



Concord

LEEDS INTERFAITH FELLOWSHIP
www.concord-leeds.org.uk

Newsletter - July 2005

New Appointments at AGM

THE AGM on Thursday 23rd June was reasonably well attended, though the excellent weather probably encouraged some of you to stay in the garden!

Our Treasurer, **Peter Dale**, has decided to retire after eight years of keeping the accounts and being Membership Secretary. He was warmly thanked for all the work he's done for Concord over the years—being described as more than a Treasurer, he's a Treasure! We hope he enjoys his retirement but expect to keep seeing him at open meetings.

A new member, **Stephen Tucker**, has offered to take over as Treasurer and **John Summerwill**, our newsletter editor, will look after the membership side.

Sewa Singh Kalsi was elected Chair. For the past year we have managed without a Chair but in order to continue the progress being made we agreed that we need someone to 'fly the flag' and Sewa is ideal for that task.

David Hick offered to fill the vacancy on the committee and was duly elected.

I am happy to continue in the role of Administrative Secretary but would appreciate your ideas and suggestions for future topics & speakers.

Ethel Baker, Elizabeth Bernheim, Hardeep Kaur Kalsi, Evelyn Shire and Joyce Sundram make up the rest of the Executive committee.

We were very pleased to welcome **Charles Dobbin** of the Leeds Diocesan Interfaith Task Group. He spoke briefly about the work being done to find the best way to start a programme of education about other faiths. There have already been questionnaires to Christian denominations in one segment of the city—the Allerton Deanery—and now the Task Group would like to make the questionnaire suitable for members of other faith communities. Concord has offered to assist with the funding of this project.

We were also pleased to welcome **Hakan and Asuman Aydin** who gave a short presentation about the Interfaith Dialogue for World Peace, a not-for-profit charitable organisation started by Turkish academics in Leeds. Asuman gave a brief description of the society's aims – equality, tolerance, love and mutual respect – and read some sections from the Q'ran to emphasise those points. She went on to talk about the forthcoming project, "Heroes for Peace", which will take place during the Together for Peace Festival in November, with help from Concord and the Leeds Faiths Forum.

I spent a few minutes publicising a host of 'peace' events happening in Leeds next month, see elsewhere in the newsletter for details. I hope to see lots of you at some if not all of these gatherings.

And finally, we even had time to chat and socialise at the end of the meeting – quite a rarity in recent times!



Concord Visit to Sinai Synagogue

OUR VISIT TO SINAI Synagogue on May 10th was very well attended with about 40 Concord members and friends turning up. We not only received excellent information but were frequently amused by Rabbi Ian Morris as he shared with us some interesting insights into Jewish belief and culture.

I was surprised to learn that the Synagogue is not a 'sacred' space and rabbis are not the equivalent of Anglican parish priests.

Synagogue actually means 'place of assembly' and has three functions—gathering together, study and prayer. In Sinai Synagogue there are three separate areas, one for each of the functions. In the place for prayer, where we were gathered for the talk, there is no altar but a 'cupboard' where the Scrolls of the Torah are kept. We were shown one of the five beautiful scrolls – all of which are identical in content and layout, hand written on special parchment in a form preserved since antiquity. The light above the cupboard represents the light of the Law, given by God, contained in the Torah.

Rabbis are teachers rather than priests; Jewish priests were hereditary but rabbis gain their titles through study. They have expertise in the Law, and in former times would be called upon to settle disputes, acting as judges as well as teachers. According to Rabbi Morris, the congregation could manage quite well without him!

There was a lively question and answer session during which we learnt that Progressive Judaism had developed as a result of the French Revolution when, for the first time in Europe, Jews acquired citizenship. With equal rights and opportunities, many Jews left the ghettos to make their way in wider society, with a significant number leaving the faith. Reform Judaism developed

to stem the flow; theology changed, accepting progressive revelation. And so it continues.

We then had an opportunity to take a closer look at the different items connected with the scrolls. Unfortunately (very unfortunately) I had forgotten my camera so there are no pictures to show – I won't be making the same mistake next time!

Our thanks to Rabbi Morris for a most educational, enlightening and entertaining evening which was delightfully rounded off with tea and biscuits served by our own members, Elizabeth and Ethel.

Cynthia Dickinson

Independence from America Day Monday 4th July

Gathering at Menwith Hill 12 noon – 5pm

Guest speaker Scott Ritter

Music by Chumbawumba

A Public Meeting with Scott Ritter Former UN Weapons Inspector to Iraq Monday 4th July

7.30pm – 9.00pm

Leeds Civic Hall

Committee Rooms 6 & 7

All welcome – admission free.

