

SIXTH MEETING OF THE ELIJAH BOARD OF WORLD RELIGIOUS LEADERS

MEMORY *and* HOPE



ELIJAH INTERFAITH INSTITUTE

SHARING WISDOM, FOSTERING PEACE



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PROGRAM & SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Delegates arrive

MONDAY, MAY 5

09:00am	Welcome and opening prayer
09:30am	Visits to cultural sites in Munich; visit to Memory Institute
03:30pm	Return to St Ottilien
05:00pm	Formal Opening <i>Memories of Elijah - Telling the story by those who were there</i>
6:30pm	Dinner
7:30pm	Fishbowl #1: Representatives of the Think- Tank: <i>Memory, Remembering and Hope</i> Fishbowl #2: Representatives of the Hermes Forum: <i>Living Spirituality and Time – past, present, future</i>

TUESDAY, MAY 6

09:00am	Prayers and orientation
09:15am - 10:45am	Working Groups: Thematic discussion #1: <i>Memory and Identity: Who are we?</i>
10:45am	Morning tea
11:15am	Intra-religious discussions on background papers: <i>Can the memories of your tradition be purified and transformed?</i>
12:15pm	Lunch
02:00pm - 03:00pm	Interest groups #1: 1. <i>Collective Memory: The Issue of 'Power'; who is forgotten?</i> 2. <i>Positive Applications of Memory: Memory and Ritual</i>
03:00pm	Tea break
03:30pm - 05:00pm	Working Groups: Thematic discussion #2: <i>Problematic Memory – how memory has impacted negatively on relationships between communities</i>

(CONTINUATION TUESDAY)

05:00pm Plenary - Reflections

06:00pm Evening prayers

06:30pm Dinner

07:30pm Optional evening program - Bibliodrama

Afternoon Visit to Dachau and the Carmelite community

Working Groups: Thematic discussion #4:
How can we heal memory and find hope?

Prayers – With the Carmelite community
or in religious groups

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

08:45am - Working Groups: Thematic discussion #3:
10:15am *Tools and techniques for transforming and
healing memory*

10:15am Morning tea

10:45am - Interest groups #2:
12:00pm 1. *Balancing the particular and the
universal in memory*
2. *The limitations of retrieving historical
memory*

12:15pm Lunch

07:00pm Return to St Ottilien

08:30pm Optional evening program – Testimony
about Jerusalem as a source of hope and
inspiration

THURSDAY, MAY 8

08:45am Prayer and orientation

09:00am - Jerusalem - an Inspiration for Hope
09:30am

10:30am - Morning tea
11:00am

11:00am - 12:15pm	From Memory to HOPE: Elijah looks forward
12:15pm	Lunch
01:30pm	(Afternoon session – tea and coffee available throughout)
01:30pm - 02:30pm	Looking forward: Engaging through Social Media
02:30pm - 03:15pm	Looking forward: the Elijah Board responds to global issues
03:30pm - 04:30pm	Looking forward: the Religious Genius project
04:45pm - 06:00pm	Concluding plenary – reports from Working Groups; reflections on <i>Memory and Hope</i>

OUR PARTNERS

THE ST. OTTILIEN MONASTERY

THE FORUM HUMANUM FOUNDATION

THE WILLIAM AND MARY GREVE FOUNDATION

THE HERSHEY FOUNDATION

DR. BUHMANN STIFTUNG
FOR INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MUNICH

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MUNICH

HANS SEIDEL FOUNDATION



MESSAGES OF WELCOME

METROPOLITAN NIKITAS LULIAS, STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ELIJAH BOARD OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

There is a serious and deep thread which brings religious and faith communities together. We understand that while there may be diversity and expression of our respective identities and expressions in our communities, we also comprehend that we are bound together in unity of mind and commitment. The Elijah Interfaith Institute brings religious leaders, theologians, scholars and other dedicated individuals who have embraced this philosophy.

At our meetings, leaders gather to examine, study, share, and experience various understandings of important themes. This present meeting will invite us to explore matters related to memory and hope, as the theme states. We will look to the beautiful and amazing impressions of the past that our memories hold in the chambers of the heart and mind. We will also look to erasing the painful memories of the past, as we gaze into the future with hope.

