

November 2010 Follow-Up Events

Gathering Strength in Times of Climate Change: a Spiritual Response

November 14, 1-4pm, Multifaith Centre at the University of Toronto

A directed reflection workshop helping us to experience our emotions around climate change and environmental destruction, and to transform our pain into resilience and empowerment. Based on the "Work that Reconnects" group processes developed by Joanna Macy and colleagues.

[Click here to register](#)

Food , Faith, & the Environment

November 9, 7pm,

Bloor Street United Church, 300 Bloor St. W.

In recent years, the health and environmental benefits of local and organic foods, have moved onto the centre stage in our concerns. Urban farming and guerilla and community gardening have become popular activities in Toronto. But does food also help us connect with a deeper sense of community and spirituality?

- **David Mayberry** of the Canadian Foodgrains Bank will highlight the moral and justice implications of food, pointing to how we all must work to protect our food sources and food security, especially with the growing impacts of drought, expanding deserts, and climate change.
- **Risa Alyson Strauss** of the Jewish Nature Centre of Canada: Torat HaTeva and the Kavanah Garden will speak on the links between Judaism, food and the environment as well as the deep connection that can be made with the environment through working with the land.
- **Genevieve Anderson** coordinates the "Eat, Pray, Share" program with Faith Connections exploring such topics as hospitality, grace, God's presence, fasting, feasting, and Eucharist.

Economy, Faith, & the Environment

November 10, 7pm

St. Andrews United Church, 117 Bloor St. E.

This workshop looks at how our present-day economy has negatively impacted the natural environment through its endless growth imperative and consumerism, as well as the options that exist for moving to a sustainable economy that is respectful of the natural world. Participants will engage in small and large group discussions.

- **The Hon. David McDonald** outlines the present pathway of the destructive impacts of the present economy on the environment, especially the carbon economy and the growing impacts of climate change, highlighting the new ethics that are needed for us to transition to a more viable economy.
- **The Hon. Michael Chong**, MP for Wellington-Halton Hills, draws on his business experience and his deep concern about the direction of the economy to provide a vision of how we could move away from an economic system that harms and exploits the natural world to one that is sustainable.

- **John Dillon**, Economic Justice Coordinator for KAIROS, explores the varieties of economic injustice that threatens the well-being of people around the world, and the opportunity to bring together social and economic justice with environmental sustainability.

Health, Faith, & the Environment

November 11, 7pm

Knox Presbyterian Church, 630 Spadina Avenue

This workshop will explore the connections between health and the environment, through the lens of faith and spirituality. Participants will engage in small and large group discussions.

- **Dr. Alan Abelsohn**, of the University of Toronto, will highlight the human health challenges we face in the context of our deteriorating environment, particularly with respect to climate change.

- **Hilda Swirsky**, President of Canadian Nurses for Health and Environment and Chair of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue's Greening Committee will explore the growing linkages observed by nursing and health professionals between a healthy person and a healthy environment; and will speak about the role of nurses and health professionals in advocating for environmental health.

- **Gideon Forman** of the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE) will speak on the strong leadership coming from the medical community to protect human health through advocacy and political involvement. Gideon's energetic approach challenges participants to engage more fully in the democratic process as citizens.