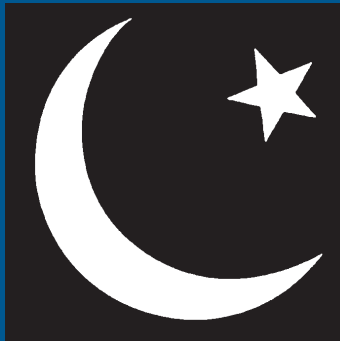
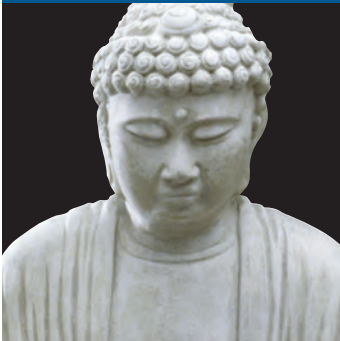


The Center for Religious Inquiry at Wilshire Boulevard Temple

Fall 2006 Programs



Welcome to The Center for Religious Inquiry at Wilshire Boulevard Temple



Mipnei d'archei shalom—Because it leads to paths of peace—this is why the rabbis of the Talmud; centuries later, the great Egyptian-Jewish sage, Maimonides, and rabbis ever since have sought to reach out to those of different faiths in an effort to better understand each other and find common ground. Where there is knowledge, fear diminishes; where there is freedom, peace increases. The challenges in this world are ever-growing and often intimidating. This is why Wilshire Boulevard Temple created The Center for Religious Inquiry: to reach out to Angelenos of all faith traditions, to learn with us, to teach us, to join us as we do our part, *mipnei d'archei shalom*—because it leads to paths of peace.





Wilshire Boulevard Temple has long been regarded as Los Angeles' "home base" for the Jewish community and after one hundred and forty-four years, we are recommitting our historic Temple Campus not just as a center of Jewish life and practice, but now, as a home to all religious exploration. Partnering with the Center

for Religious Inquiry at St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City and St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis, Wilshire Boulevard Temple becomes the West Coast location for this nation-wide effort to build bridges between faith traditions. Religious leaders, scholars, scientists, and authors from all walks of life now have an opportunity to meet and for you, our welcome guests, to encounter their spirit, their intellect—and to challenge them too! Be with us in this inaugural year as we open the doors of the Temple to this City of Angels, reaching out to learn from and marvel at Los Angeles' diversity of religious expression, and as well, welcome all its citizens into our historic home.

Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein
Director, The Center for Religious Inquiry
at Wilshire Boulevard Temple



Consider these facts: nearly forty percent of America's Muslims, forty percent of its Buddhists, and twenty percent of the nation's Jewish people live in Los Angeles. Wilshire Boulevard Temple is located in the city's most ethnically diverse council district with over forty different languages spoken in our neighborhood alone! All of

this adds up to an unprecedented opportunity to engage each other in the spirit of understanding and to create a religious culture upholding the very best American values of acceptance, compassion, and peace.

The Center for Religious Inquiry is a place for everyone who wants to learn more about his or her own spirituality and that of others. With panel discussions, renowned speakers, classes and cultural presentations, we offer a unique home to explore the realm of faith and all that it has to offer in our complicated world. The Center does not seek to convince or convert, but rather, to reveal and uphold the best of each religious tradition. As we know, faith has both the power to divide and to heal. Encounter the unexpected and be a part of tikkun olam—the mending of the world.

Steven Z. Leder
Senior Rabbi,
Wilshire Boulevard Temple

The Religious Realm

Introduction to Judaism

Thursday evenings, October 26, 2006 – March 22, 2007

Temple Campus 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. 3663 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010

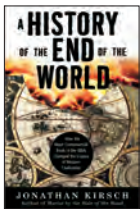
Irmas Campus 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. 11661 West Olympic Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90064



This eighteen-week course, sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism, is a wonderful gateway into Jewish belief, traditions, and practice. Taught by Wilshire Boulevard Temple rabbis Dennis Eisner and Stephen Julius Stein, come learn about Judaism in a warm, welcoming environment; perfect for those considering conversion as well as Jews looking to refresh their knowledge.

Registration and fees: Ms. Beverly Ross: bross@urj.org or 818.907.8740

"A History of the End of the World" by Jonathan Kirsch



Tuesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m. FREE

Temple Campus 3663 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010

The book of Revelation has been attributed to being the word of God, the masterwork of a calculating human author, and the ravings of a deluded religious crank. Jonathan Kirsch, book columnist for the *Los Angeles Times*, NPR commentator, and author of the bestselling *The Harlot by the Side of the Road*, will introduce his newest work and share his thoughts on how this religious idea has shaped foreign policy around the world.

The Jewish Bible in Christmas Art—Shades & Shadows

Featuring paintings by Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Jan van Eyck

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. Temple Campus 3663 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90010 \$10



Works of famous Renaissance painters are familiar to many of us, but hidden amidst these masterworks are numerous symbols of Jews and Judaism — especially in depictions of important Christmas themes. The overwhelming presence of Jewish symbols in Christian art demonstrates the degree to which Christianity customarily acknowledged its Jewish heritage. Discovering these symbols — drawn as they are especially from Torah and the books of the Prophets — illuminates the connection between art, faith, and tradition.



