



WINTER/SPRING
2008 PROGRAMS

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.



DYNAMIC events are shaping the world on a daily basis: our country is electing new leadership and Israel is about to celebrate its sixtieth anniversary of statehood as it continues, along with the Palestinian people, in a quest for a lasting solution to their **CHALLENGES**. The political situation in Iran and



Iraq is confounding, even more so as intra-Islamic tensions are intricately interwoven into daily realities. Here at the Center for Religious Inquiry, we face these **ISSUES** and much more as leading scholars and religious leaders **INSPIRE** us to broaden our personal horizons, to see the "other" in ourselves, and to take our learning out into the city to help heal the fractious wounds that exist here and everywhere. Carlos Santana said, "**PEACE** has never come from dropping bombs. Real peace comes from **ENLIGHTENMENT** and educating people to behave more in a divine manner." Join us for a semester that will open your mind and change your life.

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 three evenings this semester 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.

SUNNI AND SHI'IA: What's the Problem and Why it Matters

While Sunnis battle Shiites in Iraq, the conflict between these two Muslim factions is more widespread; it is part of the political scene in the entire Arab world. What are the differences between these two groups? How did their antagonism begin and how does it play out today? Is a resolution possible, or will these two groups always be at loggerheads? How does this conflict affect the non-Muslim world?

Dr. Hamoud Salhi, CSU-Dominguez Hills
Tuesday February 12, 2008, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard

TURKEY, ISLAM, AND THE WEST

The influence of middle-class Muslims is taking new prominence in Turkey just as the country strives to become part of the European Community. Does the rise of Islam as a political force in Turkey bring dangers to the Western World? Should Turkey be kept out of the European Community because it is dominated by Muslims? What might be the impact on Islam and its interaction with the West?

Dr. Esra Ozyurek, UC-San Diego
Tuesday, February 26, 2008, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard

WILL EUROPE BECOME RELIGIOUS AGAIN?

Pope Benedict XVI has frequently decried the diminishing impact of religion in general and the Catholic Church in particular, over the last fifty years. He has set as one of his prime agenda items the return of the religious imperative on European life. Is the Pope's assessment of the importance of religion in Europe correct? How might the values of religion impact the new European Union?

Dr. Ismail Bardhi, Dean, Faculty, Islamic Studies, Skopje, Macedonia
Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard

LECTURES



Jewish Political Authority: Who, How, and Why We Govern

Michael Walzer edited this four-volume work that illustrates how our people have governed and been ruled throughout the millennia; find out how our history is being used to guide – or perhaps, misguide us – today, here in America as well as in Israel.

Dr. Michael Walzer
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ
Thursday, March 27, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person
Audrey and Sydney Irmis Campus
11661 W. Olympic Boulevard

The Jewish Theology of Christianity

**The Tenth Annual Anne and Nathan Spilberg
Lecture on Jewish Life**

How – if at all – does the Christian belief in God draw on Judaism? Where is it found and how does it affect Jewish-Christian relationships? Join Michael Kogan, author of *Opening the Covenant: Jewish Theology of Christianity* as he unravels our preconceived notions of Christian theology. Kogan is Chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Montclair State University, NJ, and writes and speaks widely in the fields of Jewish-Christian theological dialogue.

Dr. Michael Kogan
Chairman, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies
Montclair State University, New Jersey
Tuesday evening, April 8, 7:30 p.m., \$10 per person
The Temple Campus
3663 Wilshire Boulevard

A Muslim-Jewish Seder

Every year this event is "Standing Room Only" as we celebrate Pesach with an extraordinary haggadah, great music, and the friendship of like-minded Muslim families – don't be left out!

Saturday, April 26, 6:00 p.m.
The Temple Campus
3663 Wilshire Boulevard

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.

A TASTE OF JUDAISM



We will explore Judaism's core beliefs and practices, examining "God," "Torah," and "Israel," discovering the roots of this ancient religion while tracing its amazing evolution to the present. Lots of user-friendly learning for non-Jews and Jews alike while leaving plenty of time for "all the questions you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask."

Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein • Wednesday evenings, February 20, 27 and March 5, 7:30 p.m.
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard • \$30/person for the entire course

NATIVE RELIGIONS NEAR AND FAR



They are some of our favorite destination regions, but what do we know of the great indigenous faith traditions of these lands? Native Alaskans are comprised of a myriad of cultural tribes and religious traditions; Australian aboriginals and their Maori (New Zealand) counterparts share great faith and practices even across the vast expanse of Oceania. Fly your mind and soul "first-class" and discover the unique beauties and power of these fascinating traditions and how they explore and experience life.

Wednesday evenings, March 26, April 2 and 9, 7:30 p.m.
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard • \$30/person for the entire course

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL



Two thousand years ago, exiled Jews dreamed of returning to their ancient homeland and in the late nineteenth century, Theodor Herzl gave birth to the notion that Jews could—and should—live in a land where Judaism can be freely, openly lived. The complex and miraculous story of modern-Israel's birth and survival continues to fascinate and challenge us. As Israel celebrates its sixtieth anniversary, this is a golden opportunity to learn or refresh your understanding of this singular event in modern world history.

Dr. Adam Rubin, Hebrew Union College • Wednesday evenings, May 21, 28 and June 4, 7:30 p.m.
The Temple Campus, 3663 Wilshire Boulevard • \$30/person for the entire course

RSVP ONLINE: www.wbtla.org/pages/crj; **CALL:** Phyl at 213 388-2401; **MAIL:** the attached registration form.

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.

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List current as of
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Winter/Spring 2008 Registration Form

REGISTER online at www.wbtla.org/pages/cri, MAIL form to address at right or FAX your order to 310 689-4566. 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
FLASHPOINTS	Sunni and Shi'ia	Feb. 12	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	Turkey, Islam, and the West	Feb. 26	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	Will Europe Become Religious Again?	April 29	7:30 pm		\$10.00
LECTURES	Jewish Political Authority	March 27	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	Jewish Theology of Christianity	April 8	7:30 pm		\$10.00
	A Muslim-Jewish Seder	April 26	6:00 pm	Please call 213 388-2401 to RSVP	
COURSES	A Taste of Judaism	See Catalog	7:30 pm		\$30.00
	Native Religions Near and Far	See Catalog	7:30 pm		\$30.00
	A Short History of the State of Israel	See Catalog	7:30 pm		\$30.00
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