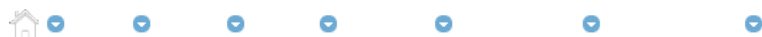




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First session of OCCJ's Interfaith Triologue Series begins Sunday

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Posted: Saturday, February 1, 2014 12:00 am | Updated: 5:01 am, Sat Feb 1, 2014.

By BILL SHERMAN World Religion Writer | 1 comment

The first session of the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice's Interfaith Triologue Series will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The annual discussion series will take place on the first three Sundays of February.

The topic is "The Challenge of Civil Discourse: Religious Passion, Extremism and the Problem of Perception."

Gary Peluso-Verdend, president of Phillips Theological Seminary, will moderate the sessions, which are free and open to the public. Donations are welcome.

Peluso-Verdend said the first hour of each session will be presentations by the speakers.

The second hour will be engaging in civil discourse, which he defined as "conversation and argument based on honest and mutual respect about matters which we have serious disagreement over but must find some kind of common ground in order to live together."

The sessions are:

Sunday: "The Good," Peace Academy, 4620 S. Irvington Ave. "Kindness. Empathy. Compassion. When religious passion is channeled by a true believer, it can be a powerful contributor to the common good," according to advance publicity on the series. Speakers will be the Rev. Floyd Schoenhals, retired bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Arkansas-Oklahoma synod; Rabbi Emeritus Charles Sherman, Temple Israel; and Sister Jackie Oyludag, Islamic Society of Tulsa.

Feb. 9: "The Bad," Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, 1301 S. Boston Ave. "There's a fine line between passion and extremism. That's where religion becomes angry, triumphant. God loves me more than God loves you." Speakers will be Schoenhals; Rabbi Micah Citrin, Temple Israel; and Imad Enchassi, imam and president of the Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City.

Feb. 16: "The Media," Congregation B'nai Emunah, 17th Street and Peoria Avenue. "The trouble is that we can't always see these things clearly. We rely on the media, but it loves a fight. How can we tell what's true or false?" Speakers will be Mike Jones, associate editor, Tulsa World; Yvonne Lewis, news anchor, Tulsa's Channel 8; and Rich Fisher, general

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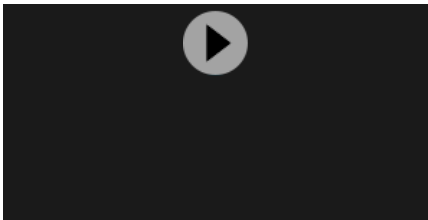
OCCJ is dedicated to achieving respect and understanding for all people through education, advocacy and dialogue.

The series is funded in part by the Tulsa Library Trust's Alfred E. Aaronson Lecture Series Endowment, launched in 1969 when Aaronson retired from the Tulsa City-County Library Commission, the Gilcrease Museum Board and the Tulsa Community Relations Commission.

For more information about the series, go to occjok.org or call 918-583-1361.

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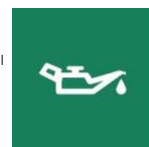
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