

STRENGTHENING THE INTER-FAITH BRIDGES

in Burnaby



FEBRUARY / MARCH 2013

MORE QUESTIONS OF FAITH: COMMUNITY DIALOGUE CONTINUES TO GROW



Photo Credit: Iris Sun

More questions, more participants, more dialogue – the second in the **Strengthening Bridges** community dialogue series held on February 5th clearly demonstrates a passion for inter-faith dialogue and action in Burnaby. Almost 50 participants came out to hear **Louise Mangan** (Women of Spirit and Faith, Inter-Spiritual Centre) and **Don Dyck** (Pastor, Brentwood Park Alliance Church) explore the relevance of religion and spirituality in today's world. Both speakers stressed the importance of moving beyond "the self" to embrace "the other" in order to live one's faith in our families, neighbourhoods, workplaces, and community.

"Community is found when we live outside ourselves. When we do this, it becomes contagious."

- Don Dyck, Presenter, More Questions of Faith

Inspired by Mangan and Dyck's thought-provoking remarks, participants then worked one-to-one to interview someone from a different culture and/or faith, allowing them to learn from, and about, each other. Lively small group discussion followed focussed primarily on the role that faith can play in solving community problems, and meeting community challenges.

"I believe that when I serve others, I am also serving the Creator. For me, this is what it means to live my faith."

- Dialogue Session Participant

Participant evaluations indicate that the overall impression of the dialogue session was very positive. Participants especially enjoyed the in-depth discussions within their small group. The atmosphere was open, friendly and positive.

The next community dialogue session entitled, **Living Our Faith in Burnaby**, will continue the dialogue by exploring specific ideas for inter-faith action.

See next page for more information about this upcoming session.

A BIG SHOUT OUT

Thank you to the Community Centred College for the Retired for sharing their space with us at the Alan Emmott Centre.

and

Thank you to Iris Sun for taking photos at the event. Click here or check out the flickr link at www.bipt.ca

BIPT SENDS DELEGATION TO BURNABY COUNCIL

On February 4th, 2013 the Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table (BIPT) sent a delegation to Burnaby Council to request that February 8th be proclaimed **Embracing Cultural Diversity Day** in Burnaby. The presentation included an overview of BIPT's current activities, an introduction to the **Strengthening Inter-Faith Bridges** project, an update of recent changes to refugee policy, and an outline of BIPT's future goals and initiatives. BIPT was given 10 minutes on the agenda, but with questions and discussion from Council members, we finished at 50 minutes! The interest and passion for the issues facing immigrants and refugees in Burnaby demonstrated by the City Council is very encouraging, and helps to build momentum as we move forward together to make Burnaby a more welcoming and inclusive community for all its citizens.



Members of the Advisory Committee attending More Questions of Faith Dialogue.

Photo Credit: Iris Sun

SAVE THE DATE

You're Invited to the
Strengthening Inter-Faith Bridges in Burnaby
Food, Faith & Fun Forum

DATE: Tuesday, May 7, 2013
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
PLACE: Shadbolt Centre for the Arts
6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby (<http://mapq.st/W12agl>)

Mark your calendar now, and plan to join us for an evening of food, faith, and fun as we celebrate Burnaby's richly diverse faith traditions. Stay tuned for more details as they become available at www.bipt.ca



This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

THE BURNABY INTERCULTURAL PLANNING TABLE PRESENTS: *Community Dialogue Session 3: Living Our Faith in Burnaby*

DATE: Wednesday, March 20, 2013
TIME: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
(Registration & Refreshment at 5:30 pm)
LOCATION: National Nikkei Heritage Centre
6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby
(Kingsway @ Sperling/Southoaks)
<http://mapq.st/UGZBmY>
TOPIC: Living Our Faith in Burnaby

REGISTRATION:
This session is *FREE*, and everyone is welcome BUT pre-registration is required and early registration is strongly encouraged. To register, go to: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Register2InterFaith_3

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?
The **Strengthening Bridges in Burnaby** project hosts a series of community dialogues to discuss ways that faith and inter-faith (different faiths working together) can make Burnaby a more welcoming and inclusive community. If you are interested in this topic, and in learning more about Burnaby's diverse faith groups, please join us for this important conversation.

For more information about the Burnaby Intercultural Planning Table, please visit www.bipt.ca.