

The Whole World is....

One World

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SHARING STORIES OF FAITH AND FAMILY

For the second year, Cultural Crossroads and the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council co-sponsored a welcoming program of communication and diversity. *Food and Thought – an interfaith and intercultural conversation* took place on Sunday, June 26, 2011, in six locations across the metropolitan area.

This unique program arranges for small diverse groups to meet in private homes and engage in open discussion about how multicultural and interfaith issues affect our daily lives in a global society. Participants brought “potluck” snacks to share, enhancing the informal atmosphere of a private home and the comfortable feeling of friends getting together. Although the program included facilitators at each location to ensure the flow of conversation, there was no dearth of conversation, as the participants told their personal stories and brought up questions for discussion.



Some of the comments from the nearly 50 participants included: *an eye-opener...a lovely, thoughtful & engaging afternoon!... animated conversation...enlightening and enjoyable...open opportunity to speak my truth...it touched my heart.*

Participants included Jewish, Christian, Pagan, Muslim, Baha’i, Oneness, Native American Spirituality, Vedanta, Unity, and New Age Consciousness religious thought and Afro-American, European, South Asian, Indian, and Arab cultures.

There was no charge for the program, but good will offerings were given and received. The value of this ongoing, annual program may best be summed up in the comment of one participant: *peace and communication can only survive if everyone has an open mind and desire to learn.*



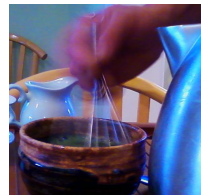
TOTALLY TEA !

AN EXPERIENCE FOR THE SENSES



As the most widely-consumed drink in the world (after water), tea is uniquely multicultural. The tea plant itself is a metaphor for humanity, as all the teas in the world come from the one plant. Whether a tea is classified as black, green, white, yellow, pu-erh, or oolong depends on where on the plant those leaves are found, when the leaves are picked and the processing of the leaves... but the plant itself is the same for all varieties.

On Sunday, June 12, members and friends of Cultural Crossroads were initiated into the multisensory world of teas during a private event at The Teahouse and Coffeepot in Westport. For several hours, Keith Buchanan, proprietor and self-proclaimed “tea wallah”^{*} of Kansas City, enchanted the group with the colors, fragrances, flavors and history of tea. As he steeped and poured a variety of teas, using a variety of pots and implements, he delivered a running account of definitions, preparation techniques and little-known facts.



Tea was discovered in China around 2000 B.C.E., as immortalized in the scientific name *Camellia sinensis* (Chinese camellia). Premium tea (or “first flush” tea) is first picked in the earliest season, either during April or the end of March. Black tea is made from bigger, older leaves, whereas white and yellow teas are higher, smaller leaves and green tea comes from the middle of the plant. The processing also differentiates the teas, as black tea is fully oxidized, while white each is not fully oxidized. Enzymes in the plant react with air and cause the leaves to turn brown. Processing involves heat to kill the enzymes and preserve the grassy, “vegetal” flavor, which is brighter and fresher. The Chinese process involves dry heat and the Japanese process uses wet heat.



Special touches to the evening included a variety of delicious canapés, raffle baskets of tea and tea items and a gift certificate donated by The Teahouse, as well as discounts on items purchased at the store and on Cultural Crossroads memberships.

Cultural Crossroads extends thanks to Keith Buchanan and The Teahouse and Coffeepot for a great evening of taste sensations, good fellowship, and fascinating facts. The Teahouse and Coffeepot is located at 4309 Jefferson, Kansas City, Mo (www.teahousekc.com)

and offers delectable teas and treats for consumption on the premises or to take home.

^{*}“wallah” means “maker” or “do-er” and denotes an expert – certainly appropriate in this instance.



EXPLORING A PEACEFUL FUTURE

Event features community leaders, interfaith art project



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Mark your calendar now:

Ten Years Later – A Community Gathering Renewed

Sunday, November 6, 2011

All Souls UU Church, 4501 Walnut, KCMO

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On November 7, 2001, in response to the events of 9/11, Cultural Crossroads presented an evening forum entitled *Making Sense of It: A Community Gathering, A Foundation for the Future*, which included presentations by leaders from throughout the nonprofit, governmental and business communities, designed to bring together a diverse representation of our cultures, faiths and community.

In response to the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Cultural Crossroads will present a follow-up forum event, entitled *Ten Years Later – A Community Gathering Renewed*, which event will feature some of the original presenters and some additional presenters. In 2001, the event was co-sponsored by All Souls UU Church and the 2011 event will also be held at that location. The 2011 event is also co-sponsored by the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council.

Also featured at this event will be the art display *Ten Years After 9/11: Walking the Path to Peace and Security* which is a program of the American Friends Service Committee and the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council. There will be ample opportunity to view the installation during a reception prior to the event. The project, conceived by AFSC, involves panels of artwork by various faith traditions, expressing that faith's interpretation of the project theme.



ACROSS TOWN and IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



Continuing the production of multicultural programs supported by a grant from the Francis Family Foundation, Cultural Crossroads has conducted programs from Olathe to Parkville.

Call us at 816-737-5979 or email us at culturalcrossroads@hotmail.com – be a volunteer at a program and be a part of the process. Programs are conducted by Cultural Crossroads staff – the only requirement for volunteers is to enjoy working with and encouraging creativity in children.

The list below includes programs currently scheduled through the end of the year:

Saturday, Sept. 24	"Hello, World!"	North Oak LB
Friday, Oct 14	"Is This <i>Your</i> New Year?"	Plaza LB
Sunday, Nov 6	"Ten Years Later..." (see article above)	All Souls UU Church
Thursday, Nov 10	"Hello, World!"	Oak Grove LB
Thursday, Dec 1	"Hello, World!"	Lone Jack LB
Monday, Dec 5	"Head to Toe" exhibit opens (2-week run)	Riverside LB
Tuesday, Dec 6	"Is This <i>Your</i> New Year?"	Excelsior Springs LB
Thursday, Dec 8	"Is This <i>Your</i> New Year?"	Raytown LB

See our website at www.culturalcrossroads-kc.org for more information about all Cultural Conversations programs, to read past issues of the *One World* newsletter and to see photos from past programs and festivals. There are many ways to get involved -- as a volunteer, as a board or committee member, even Like us on Facebook. As a 501c3 organization, all donations are tax-deductible.



CULTURAL CROSSROADS "ON THE AIR"

Kathy Quinn, Fox 4 KC reporter, and supporter of the arts in Kansas City, interviewed Mary Gibson McCoy, President of Cultural Crossroads. The *Kansas City Forum* program aired on Sunday, July 10, on both Star 102 and Q104 local radio stations. A big "thank you!" to Kathy Quinn for the opportunity to tell Kansas City about Cultural Crossroads!



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- ★Like our Facebook Page.
- ★Be a volunteer
- ★Donate through the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation or Facebook Causes



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