



24th Annual Interfaith

Thanksgiving Sunday Family Ritual Meal

organized by CRES: *community resource for exploring spirituality*

Nov 23 Sunday 6-8p, St Paul's Episcopal Church, 11 East 40th Street at Main

Make reservations by names with your check (\$25 adult, \$20 child) to CRES, Box 45414, Kansas City, MO 64171.

Late reservations: leave a message with your name and phone number at 913.649.5114 or check www.cres.org to see if space remains.

Invitation

Greetings from *American Indian, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Pagan, Sikh, Sufi, Unitarian Universalist, Zoroastrian, and Freethinker* participants again begin our full thanksgiving feast.



Our annual Thanksgiving Convocation commemorates the Pilgrims' exodus from religious tyranny with narrative, songs, prayers, readings, and feasting. To their story we add our repentance for the violence brought to this land and its native peoples, for importing enslaved peoples and denying them freedom, and for the prejudices which still mar America.

This dinner, with its booklet with parts for adults to speak and the questions children ask, and the symbolic foods with the full dinner, have become a Kansas City tradition. The meal expresses our commitment together to enlarge our heritage by understanding one another in all our diversity. Join us!

2008 Honorees



Ahmed El-Sherif, whose local and global humanitarian and interfaith work and leadership within his own faith bring the world closer to peace.



Walt and Jean Hiersteiner, whose extended civic faithfulness to public health, education, and interfaith comity have blessed us beyond measure.

From the arts, leaders of two groups with 50 years of service to Kansas City enriching the spirit:



Evan Luskin and Ward Holmquist, whose leadership of The Lyric Opera of Kansas City with the magic of musical drama portrays the human condition and enriches the soul.

William Whitener, whose artistic leadership of the Kansas City Ballet reveals and uplifts the human spirit through dance.



Last year our honorees were **Mahnaz Shabbir**, a Muslim leader who has brought better understanding of her faith to our community and to the nation, and the Reverend **David E Nelson** DMin, who since 1988 has pioneered and pursued interfaith work here with energy, skill, and vision. Previous honorees are (2006) interfaith community volunteer **Gayle Krigel** and futurists and long-time CRES supporters **Nancy and Gordon Beaham**, (2005) former Kansas Attorney General the Hon **Robert Stephan** and former Catholic Chancellor **George Noonan**, (2004) **Marc Wilson**, Director and CEO of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and **Laurence Sickman**, his deceased predecessor, (2003) Congressman, the Hon **Dennis Moore**, (2002) Kansas City Mayor Pro-Tem, the Hon **Al Brooks**, (2001) Kansas City Star columnist and Presbyterian lay theologian **Bill Tammeus**, and Kansas City Star publisher **Art Brisbane**, (2000) Kansas City Mayor, the Hon **Kay Barnes**, and (1999) Hindu leader **Anand Bhattacharyya** and Muslim leader **A Rauf Mir**, MD.

Symbolic Food

In addition to the foods of the traditional Thanksgiving meal — (1) cranberry sauce and (2) turkey, which have become symbolic of this holiday celebration — there are small portions of foods on our table with special meaning: (3) salt water (4) bitter herbs (5) maize (6) charoses (7) cheese and (8) bread. Their meanings are conveyed in the text with the meal. The glasses of (9) wine or fruit juice are filled at intervals during the service and sipped together after the blessing is said in one voice. (10) A vegetarian option recognizes that some Americans choose not to eat meat.



History of the Convocation

Dr John Hayward, then professor at the Meadville Theological School at the University of Chicago, wrote the original version of this service with the help of his family. It was first used publicly in 1965. This version was arranged and edited by Dr Vern Barnet, expands the number of children's questions, and places Thanksgiving in a world-wide religious context. It has been revised and reprinted a dozen times from 1974 to 2004.

This Interfaith Convocation has been sponsored by CRES since 1985. It has been hosted in the greater Kansas City area by Grand Avenue Methodist Church, Rockhurst University, the Village (Presbyterian) Church, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Saint James Lutheran Church, Unity Temple on the Plaza, Shawnee Presbyterian Church, Grace and Holy Trinity (Episcopal) Cathedral, Temple B'nai Jehudah, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Congregation Beth Shalom, Community Christian Church, St Monica Catholic Church, St Andrew Christian Church, the Rime Buddhist Center, and Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Awards were begun with the 1999 reorganization of the CRES Board chaired by David Stallings.