

World Religion Day 2024 - Report

- It is estimated that 37+ people attended (including 2-3 pop-in visitors). Many faith traditions were present (numbers in attendance is estimate, many are unknown):
 - Christian, 15+
 - Roman Catholic, 4+
 - Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 7
 - Bahá'í, 7
 - Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4
 - Order of Saint Benedict, 3
 - Islám, 2
 - Jewish, 2
 - Presbyterian, 1
 - Taoist, 1
- Event resources ie flyers, graphics shared on websites for access and distribution.
- More faith leader member communities were engaged this year.
- The attendees' feedback was VERY positive. Liked small group engagement vs presenters.
- The spirit in the room was enthusiastic, warm, and joyful.
- Recommendations:
 - Start planning in October to avoid holiday conflicts.
 - Divide workload by seeking "captains" for event categories, ie., program, facility, hospitality, publicity,

Planning & Participating Members

- Ron Marotte (Bahá'í; 320-291-1197; ron@marottedesign.com;
- Kateri Mancini (Catholic; 320-229-6020; kateri.mancini@ccstcloud.org;
- Loren Weinberg (Jewish; 320-267-3477; ljw1720@charter.net;
- Pam Peterson (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; 320-224-4448; pamelda4@gmail.com;
- Mayuli Bales (Catholic; 763-639-4368; mayuli.bales@gw.stcdio.org;
- Lea Iverson (Bahá'í; 763-350-2115; lea.iverson@icloud.com;
- Vern Iverson (Bahá'í; 763-245-3072; verniverson@icloud.com;
- Jerry Wetterling (Bahá'í; 320-249-9544; jwetterling@gmail.com;
- Joan Collins-Marotte (Bahá'í; 320-292-7639; joancollinsmarotte@gmail.com;
- Ayan Amoud Omar (Muslim; 320-469-1233; ayanaomar@hotmail.com;
- Sister Eunice Antony (OSB; 320-423-0454; eantony@csbsju.edu;
- Pastor Rev. Darin Seaman (Presbyterian; 320-428-1589; pastordarin@fpstcloud.org;

World Religion Day PROGRAM

Saturday, January 20, 2024; 2-3:30PM.

Great River Regional Library (St Cloud Library); Mississippi Room

Parlay

- Gather facilitators prior to start and review with them the group activities.
- Only water is available at the beginning.
- Hospitality nibbles available only after group activities end.
- Supporters arrive early to get set up and work out any technical issues if needed.
- Everyone who enters must have a nametag.

Event Outline (program 75 minutes, then social)

1. Call to order by Master of Ceremonies (3 minutes) = Ron & Kateri
2. Opening Prayer (3 minutes) = Ayan Omar
3. Opening remarks & share guidelines (5 minutes) = Ron & Kateri
4. Break into small groups for sharing / learning (See number on nametag) Facilitators
(about 45 minutes)

Group guidelines: Please share what you feel comfortable sharing. You can pass and could even come back later. Please be respectful and encourage everyone to share equally.

- a. Introductions: Please introduce yourself. If you wish, you may include religious affiliation or spiritual practice.
 - b. Golden rule group activity; first the “match” game, then the key illustration for reveal.
 - c. Question: Where do you find joy in your spiritual life?
 - d. Question: What service does your group (or you individually) give to the area community? If not, what community service would you like to see your group (or you) be involved in?
 - e. Group discussion about applying the Golden Rule to everyday life. Share quotes and discuss.
5. Call together & Closing Remarks (3 minutes) = Ron & Kateri
 - a. Thank participants for coming and participating.
 - b. Introduce and thank committee members and sponsors.
 6. Closing prayer (3 minutes) = Sisters OSB
 7. Social / Afterglow + hospitality
 8. Break down room = attendees

Hospitality & Facility (COVID & flu sensitive space)

- Event 2 – 3:30PM; (Room reservations 1:45 to 3:45PM)
- Anticipated attendance: 50-60
- Signage = Ron
- Reception, Greeting, write nametags required= Committee / Supporting members
- Name Tags & markers provided = Ron
- Covid masks provided = Darin
- Public address / sound system (2 mics: podium & room; Eric Blotkamp 320-650-2538) Ron
- Room setup / take down volunteers = attendees
- Use oven / in-house equipment? = Mayuli
- Hospitality (keep simple and manageable)
 - Gloved servers, caterers = Lea & Vern
 - Water bottles = Darin
 - Cookies & napkins (non-touch) = Mayuli
 - Canapés (non-touch, hot hors d'oeuvres) = Mayuli
 - Oven equip. & service utensils = Mayuli

