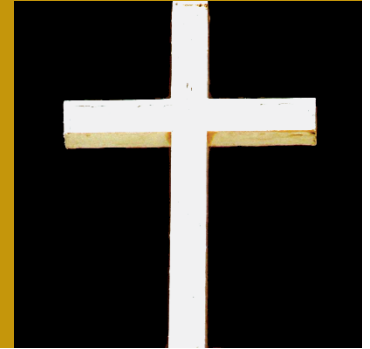
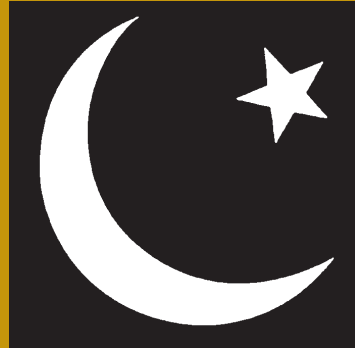
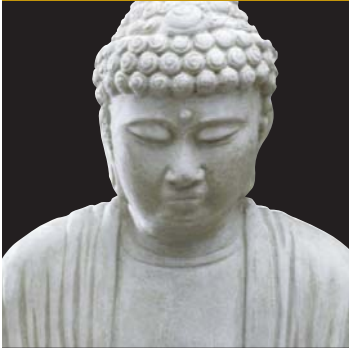


# The Center for Religious Inquiry at Wilshire Boulevard Temple

Fall 2007 Programs



*Mipnei d'archei shalom* – because it leads to paths of peace –this is why the sages of the Talmud and rabbis ever since sought to understand those of different faiths in an effort to better appreciate 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 teach us, to learn with us, to join us as we do our part, *mipnei d'archei shalom* – because it leads to paths of peace.



Since we began CRI last fall, our world has become more unsettled, with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict growing ever more complicated and the Middle East as a whole evolving into a focal point of ultimate importance for global stability. At home, the quest to become President includes candidates of different genders, races, religions—and for the third time in America's history, a Mormon candidate. The Christian Right is no longer the doctrinal monolith for which it was previously characterized; fundamentalist Christians have taken to global warming as a new, urgent cause. Our lecture events this year will focus on these issues and more; with renowned scholars and religious leaders, it will be a season of great adventure.

Amidst all the noise of conflict and change, we search for truth and for peace—this fall, explore our courses in Buddhism and The Ten Commandments and discover old-new responses to fundamental questions. Here is your opportunity for in-depth study and engagement on two topics that evoke powerful feelings and ideas.

Join us for what promises to be a memorable year of programs.

*L'shalom*, towards peace,

Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein  
Director, The Center for Religious Inquiry



# FLASHPOINTS

## Religious Conflict in the World Today

Produced in conjunction with the Carnegie Council on Ethics in International Affairs and The Center for Religious Inquiry at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York

**FLASHPOINTS** encompasses five evenings over the course of the year in which leading scholars and religious leaders engage us in learning and dialogue over some of the most challenging and critical issues facing the global community.

### This FALL:



#### IRAN: Two Tales of One Persia

Los Angeles is unique, possessing the largest concentration of Jewish and Muslim émigrés in the world. How do two peoples of the same homeland experience what is happening in Iran, and what do they feel will be the consequences

both in Tehran and for the rest of the Middle East?

Wednesday, October 24, 2007, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person

**The Audrey and Sydney Irmias Campus**

11661 W. Olympic Blvd.

**Dr. Sadegh Namazikah**

Director, The Iranian-American Muslim Network

**Gina Nahai**, renowned author of "Sunday Silence", "Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith", and "Cry of the Peacock."



#### ISRAEL AND HER ARAB NEIGHBORS

**AMBASSADOR DENNIS ROSS** is The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Counselor and Ziegler Distinguished Fellow. For more than twelve years, Ambassador Ross played a leading role in shaping American involvement in the Middle East peace process as the U.S. point man on the peace process in both the George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton administrations. This world-renowned expert will speak about the region's most complicated political equation and offer thoughts on possible solutions.

Thursday, December 13, 2007, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person

The Temple, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard

**FLASHPOINTS** continues in Winter/Spring 2008: "Sunnis and Shi'ites", "Turkey, Islam, and the West", and "Should Europe Become Religious Again?"—don't miss it!

# LECTURES



## DECODING THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT: Fundamentals, Evangelicals, and the Born-Again Movement

Christian fundamentalism, arising in the last century, takes its view of the future through looking through the ancient lens of Scripture. As it has evolved in the 21st century, it is more separatist in nature from mainline Protestants and far more engaging—on numerous levels—in political discourse and policy. What are the differences—the similarities—and what is their significance? Investigate the distinctions and find new insights into the world's largest religion and these movements' effects on American and foreign public policy.

