar.*)

Of course, many festivals have already occurred during the late summer or early fall (prior to this publication), including the Ethnic Enrichment Festival, St. John’s Croatian Festival and St. Dionysius (in August) and the Irish Fest, the Fiesta Hispana and Santa-Cali-Gon (all in early September).

Make a “new year’s resolution” now to start searching community calendars in January, so you won’t miss any of these great events next year!



## CULTURAL CROSSROADS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Cultural Crossroads is entering into a new phase for 2009. For the past several years, we have concentrated on conducting outreach programs in schools, libraries and churches and we have had an impact on community education. In 2009, we are again turning our focus on the long-stated goal of establishing a physical multicultural heritage center. Openings will be available on the Board and in diverse and exciting opportunities to use your unique talents, from photography to programming. Look for more information after the first of the year.



## ***CULTURAL CONVERSATIONS -- DIVERSITY IN RELIGION***

Members of the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council formed a panel at the Plaza Library on June 8, 2008, to address the issue of “Diversity in Religion” which was the concluding segment of Cultural Conversations, a five-part series of engaged dialogues on a variety of multicultural topics co-sponsored by Cultural Crossroads and the Plaza Library. (See the [previous issue](#) of this newsletter for reports on other events in this series.)

This concluding Cultural Conversations was also co-sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council ([www.kcinterfaith.org](http://www.kcinterfaith.org)).



The panel was moderated by The Rev. Vern Barnet, DMn, of CRES ([www.cres.org](http://www.cres.org)) with the following persons representing some of the faith traditions of the Kansas City Interfaith Council: Syed Eqball Hasan (Muslim), Singh Sahib Karta Purkh S. Khalsa (Sikh Dharma), Rev. Gary Langston (Native American spirituality), Barbara McAtee (Baha’i), Pam Peck (Christian Scientist), Rev. Kathy Reigelman (UU), and Lama Chuck Stanford (Buddhist).



The purpose of the Cultural Conversations series was to provide a forum where members of the public could join in an open discussions of the topic; consequently, rather than give formal presentations, the members of the interfaith panel offered their particular faith’s viewpoint on a variety of questions raised either by Rev. Barnet or by audience members. Rev. Barnet opened the discussion by asking the audience to listen to the wisdom of each religion and not to focus on the size of the religion. He also observed that, in the United States, we are moving from our culture being defined by one faith to a culture based in pluralism. Rev. Barnet illustrated the importance of this increasing American pluralism in a global society with a chart which indicates the world religious demographics.

*(For more background information, refer to the [editorial sidebar](#) below.)*

The panelists addressed questions ranging from response to social issues, like poverty, to more philosophical issues, like fundamentalism. The issues of proselytizing and mutual respect were also raised several times by various of the panel members. The majority of the representatives opined that their religion did not proselytize and all of the panel members recognized that the real strength of the Kansas City interfaith community is the respect held for all faith traditions.

Several members of the audience evidenced interest in learning more about different faith traditions and questioned how to locate information on interfaith events. Both Rev. Barnet and many of the panel representatives brought printed material, which was handed out to the audience.

At the end of the presentation, Rev. Barnet invited the panel members to offer a closing from their respective traditions, which was stated by each panel member in turn as a fitting closing to an afternoon of peaceful discourse and common exploration:

Buddhism



“Do no harm.”  
Lama Chuck Stanford

Native American spirituality



“*Mitakuye Oyasin*”  
“All My Relations”  
Rev. Gary Langston

Sikh Dharma



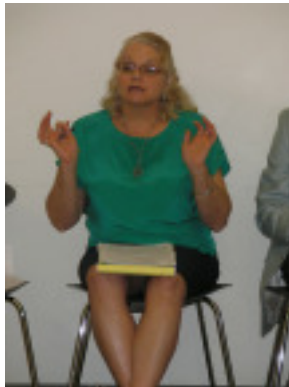
“Love surround you; Light guide you.”  
Singh Sahib Karta Purkh S. Khalsa

Islam



“Speak out against harm;  
at least, change your heart.”  
*As-Salāmu `Alaykum.*”  
Syed Eqball Hasan

The Baha’i Faith



“God is most glorious...praise  
be to the glory of God.”  
Barbara McAtee

Christian Science



“Divine Love always has met and  
always will meet every human need.”  
Pam Peck

Unitarian Universalist



“Go now in Peace.”  
Rev. Kathy Reigelman

\*

The chart Rev. Barnett shared with the group illustrates world religious affiliation: 33% Christian, 21% Islamic, 16% as “non-religious” by self-identification, 14% Hinduism, primal religions, Chinese traditional and Buddhism with 6% each and another 12% comprising Judaism, Sikhism and other religions. The chart and other information can be found at <http://www.adherents.com>. While the majority of Americans (70% to 80%, depending upon the source) identify themselves as Christians, the next largest percentage of the population is “non-religious” or “non-affiliated” (again, depending upon the source of the poll). An extensive new survey by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life details the religious affiliation of the American public and explores the shifts taking place in the U.S. religious landscape. Based on interviews with more than 35,000 Americans age 18 and older, the U.S. Religious Landscape Survey finds that religious affiliation in the U.S. is both very diverse and extremely fluid. More than one-quarter of American adults (28%) have left the faith in which they were raised in favor of another religion - or no religion at all. If change in affiliation from one type of Protestantism to another is included, 44% of adults have either switched religious affiliation, moved from being unaffiliated with any religion to being affiliated with a particular faith, or dropped any connection to a specific religious tradition altogether.

[\(http://religions.pewforum.org/\)](http://religions.pewforum.org/) Ed.

\*

Though arising from different faith traditions, the sentiments echo a common human value...a universal desire for peace and a universal acknowledgement of Love as a primary guiding principle.



## ***PROGRAM/VOLUNTEER FALL CALENDAR***

Sept 22 – Mon*	<b><i>Hello, World!</i></b>	Lone Jack Library *(call to confirm date)
Sept 27 - Sat	<b><i>Independence Heritage Festival</i></b>	McCoy Park, Independence
Oct 4 - Sat	<b><i>World Music and Arts Festival</i></b>	Longview Community College
Nov 5 - Wed	<b><i>Reading &amp; Rhythm</i></b>	North Oak Library
Dec 6 - Sat	<b><i>Hello, World!</i></b>	Excelsior Springs Library

Go to our website at <http://www.culturalcrossroads-kc.org/Newsletters.html> to read past issues of the ***One World*** newsletter and to see photos from past programs and festivals. Call or email if you can volunteer and be part of the fun!



**Cultural Crossroads offers opportunities for involvement as volunteers, board or committee members and, as a 501c3 organization, all donations are tax-deductible.**

**Cultural Crossroads, Inc.  
3605 Blue Ridge Boulevard  
Independence, MO 64052**

**816-737-5959**

**[CulturalCrossroads@hotmail.com](mailto:CulturalCrossroads@hotmail.com)**

**[www.culturalcrossroads-kc.org](http://www.culturalcrossroads-kc.org)**