Control Arms Campaign Gun Destruction Day Saturday July 9th

Amnesty International with John Battle MP

Briggate, Leeds



Summer/Autumn Programme 2005

Sunday 31st July from 2pm

Picnic for Peace in the Park

Meet at the new Bandstand in Roundhay Park

Look for the Concord banner and yellow table cloth

Please bring vegetarian food or soft drinks to share

Join in the Walk for Peace around the lake.

Tuesday 13th September at 7pm

Meeting Room 2 Thomas Danby College

Diversity and Dialogue – a project with young people

Imogen Gregg, development officer for Save the Children will describe her work in developing a “global citizenship initiative” with young people in the UK

Wednesday 19th October at 7pm

Friends Meeting House, Woodhouse Lane

Annual Peace Service

Join with people from all faith communities to reaffirm our desire for peace and justice in Leeds and throughout the world.

Thursday 17th November at 7pm

Meeting Room 2 Thomas Danby College

Rev Peter Tarlton and Khalil Kazi, Chaplains at HMP Armley

An update of the West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project, providing a Multi-Faith dimension to the support of prisoners on release.

Kalai Kaviri

Sacred Indian Dancing

Monday 11th July at 7.30pm

Searching for the Pearl of Great Price

At St John’s Church

Harrogate Road, Moor Allerton

(donation appreciated)

Then on

Tuesday 12th July at 7.30pm

Victoria Hall, Victoria Road, Saltaire

A rare chance to see a varied programme of classical, folk and oriental dance drama from one of India’s young dance groups on tour.

£5 waged; £2.50 children/unwaged

Cheques payable to GHMCC from Molly Kenyon

12 Oaster Road, Shipley BD18 4SE

A Journey in the Labyrinth

At Pennine Camphill Community, Boyne Hill, Wakefield

Saturday 16th at 10.30am or 2.30pm

Sunday 17th July at 1.30pm

A weekend of reflection, discussion, arts and creativity based around the experience of walking the Chartres labyrinth. With no specific interpretation or spirituality assumed, this is open to everyone who would value a new and exciting opportunity.

Bring and share lunch on Saturday

Contact Linda King 01924 – 240350



Walk for Peace

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE LAUNCH OF THE WALK FOR PEACE ...

..... LEEDS/BRADFORD/WAKEFIELD TO HIROSHIMA 6,000 MILES

on Sunday 10th July from 1pm to 3pm at Leeds Metropolitan University, The Acre, Headingley Campus, Beckett Park, Leeds LS6 3QS

Please reply to Eddie Halpin on 0113 – 2837585 or e.halpin@leedsmet.ac.uk if you are able to attend.

The 'walks' will be taking place over any distance on any day between 10th July and 19th November to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War 2 and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

I have more detailed information – if you could send me a stamped addressed envelop I will send you the 6 or 7 pages alternatively contact me by e-mail.

Any organisation, group, business, school, place of worship or individual can get involved. You decide when and where to walk then measure your distance (in yards, metres, miles or kilometres), choose your date, register with Eddie Halpin at Leeds Metropolitan University, letting him know how many people you expect to take part, then go out and walk.

You could walk to the shops, to school, round the playground or playing field, in the park, in the countryside, around your place of worship – wherever you like, on your own or with a group.

Then send in the total distance walked, by each person if in a group, and see how the miles add up by logging on to www.togetherforpeace.co.uk for the running total.

I will be inviting everyone who attends Concord's Picnic in the Park on Sunday 31st July to join me in a leisurely stroll

around the lake. Then on Saturday August 6th, Hiroshima Day, I will be walking around the lake in Anglers County Park, Wakefield. You could join me there too.

Those who take part will be awarded a certificate and a small candle, lit from the World Peace Flame.

The event is sponsored by Leeds Met University, World Peace Flame, Together for Peace and Mayors for Peace.

World Wide Picnic for Peace

ON SUNDAY JULY 31ST, any time between 11am and 3pm, anywhere you like -

- have a picnic for PEACE
 - talk to others about PEACE
 - walk in a park or the beautiful countryside and think about PEACE
 - dedicate your mid-day meal to PEACE
- Pass this message on, translate it, give it out, help make it happen!

This is a truly grassroots movement for peace – with no organisation, no project plan, no leader, no marches, no speeches, no permits.

It will be happening all over the world, wherever people decide to gather together.

There is a group meeting by the lake in Roundhay Park at 11am – look for the balloons – then a Walk for Peace around the lake.

We value your membership and would like you to renew.

**Individuals £7
Senior Citizens & Concessions £4**

**Cheques payable to Concord—
can be posted to the Membership
Secretary, John S. Summerwill,
263 Lidgett Lane, Leeds LS17 6PP**

This newsletter edited by John S. Summerwill, April 2005.

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