Financials

Financial Support

- | | | |
|---|--------|--------------|
| 1. StC Unitarian Universalist Fellowship | \$ 250 | |
| 2. Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict | \$ 100 | |
| 3. Bahá'ís of St Cloud: | \$ 100 | TOTAL \$ 450 |

Expenses

Facility

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| 1. StC Library, Mississippi Room | \$ 0 |
|----------------------------------|------|

Program

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 2. Handouts Q=60 | |
| a. Match game (8.5" x 11") @ .15 | \$ 9 |
| b. Golden Rule Illustration (Ltr) @ .15 | \$ 9 |
| c. Conversation (8.5" x 11") @ .17 x 3 | \$ 31 |
| 3. Supporting materials | |
| a. Golf pencils | \$15 |
| b. Packet envelopes | \$12 |
| c. Sharpies | \$13 |

Hospitality

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 4. Hospitality: | |
|-----------------|--|

- a. Cookies (Catholic Charities) \$ 16
- b. Bottled Water (Pastor Darin) \$ 5
- c. Napkins (Catholic Charities) \$ 5

Publicity- paid Media

- 5. MPR ads x 7 @\$28 (Unitarians sponsored) \$ 196

Publicity and Promotion

- 6. Media outlets \$ 0
 - a. WJON Posted
 - b. StC Times Posted
 - c. Sauk Rapids Herald
 - d. Newsleader
 - e. CommUNITY
 - f. Meetup
 - g. eventbrite
- 7. Email lists / Newsletters
 - a. Faith Leaders membership (31+16+23) 70
 - b. Bahá'í Faith contacts (303+16+69) 388
 - c. Social Concerns e-blast list
 - d. MnMN e-newsletter list (state-wide) Posted
 - e. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Posted
 - f. Catholic Charities staff Posted
- 8. Websites / calendars
 - a. Bahá'is of Central MN Posted
 - b. Faith Leaders Posted
 - c. Mn Multifaith Network Posted
- 9. Thank You cards
 - a. Cards Q=21
 - b. Postage Q=42 @ .68 \$ 29
 - c. Inserts

Facility

- 10. Posters:
 - a. Front door (22" x 17") \$ 14
 - b. Front lobby (22" x 17") \$ 14
 - c. Room door (22" x 17") \$ 14
 - d. Registration Table (22" x 17") \$ 14
- 11. Flyers:
 - a. Table stands (8.5" x 11") Q=3 @ .56 \$ 2
- 12. Banners:
 - a. Event Logo Podium Banner, 72" x 17" \$ 45
 - b. Room Context, 72" x 17" Q=3 @ \$45 \$ 140
- 13. Other:
 - a. Name tags (printed): \$ 5
 - b. Sign-up sheets (8.5" x 11") Q=4 @ .56 \$ 2

TOTAL: \$ 590

GROUP ACTIVITY:

Match the Golden Rule with the religion

	Golden Rule	your selection	Religions
1	In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.		Hinduism
2	We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.		Taoism
3	Not one of you truly believes until you wish for others what you wish for yourself.		Christianity
4	What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Torah; all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it.		Bahá'í Faith
5	Lay not on any soul a load that you would not wish to be laid upon you, and desire not for anyone the things you would not desire for yourself.		Zoroastrianism
6	Treat not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.		Judaism
7	One word which sums up the basis of all good conduct...loving-kindness. Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself.		Native Spirituality
8	This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.		Islam
9	One should treat all creatures in the world as one would like to be treated.		Buddhism
10	We are as much alive as we keep the earth alive.		Jainism
11	I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all.		Sikhism
12	Regard your neighbour's gain as your own gain and your neighbour's loss as your own loss.		Unitarianism
13	Do not do unto others whatever is injurious to yourself.		Confucianism

Check your answers

How many did you get correct?

THE GOLDEN RULE

Hinduism
This is the sum of duty:
do not do to others what would
cause pain if done to you
Mahabharata 5:1517

Buddhism
Treat not others in ways
that you yourself would
find hurtful
The Buddha, Udana-Varga 5:18

Confucianism
One word which sums up the
basis of all good conduct...
loving-kindness.
Do not do to
others what
you do not
want done
to yourself
Confucius, Analects 15:23

Taoism
Regard your neighbour's gain
as your own gain, and your
neighbour's loss as your own loss
Lao Tzu, T'ai Shang Kan Ying I'ien, 213-218

Sikhism
I am a stranger to no one;
and no one is a stranger
to me. Indeed, I am
a friend to all
Guru Granth Sahib, p. 1299

Christianity
In everything, do to others
as you would have them
do to you; for this is the
law and the prophets
Jesus, Matthew 7:12

Unitarianism
We affirm and promote respect
for the interdependent
web of all existence
of which we are a part
Unitarian principle

Native Spirituality
We are as much alive
as we keep the earth alive
Chief Dan George