We welcome all the participants and invite you to embrace the ideals and vision of The Elijah Interfaith Institute. We also ask that you search for those from traditions that may be distant and far from you in thought and spirit and drink of the refreshing waters they have to offer. Build bridges, share spiritual dimensions, open your mind to expressions and hold on to the blessings life offers, so that your memories are beautiful and filled with hope for a better world. Welcome to “Elijah” and we invite all to become a part of our circle of unity.

His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias

On behalf of the Steering Committee of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders

BR. JOSEF T. GÖTZ OSB ST. OTTILIEN ARCHABBEY

Dear Fellow Members of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders and guests,

It is my pleasure to welcome you in the name of the community of the Benedictine monks of St. Ottilien. We are honoured to host this 6th meeting of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders.

In the 1500-year-old tradition of the Benedictines, hospitality has always been an important value. We welcome you as pilgrims on the way.

At St. Ottilien we have been conducting a monastic interreligious dialogue for 30 years with several Buddhist monasteries in East Asia. For a community such as ours, diversity of religions is a source of inspiration and understanding. The gathering of cultures leads us to wake up from the lethargy of the usual and creates admiration and wonderment. It is the new and not-understood of the other that poses a challenge for us.

Through dialogue, the recognition of the new can ripen, and it enriches us more than a weak repetition of the already well-known.

At this meeting, we will consider many aspects of Memory and Hope. The understanding of the religious 'other' may be impeded by historical experiences, which can leave deep wounds. Through dialogue, we seek to heal these wounds. Indeed, interreligious communication can be described as the testing and interpreting of Memory and the creation of Hope.

Nowadays we need dialogue between religions more than ever. Consequently it is an honor for me to facilitate the continuation of the dialogue of the Elijah Interfaith Institute at St. Ottilien.

May these days become days of our common Hope.

I wish everybody a good and successful meeting.

Br. Josef T. Götz OSB
St. Ottilien Abbey

RABBI DR. ALON GOSHEN-GOTTSTEIN

THE ELIJAH INTERFAITH INSTITUTE

A hearty welcome to members of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders, Elijah scholars and guests, attending the sixth bi-annual meeting of our forum.

As the work of our Board progresses and deepens, we are able to explore more challenging issues as a community. The sixth meeting tackles a particularly challenging topic – how we deal with painful memories in the field of interreligious relations. Our memories impact our present, even when we are not aware of it and without revisiting our memories we are often blocked in our efforts to establish new paradigms for interreligious relations. Our ability to deal with this challenging topic is a sign of the level of maturity our group has reached and the level of trust we assume is now possible in our exchanges.

The counterpoint to memory is hope, anchored in the future. If memory allows us to reflect on theoretical issues, hope allows us to focus on practical planning, related to the collective life of our community of leaders. HOPE - the House of Prayer and Education - is one of the projects we will be presenting at our meeting in St. Ottilien. Together with several other practical projects, we hope to be able to put in place several initiatives for collaboration that will allow members of the Board to

find common voice and communal presence in the months following our meeting. Dr. Racelle Weiman will be joining our meeting with the goal of facilitating ongoing communication and collaboration between Board members following the meeting.

We have made efforts at expanding our Board membership and there are quite a few participants who are joining us for the first time. It is an honor to welcome them and I express the hope that they will be comfortable in joining our community, characterized by serious engagement, open and critical reflection and sustained friendships. At the same time, I also express regret for the fact that financial circumstances have limited our ability to offer full support for travel, and that consequently we will miss some of our friends, who nevertheless remain part of our ongoing and future work.

Words of welcome are the time to give thanks.

I begin by thanking each and every one of those who have come to St. Ottilien for their efforts. These efforts include the time spent in preparation and in coming to the meeting, the costs born by many of you, the thought, and the care and devotion made manifest through your continuing affiliation with Elijah.

