



# Center for Religious Inquiry

AT WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

## *Mipnei d'archei shalom –*

Because it leads to paths of peace –

The Center for Religious Inquiry reaches out to Angelenos of all faiths and 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.

"**PEACE** has never come from dropping bombs. Real peace comes from **ENLIGHTENMENT** and educating people to behave more in a divine manner."

These wise words of Carlos Santana bear repeating as we approach the next few months in American and world

events. The **DYNAMIC** situation of an election that on numerous levels will be historic, the **CHALLENGES** to religious leaders and laity alike to face an ever-growing divide between

rich and poor, and the constant reality that our technological world tempts us to learn with "10-second sound bites" all inform our programming this fall. **GOD LOVES BEAUTY**

– an interfaith arts festival to offer us a week of **TRANQUILITY** and inspiration; a course on Islam designed for you, the attendee, to help guide topics, and the first screening in

our **CRI FILM FEST** – *The Last Jews of Libya*, all combine in a semester filled with opportunity to **LEARN**, to engage, and to encounter scholars and religious leaders

"up close and personal" for opportunities filled with meaning.

**Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein**

Director, The Center for Religious Inquiry



# AMERICA: THE MORAL NATION



As Americans face a critical election, we also realize there are significant religious implications arising from who we are as a nation of many faiths, and where we are headed as cultural and sacred traditions continue to enlighten – and sometimes, challenge us.

## Thomas Jefferson's Bible: Can We *Cut and Paste* Scripture?



One of America's founding fathers combed through the Bible and created his "wee little book" of 46 pages that contained in his opinion, "the most sublime and benevolent code of morals which has ever been offered to man." What parts – if any – of the Bible may

we feel free to cut? Which verses are more – or most important? Join Roy Ritchie as he introduces us to Jefferson's version of the Bible and helps us understand what he valued and why – and how it might influence our beliefs.

**Roy Ritchie** is W.M. Keck Foundation's Director of Research and Education at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Dr. Ritchie is a renowned historian of early American history, and of Thomas Jefferson in particular.

**Wednesday, September 24, 2008, 7:30 p.m.** \$15 per person  
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010

## Same-Sex Marriage: Civil Right – Religious Rite?

A panel of religious and legal leaders will engage us in a discussion of this challenging topic, helping us understand the role of marriage in religious and secular history, and how same-sex marriage may or may not fit into contemporary legal and/or religious discourse.

**Thursday, October 23, 2008, 7:30 p.m.** \$15 per person  
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010

## Politics and the Pulpit: How and When Do We Draw the Line?

Since the prophet Isaiah, the pulpit has been a powerful place to encourage a community to "do the right thing." Can preachers do that now, and if so, to what degree is speaking about politics—and particularly, political candidates—acceptable to congregants, to communities, and to the government?

**Thursday, November 13, 2008, 7:30 p.m.** \$15 per person  
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010

## FOR A CLOSER LOOK



## Everything You Wanted to Know About Islam – And Now You Can Ask!

This three-night course will introduce you to the basics of Islamic belief, help clarify differences between Sunni and Shi'ia, and allow ample time for you to "Ask the Expert" all those challenging questions that are important to put forward.

**Dr. Mahmoud Abdel-Baset**, former Director of Religious Affairs, Islamic Center of Southern California.

**3 Monday evenings, October 6,  
November 10, and December 8,  
2008, 7:30 p.m.**

\$45 per person for the 3-night course.  
\$20 per student with valid ID.

The Audrey and Sydney Irmas Campus  
11661 W. Olympic Blvd.  
Los Angeles 90064

# ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS

## CRI FILMFEST BEGINS:

### *The Last Jews of Libya*



Jews lived in this North African country for 2,300 years,

creating a vibrant and important religious community. Its modern history, beautiful, powerful, and sad, have come together in a moving film that attests to contemporary realities and eternal beliefs. Don't miss this movie and the chance to speak with one of the last Libyan Jews and the filmmaker, Vivienne Roumani-Denn.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.**  
The Temple Campus  
3663 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90010  
\$15 per person

## God Loves Beauty: An Interfaith Festival of the Arts



CRI is proud to host the fourth annual celebration of visual, dramatic, and performing arts from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions, highlighting creativity as it arises from the inspiration of faith. An exciting, week-long visual arts exhibition and two, one-time-only special events make this an extraordinary experience sure to inspire you!

**November 14–20, 2008.** The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Bl., Los Angeles 90010

### Halleluyah – Songs of Praise!

**Sunday, November 16, 2008, 3:00 p.m.** \$15 per person

Revel in the songs and theatre traditions from Jewish, Christian, and Islamic performers as they join together in a unique afternoon focused on how we, through music and faith, connect to God.

### Venice and the Islamic World

**Tuesday, November 18, 2008, 7:30 p.m.** \$15 per person

**From the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York**, this exhibition examines the relationship between Venice and the Islamic world over a thousand-year period, focusing on artistic and cultural ideas and the reasons why a large number of Venetian paintings, drawings, printed books, and especially decorative artworks were influenced by and drew inspiration from art of the Islamic world.

**Trinita Kennedy**, former curator at the MET™, helped organize this exhibition and will present visual selections as well as speak about the unique confluence of Italian and Islamic art.

**For more information on the festival events, visit [www.godlovesbeautyfestival.com](http://www.godlovesbeautyfestival.com) or call Ani at (323) 842-2869.**

## 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 are grateful to our growing list of donors for their continued support, and ask you to consider becoming a Friend of CRI. Gifts to CRI will, in addition, be acknowledged in Wilshire Boulevard Temple's bi-monthly 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@wbtl.org](mailto:globaco@wbtl.org).

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**MAIL:** the attached registration form

**FAX:** to (310) 389-4566

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**MAIL** the order form to the address listed at right or  
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**For more information**, call (213) 388-2401.

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

Lecture/Course	Date	Time	Quantity	Price Each	Total
<b>A R T S COURSE LECTURES</b>	Thomas Jefferson's Bible	Sept. 24	7:30 pm	\$15.00	
	Same-Sex Marriage	Oct. 23	7:30 pm	\$15.00	
	Politics and the Pulpit	Nov. 16	7:30 pm	\$15.00	
	Everything You Wanted to Know About Islam	Oct. 6, Nov. 10, Dec. 8	7:30 pm	\$45.00	
	God Loves Beauty Festival	Nov. 14-20	Various	Art Exhibit Free	
	Halleluyah-Songs of Praise!	Nov. 16	3:00 pm	\$15.00	
	Venice and the Islamic World	Nov. 18	7:30 pm	\$15.00	
	Film: <i>The Last Jews of Libya</i>	Dec. 10	7:30 pm	\$15.00	
Friends of CRI contribution	<i>CRI is supported by your tax-deductible donation as fees cover only a portion of our costs.</i>				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>					

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