Zoroastrianism
Do not do unto others
whatever is injurious
to yourself
Shayast-na-Shayast 13.29

Jainism
One should treat all
creatures in the world
as one would like
to be treated
Mahavira, Sutakritanga

Judaism
What is hateful to you,
do not do to your neighbour.
This is the whole Torah;
all the rest is commentary
Hillel, Talmud, Shabbat 31a

Islam
Not one of you truly believes
until you wish for others what
you wish for yourself
The Prophet Muhammad, Hadith

Baha'i Faith
Lay not on any soul a load
that you would not wish to
be laid upon you, and
desire not for
anyone the
things you
would not
desire for
yourself
Baha'u'llah, Cleanings

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GROUP ACTIVITY:

Discuss the application of the Golden Rule

Terry Weller's commentary on Black Elk's wisdom

“In my career, I have seen many different expressions of the golden rule; but for me, the most powerful and comprehensive of these comes from the mouth of Black Elk. It goes like this:

“All things are our relatives. What we do to everything, we do to ourselves. All is really one.”

In these 18 words, Black Elk not only captures the essence of the golden rule, but he also lays bare its assumptions, including its mystical assumptions.”

Black Elk (1863-1950), renowned Native American (Lakota) visionary and shamanic healer.
Rev. Terry Weller, Canadian interfaith leader, writer and publisher/editor of Interfaith Unity News.

Does our disregard of the Golden Rule and ignoring its application in our lives affect us spiritually? Individually? Collectively?

Harry Gensler's commentary on John F. Kennedy's application of the Golden Rule

“Let's consider an example of how the rule is used. President Kennedy in 1963 appealed to the golden rule in an anti-segregation speech at the time of the first black enrollment at the University of Alabama. He asked whites to consider what it would be like to be treated as second class citizens because of skin color. Whites were to imagine themselves being black – and being told that they couldn't vote, or go to the best public schools, or eat at most public restaurants, or sit in the front of the bus. Would whites be content to be treated that way? He was sure that they wouldn't – and yet this is how they treated others. He said the ‘heart of the question is ... whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated.’”

John F. Kennedy (1917-63), 35th president of the United States.
Harry Gensler, American philosopher, ethicist and Golden Rule scholar.

How does this help us or our community?

President Barack Obama

“We know too that whatever our differences, there is one law that binds all great religions together. Jesus told us to ‘love thy neighbor as thyself.’ The Torah commands, ‘That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow.’ In Islam, there is a hadith that reads ‘None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.’ And the same is true for Buddhists and Hindus; for followers of Confucius and for humanists. It is, of course, the Golden Rule – the call to love one another; to understand one another; to treat with dignity and respect those with whom we share a brief moment on this Earth.

It is an ancient rule; a simple rule; but also one of the most challenging. For it asks each of us to take some measure of responsibility for the well-being of people we may not know or worship with or agree with on every issue. Sometimes, it asks us to reconcile with bitter enemies or resolve ancient hatreds. And that requires a living, breathing, active faith. It requires us not only to believe, but to do – to give something of ourselves for the benefit of others and the betterment of our world.”

Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States. Quoted from President Obama’s address to the National Prayer Breakfast, 2009, Washington, D.C.

In what areas of our life should the Golden Rule be “active”?

Mahatma Gandhi

“As we wish the followers of other religions to appreciate us, so ought we to seek with all our hearts to appreciate them. Surely this is the Golden Rule.”

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948), the spiritual and political leader of the non-violent movement which liberated India from British rule.

In what ways can we show someone appreciation?

Ethic of Reciprocity

The Golden Rule, known also as the *Ethic of Reciprocity*, is arguably the most consistent, most prevalent and most universal ethical principle in history. Many regard it as the most concise and general principle of ethics.

The Golden Rule is found in numerous cultures, religions, ethical systems, secular philosophies, indigenous (Native) traditions, and even in the mathematical sciences (e.g. the golden mean). And because it crosses so many traditions and philosophies, the Golden Rule possesses tremendous moral authority and reveals a

profound unity underlying the diversity of human experience. The Golden Rule also emphasizes values of mutuality, interdependence and reciprocity.

Given its omnipresence across history, the Golden Rule is often described as a *universal ethical principle*. To reflect on the Golden Rule is to reflect from the perspective of a universal wisdom. Accordingly, the Golden Rule is not just a moral ideal for relationships between people but also for relationships among nations, cultures, races, sexes, economies and religions.

The Golden Rule, with roots in a wide range of the world's religions and cultures, is well suited to be a standard to which different cultures could appeal in resolving conflicts. As the world becomes more and more a single interacting global community, the need for such a common standard is becoming more urgent. Clearly, the Golden Rule has the capacity to be the ethical cornerstone as the human family works together to build a peaceful, just and sustainable global society.