Tuesday, October 30, 2007, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person

The Temple, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard

**Dr. Cecil M. Robeck**

Professor of Church History, Fuller Theological Seminary



## WHAT MAKES A MORMON?

The Mormon faith (known fully as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) asserts that in September 1823, eighteen year-old Joseph Smith was visited in New York by a heavenly messenger named Moroni in the same way angels appeared to church leaders in Christian Scriptures. Moroni informed Joseph of a sacred record of America's ancient inhabitants buried in a nearby hill. Four years later, Joseph received the record, written on thin plates of gold and called it the Book of Mormon. Since its publication in 1830, it has informed the lives of millions of people throughout the world with a powerful message about Jesus and his gospel. Learn about this uniquely American religion and understand how its relationship to Judaism has drawn it close to the State of Israel.

Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person

The Temple, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard

**Mark Paredes** is the Director of Jewish Relations on the Southern California Public Affairs Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A graduate of Brigham Young University, Mr. Paredes served as an LDS missionary in southern Italy and as a Foreign Service Officer both at the American Consulate General in Guadalajara, Mexico, and the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel, where he was an assistant to Ambassador Martin Indyk.

**RSVP ONLINE:** [www.wbtla.org/pages/cri](http://www.wbtla.org/pages/cri); **CALL:** Phyl at 213 388-2401; **MAIL:** the registration form from this brochure.

# COURSES

**EXPLORE** the world's great religions and central topics in an intimate setting where questions are welcome and no experience is necessary. We provide experienced educators for a three-night adventure that will change your perspective and enhance your knowledge.

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: Fact—Faith—Fiction?



No text in Western religion matches their power; the foundational laws of Judaism inspired Christianity and Islam as well as forming the basis of much civil law throughout Europe and the United States. Explore the roots of these powerful words, their history, and their use throughout the millennia—and be prepared to encounter them as never before!

Wednesday evenings, October 10, 17, November 7, 2007, 7:30 p.m. • The Temple, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard  
**Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein** • \$30/person for the entire course

## BUDDHISM FOR BEGINNERS



For thousands of years, this Asian faith has drawn adherents from all over the world and from many different religious beliefs to practice many of its ways in an attempt to find deeper connections and inner peace. What makes Buddhism so attractive? Encounter its rich history, fascinating theology, and uniquely peaceful attitudes towards life, death, and what lies beyond.

Wednesday evenings, November 28, December 5, 12, 2007, 7:30 p.m. • The Temple, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard  
**Ven. Kusala Bhikshu**, Director of the University Buddhist Association at UCLA • \$30/person for the entire course

## INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM



Give us two hours a week for eighteen weeks and we'll give you practically everything you need to know to function in the Jewish world: Jewish history, lifecycle celebrations, ceremonies, events, theology, Bible, prayer and much more. The course is designed to be an entry and re-entry point for individuals from all backgrounds, Jewish and non-Jewish, to participate more comfortably in Jewish life. Sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism, this class may also serve as the first step in conversion to Judaism.

For a brochure, information or registration, call Beverly Ross of the URJ at 818 907-8740 or go online at: [www.urj.org/psw](http://www.urj.org/psw) and click on "Introduction to Judaism."

18 Thursday evenings, October 11, 2007 through February 28, 2008, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**The Audrey and Sydney Irmis Campus**, 11661 W. Olympic Blvd. • Wilshire Boulevard Temple Clergy

**RSVP ONLINE:** [www.wbtla.org/pages/cri](http://www.wbtla.org/pages/cri); **CALL:** Phyl at 213 388-2401; **MAIL:** the registration form from this brochure.

## FRIENDS OF CRI

The Center for Religious Inquiry at Wilshire Boulevard Temple provides a range of learning opportunities for all of Los Angeles to gain greater understanding and deeper knowledge about different world religions and the people who practice them. The generous support of the Friends of CRI helps underwrite our courses and public lectures, making them available at minimal cost.

We thank our inaugural list of donors for their support during 2007 and ask you to consider becoming a Friend of CRI. Gifts will also be listed in the Temple's bulletin and those who give at the Contributors level and above will be invited to special CRI-related receptions and events.

If you would like further information, please contact Gina Lobaco at 213 388-2401 or [globaco@wbtla.org](mailto:globaco@wbtla.org).

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

Lecture/Course	Date	Time	Quantity	Price Each	Total
<b>FLASHPOINTS</b>	Iran: Two Tales of One Persia	Oct. 24	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	Ambassador Dennis Ross	Dec. 13	7:30 pm		\$10.00
<b>COURSES LECTURES</b>	Decoding the Christian Right	Oct. 30	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	What Makes a Mormon?	Nov. 13	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	The Ten Commandments	See Catalog	7:30 pm		\$30.00
	Buddhism for Beginners	See Catalog	7:30 pm		\$30.00
	Introduction to Judaism	See Catalog	Contact Beverly Ross at <a href="mailto:bross@urj.org">bross@urj.org</a> or 818.907.8740		
<i>CRI is supported by your tax-deductible donation as fees cover only a portion of our costs.</i>					Friends of CRI contribution
					<b>Grand Total</b>

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Check enclosed: Please make payable to *Wilshire Boulevard Temple*.

Please bill my:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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