I am grateful to the steering committee for all the thought, planning and support that have taken place between meetings. I am also grateful to the think tank that labored to produce the background papers on “Memory and Hope”. Some members of the think tank were unable to attend the meeting, but their thoughts, feelings and prayers are with us, as we explore their work, making it our own. We can safely state that without Elijah’s staff little would get done. I am aided in my work by a lovely team of committed individuals, of whom I am very appreciative. Peta Pellach Jones has been in touch with all of you and as director of educational activities has played an active role in shaping this meeting, as well as a variety of initiatives that have taken place since we last met. We are aided in all things technical by Pascal Carlier and in all things practical by Merav Laufer. Pesach Stadlin joined us in Oxford and has remained part of our team, focusing on video productions. Yehuda Elram has come on board as associate director and I hope all of you will have the opportunity to get to know him personally, through a series of one on one interviews, during the course of our meeting. Therese, my wife, has been present throughout, at all crucial stages of planning and thinking our meeting through. I doubt I could keep going without her support and love.

Our meeting relies extensively on the goodwill and hospitality of St. Ottilien Monastery. Brother Josef Goetz has been part of our conversations for nearly a decade and has been active on the steering committee. His commitment to our

work manifests not only in his personal involvement but also through the support extended by the monastery in hosting this meeting. Challenging financial circumstances have brought forth from the Monastery a generous response, even in excess of its original generous invitation.

A number of foundations, listed in the present document, have provided support for the meeting. Some of them, like the Forum Humanum Foundation and the Hershey Foundation, are by now long time supporters of our work. To all those who have provided support we say thank you. We rely on your support and are very grateful for it.

I conclude with prayers for the success of our meeting. May our conversations be illuminating and may the meeting and the initiatives that come from it be a source of hope, for participants as well as for the communities they represent and the world at large.

Alon Goshen-Gottlieb

STEERING COMMITTEE DECLARATION

PARIS, MAY 2008

The following seven points constitute the ethos and vision of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders. They were formulated by the steering committee of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders at its Paris meeting.

These points grow from the experience of the work of the Board, since its creation in 2003, and provide the guidelines for generating future activities of the Board.

1. Activities of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders should be based on the common virtue of humility as a fundamental principle of the spiritual life and an orienting principle of religious leadership. We seek to manifest this attitude in our relationship to other traditions, their wisdom and in our implementation of that wisdom in meeting today's challenges.

2. We acknowledge the importance of membership in the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders and partaking of its activities as a source for personal growth and transformation of individual participants.

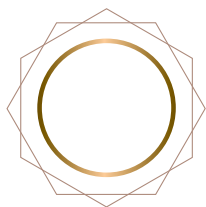
3. We affirm a shared sense of need to extend our experience and learning at Elijah to our communities.

4. Ongoing work of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders should accordingly seek to strike a balance between personal processes of participants and collectively owning our responsibility in relation to the world.

5. In relating to other religions, we recognize and respect differences while seeking to uncover our common spiritual ground

6. We recognize the profundity and complexity of our religious traditions, their multiple manifestations as well as the challenges of the day and see our own efforts at humility-based learning from other traditions as a way of respecting those complexities.

7. Based on the above, we seek to not only share these recognitions with our own communities but also to engage those who are not associated with religion, especially the younger generation, in dialogue with the sense of complexity and wisdom as they are known to us through our own search.



STEERING COMMITTEE AND ADMINISTRATION



Swami Atmapriyananda, India

Hindu leader, Swami Atmapriyananda is the Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University. Before becoming a monk, he completed his PhD in the Department of Theoretical Physics, University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Inspired by the ideal of renunciation and service as taught by Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi, Swami Vivekananda and the direct disciples of Sri Ramakrishna, he joined as a Brahmacharin at Ramakrishna Mission Saradapitha, Belur Math, the Headquarters of the worldwide organization, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission.



Pascal Carlier, Israel

Pascal Carlier is responsible for all technological aspects of Elijah's work. In addition to maintaining three websites, he is video editor, graphic designer and in charge of online communications



Yehuda Elram, Israel

Yehuda Elram is a partner at Gideon Koren & Co., a leading Israeli law firm. Yehuda holds a LL.B. degree (1994) from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and an M.A. degree (2002) in Education and Jewish Leadership from the Schaechter Institute/Jewish Theological Seminary. Yehuda Co-founded and was the Executive Director of Lev Echad - Community Crisis Aid (www.levechad.org) and a board member of and the legal advisor for Ein Prat - The Israeli Academy for Leadership. Currently, Yehuda is Associate Director of The Elijah Interfaith Institute.