Its appeal is augmented by the fact that its message is simple, universal and powerful. In July 2000, Scarboro Missions published the Golden Rule Poster featuring the Golden Rule in 13 religions in a striking and attractive 4-colour format. Scarboro Missions has been stunned by the success of the poster – this piece of multifaith art is making its way around the world. Everywhere it goes, it performs its magical task of healing, unity and reconciliation.

Learn more about the Golden Rule:

<https://www.scarboromissions.ca/golden-rule>

World Religion Day CELEBRATION

Event stage banner, Q1: 72" x 17"

"There can be no doubt whatever that the peoples of the world, of whatever race or religion, derive their inspiration from one heavenly Source, and are the subjects of one God."

-- the Baha'i Writings

Room Context banner, Q1: 72" x 17"

"The time has come when each human being on earth must learn to accept responsibility for the welfare of the entire human family."

-- the Baha'i Writings

Room Context banner, Q1: 72" x 17"

"It is not for him to pride himself who loveth his own country, but rather for him who loveth the whole world. The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens."

-- the Baha'i Writings

Room Context banner, Q1: 72" x 17"

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

-- Margaret Mead

Room Context banner, Q1: 72" x 17"



Event letterhead banner, 1024 x 95 px





I'm bringing the joy!

1

I'm bringing the joy!

2

World Religion Day
CELEBRATION

Stay
Informed &
Engaged

We are so glad you're here!
Help build a vibrant community.

Sign up!

Entry poster, Q2: 17" x 22"; Reception poster, Q2: 17" x 22" & flyer 8.5" x 11"; Digital media clip; Nametage; Table Stand notice.

World Religion Day CELEBRATION

First Name <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Last Name <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Email <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Mobile Phone <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY - So we can read it!		Can we email you notices for future events? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Text you notices for future events? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

First Name <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Last Name <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Email <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	Mobile Phone <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>
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We are so glad you're here! Thanks for caring about our community.

Sign-up sheet at entry table, Q9: letter size

World Religion Day — Concept Development

Saturday, January 20, 2024; 2-4PM.

Great River Regional Library (St Cloud Library); Mississippi Room

Celebration Goals

- *Audience engagement*
- *Improved attendance by public & FL communities*
- *Warm hospitality*
- *Youth, teenagers, young adults encouraged to attend*
- *Diverse faith representation*

Celebration Theme

- *Share the Joy! (2023)*
- *Common challenges and gifts*
- *Meet Share and Care*
- *Spiritual lives matter*
- *Spiritual inquiries*
- *Spiritual explorations*
- *Weaving shared narratives*

Presenters vs Participation

- *Passive vs engaged*
- *Small groups of 6 vs whole group*
- *Facilitators needed?*

Event Guidelines

- Each attendee can speak and/or just listen; no judgement.
- Share formats: Chanting / Reciting (Scripture / prayers), music, dance, drumming, performance, etc.
- The educational aspect is OK too – we all need to learn more.
- It's your time; share as you see fit.
- Arrive early to get set up and work out any technical issues if needed.

Event Outline (75 minutes vs 90 minutes)

1. Call to order by Master of Ceremonies (5 minutes) =
2. Opening Prayer (5 minutes) =
3. Opening remarks & share guidelines (5 minutes) =
4. Break into small groups #1 (8 groups of 6 x 3 minutes = 20 minutes)
5. 5 min break
6. Break into small groups #2 (8 groups of 6 x 3 minutes = 20 minutes)
7. Closing Remarks =

8. Introduce and thank committee members and sponsors =
9. Closing prayer =
10. Social / Afterglow
11. Break down room =

Hospitality Considerations (COVID & flu sensitive)

- Event 2 – 4PM; (Room reservations 1:30 to 4PM)
- Anticipated attendance: 50-60
- Signage = Ron
- Reception & Greeting = Committee members
- Name Tags & markers = Ron
- Covid masks =
- Public address / sound system (2 mics; Eric Blotkamp 320-650-2538)
- Room setup / take down volunteers = early attendees
- Music? =
- Use oven / in-house equipment? =
- Hospitality (keep simple and manageable)
 - Gloved servers, caterers = Lea & Vern
 - ½ bottles water =
 - Cookies & napkins = (non-touch) (Mayuli)
 - Canapés = (non-touch)
 - Napkins =
 - Utensils =

Publicity & Promotion

- Each faith community to vigorously promote to their membership and encourage attendance.
- Email & text graphics / flyer = Ron
- MPR ads? = Pam
- WJON radio? =
- StC times ad? =

Budget & Finance

- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: \$
- Bahá'ís: \$100
- Diocese of StC:
- Others?