Dr. Michael Cook is Bronstein Professor of Judaeo-Christian Studies at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cincinnati, and the only rabbi in America with a Full-Professorial Chair in New Testament. In 2003, he was one of seven scholars selected by the Catholic Bishops to assess the accuracy of the advance script of Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ." It was Gibson's reaction to the Scholars' Report that generated the ensuing international controversy. Dr. Cook has received an "Excellence in Teaching Award" from the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Universities and is currently writing a major book entitled *Modern Jews Engage the New Testament: Enhancing Jewish Well-Being in a Christian Environment*.

America: The Moral Nation



Tuesdays: September 26, October 10, November 14, at 7:30 p.m. Temple Campus \$10 each evening
A three-evening symposium featuring a renowned and diverse panel of religious leaders, scholars, scientists, and ethicists who will address the pressing cultural, moral, and political issues of our time.

Are We A Christian Nation? September 26. What impact does the "Christian Right" have on America's multi-cultural fabric and how are civil rights impacted when Church and State collide?

Intelligent Design? October 10. Who created the universe—and when? Are the biblical stories of creation to be believed or the words of Darwin? Experience the fascinating intersection between science and religion.

What is a Just War? November 14. When is it right to fight and when is it not? Explore the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim perspectives on defense, righteousness in battle, and the imperative to save lives.

Featuring these renowned speakers and more...



Reverend Jerald Stinson is the Senior Minister of First Congregational Church of Long Beach, on the National Advisory Board

of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and on the Board of Directors of Progressive Christians Uniting. A graduate from the Divinity School at Harvard University, Rev. Stinson served as co-president of the Long Beach Interfaith Religious Leaders Association, a member of the Steering Committee for the Southern California Farmworker Action Network, and is on the City of Long Beach Steering Committee for the Homeless Strategic Planning Process.



Ahmed Younis is the National Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council and the author of *American Muslims: Voir*

Dire (Speak the Truth), an analysis of American Muslim identity. Recently invited by the State Department to lead public diplomacy missions to Central Asia and Europe, Mr. Younis is also a frequent guest on PBS, FOX News, CNN International, BBC and Al Jazeera. A graduate of Washington & Lee School of Law, he also served in the Office of the Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Iraq at the United Nations.



Elliot Dorff was ordained as Conservative rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in

1970 and earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from Columbia University in 1971 with a dissertation in moral theory. Since then he has directed the rabbinical and Masters programs at the University of Judaism, where he currently is Rector and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy. He also teaches a course on Jewish law at UCLA School of Law as a Visiting Professor.



Diane Winston has worked as a reporter and columnist for several of the nation's leading newspapers,

including the *Los Angeles Times*, is the author of *Red-Hot and Righteous: The Urban Religion of the Salvation Army*, and co-editor of *Faith in the Market: Religion and the Rise of Urban Commercial Culture*. With a Masters of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and a Ph.D. in religion from Princeton University, Ms. Winston holds the Knight Chair in Media and Religion at USC's Annenberg School for Communication.






Thomas M. Nichols is Professor of Strategy and Policy at the United States Naval War College and

currently a senior associate of the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs. A former chairman of the Strategy and Policy Department, Dr. Nichols has taught at Georgetown University and Dartmouth College. His most recent book is *Winning the World: The Cold War's Lessons for America's Future*, a study of U.S. strategy during the Cold War and its lessons for the war against terrorism and other future conflicts.

Fall 2006 Registration Form

The Center for Religious Inquiry
 Wilshire Boulevard Temple
 3663 Wilshire Boulevard
 Los Angeles, CA 90010

Join us, register online at www.wbtla.org, mail form to address on right or fax your order to 310.689.4566. For more information, call 213.388.2401.

Course/Lecture/Event	Date	Time	Quantity	Price Each	Total
MORAL NATION	Are We a Christian Nation? 	Sept. 26	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	Intelligent Design? 	Oct. 10	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	What is a Just War? 	Nov. 14	7:30 pm		\$10.00
Introduction to Judaism	Contact Beverly Ross at bross@urj.org or 818.907.8740				
A History of the End of the World	Oct. 17	7:30 pm		Free	
The Jewish Bible in Christmas Art	Dec. 5	7:30 pm		\$10.00	
Special Price – All 5 Fall Events				\$35.00	
Friends of CRI donation					
<i>The Center for Religious Inquiry is supported by contributions. Course fees cover only a portion of the costs. Please consider becoming a Friend of CRI with a tax-deductible donation</i>					Grand Total

Name _____ Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ E-mail _____

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Check enclosed. Please make payable to Wilshire Boulevard Temple. Please bill my: MasterCard Visa Discover

Account Number _____ Expiration Date _____ 3-Digit Security Code _____

Signature _____



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3663 Wilshire Boulevard
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