March 2012

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Events

Interfaith Earth Month Poster Contest

The 8th Annual Interfaith Earth Month Poster Contest for K-12 students will be held April 2012 organized and sponsored by WIPL and the Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin. This year's theme is "TREE PLANTING," and the deadline is April 30, 2012. See http://wisconsinipl.org/interfaithearthmonth.htm and http://wisconsinipl.org/assets/Interfaithearthmonthposter/Poster2012.pdf

Ground for Hope-Wisconsin -- Save the Date!

Sunday, Oct. 21, 2:30 -- 7:30 p.m., The Islamic Society of Milwaukee
Monday, Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m. -- 3:30 p.m., The Archbishop Cousins Center

An educational event for clergy, seminarians, and lay leaders to mobilize interfaith action for the Earth. Organized by GreenFaith and the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and its Interfaith Earth Network, and Co-Sponsored by WIPL and over 15 Wisconsin Religious Groups. The event will include:

- Workshops & resources to help religious groups launch environmental efforts
- Eco-learning opportunities for faith communities, with programs for clergy & seminarians
- Connect with other religious-environmental leaders

Questions? Contact GreenFaith's Rev. Fletcher Harper at revharper@greenfaith.org or the Interfaith Conference of Milwaukee's Interfaith Earth Network's Terri Lowder at tlowder@wi.rr.com.
**Reports**

WIPL President Huda Alkaff (R, top left picture) was a panelist at Green Faith: An Interfaith Conversation on Eco-Consciousness and Activism on March 6 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with Wisconsin Public Radio Host Jean Feraca (M, top left picture), sponsored by Inside Islam. Read the Isthmus article and Inside Islam's blog posts on Eco-Islam.

A workshop on "Faith Communities and Green Energy" was held March 8, 2012, as part of the 9th Annual Green Energy Summit in Milwaukee. Sponsored by WIPL, Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin, and the Interfaith Earth Network (IEN) of Milwaukee, the workshop included a panel with Amy Taivalkoski (Unitarian Universalist Church West) and WIPL Board members Sr. Janet Weyker, Dr. Daniel Weber, Huda Alkaff, and Rev. Meru Doug Szper. (L-R in picture at bottom left.) The panel was followed by a presentation on the Cool Congregations program by Dr. Peter Bakken, Executive Director of WIPL.

**Resources**

**Cool Harvest**

To help you celebrate the season and protect the Earth, IPL has created a special Sow a Cool Harvest gardening kit for congregations. It's available to order now in time for Earth Day activities. Don't have the space or time for a garden? There are other tips you can use, such as, how to green your pantry or host a local farmers' market. Companion DVDs DIRT! and Nourish are available from IPL at a terrific discount of $15/each. Click here.

**Ecology Olympics**

This Earth Week, consider holding a friendly Ecology Olympics in your congregation, neighborhood group, office, etc. Participants score points while learning, praying, and practicing sustainability. Ecology Olympics was conceived by Br. Steve Herro, O. Praem., a staff member of Catholic Charities USA and long time conservation advocate, formerly with the Diocese of Green Bay. Some of the activities suggested in the Olympics are particularly related to the Catholic faith tradition, but you can edit the activities for your audience.

Forward this newsletter to your friends and colleagues!