**Br. Thomas Josef Goetz, Germany**

Br. Josef Thomas Josef Goetz OSB is the former Secretary of the German Commission of MID - Monastic Interreligious Dialogue. He is member of the Board of the European-Network for Buddhist-Christian studies (www.buddhist-chritian-studies.org) and of the Board of the Institute Occurso (www.occursio.de) for the Dialogue of Religions. As a Benedictine monk, he has spent 30 years engaged in monastic interreligious dialogue (www.dimmid.org) . He studied mathematics, physics in Munich and Catholic Theology in France and has published in Buddhist-Christian Dialogue. He is a former co-Principal and is still a teacher and the Head of the Administration of the Archabbey of St.Ottilien. Br. Goetz represents Board member Abbot Notker.

**Shrivatsa Goswami, India**

Acharya Sri Shrivatsa Goswami is a member of an eminent family of spiritual leaders and scholars at Sri Radharamana Mandir, Vrindaban. His writings have been published by the University presses of Princeton, Berkeley and others. Among other commitments, he is connected with several important international peace and environmental movements.

**Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Israel**

Alon Goshen-Gottstein is the founder and director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute, and lecturer and director of the Center for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Jerusalem. Ordained a Rabbi in 1977, he holds a Ph.D. from Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the field of Rabbinic Thought. His four score publications are divided between the areas of Interreligious Dialogue, Theology of Religions, Jewish Spirituality and Rabbinic Thought.

**Therese Andrevon Gottstein, Israel**

Therese Andrevon has been a part of the Elijah community since its foundation, sustaining relations and vision as the organization evolved. She holds a Phd in Theology and specializes in Jewish-Christian relations. She is married to Elijah's director, Alon Goshen-Gottstein

**Maria Reis Habito, USA**

Maria Reis Habito is the International Program Director of the Museum of World Religions and the Director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute USA. She studied Chinese Language and Culture at Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, and received her M.A. in Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies and Philosophy at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet in Munich. She was a research fellow at Kyoto University and completed her Ph.D. at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet. Dr. Reis Habito represents Dharma Master Hsin Tao on the steering committee.

**Merav Laufer, Israel**

Merav Laufer is the office manager for the Elijah Interfaith Institute.

**Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias, USA**

His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas (Lulias) of Dardanelia was the inaugural Metropolitan of Hong Kong and Southeast Asia and is now serving as Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute. Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias is the permanent representative of Patriarch Bartholomew to the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders.

**Peta Jones Pellach, Israel**

Peta Jones Pellach is Director of Educational Activities for the Elijah Interfaith Institute. Her expertise is in adult education and she was prominent in interfaith dialogue in Australia before joining Elijah in 2010.

**Imam Plemon El Amin, USA**

Imam El Amin has served for the past 24 years as the Resident Imam of the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam. He worked closely as an aide and supporter of Imam W. Deen Mohammed and his Ministry for

33 years and takes his place on the EBWRL following the latter's death in 2008. Imam El Amin holds a PhD from Harvard University. His insightful and hands-on approach to leadership has helped develop the Atlanta Masjid into one of the largest and most progressive Muslim communities in the US.

**Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh, England**

A civil engineer by profession, Mohinder Singh is the chairman of the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha in Birmingham, England. A strong proponent of interreligious dialogue, Singh is a member of the

European Council of Religious Leaders and an advisor to the Sikh Heritage Trust.

**Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, The Netherlands**

Sjalom Awraham Soetendorp is Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Community in The Hague. He presides over the European Region of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and serves as Earth Charter

Commissioner and is a Founding Board Member of the Green Cross International. Since 1993, Soetendorp has been co-chair of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders with Sheikh Ahmed Kuftaro, Grand Mufti of Syria. He acts as advisor to the American Jewish World Service and is the Founder and Chair of the Hope Foundation for Children for Universal Education.

**Pesach Stadlin, Israel**

Pesach Stadlin contributes to media and film projects, bringing the message of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders to broader audiences.

**Racelle Weiman, USA**

DR. Racelle Weiman is the Coordinator of Board Activities for Elijah and also continues to serve as Director of Global Education and Program Development at the Dialogue Institute at Temple University, where her responsibilities include professional and academic training and global outreach in interreligious and intercultural dialogue, minority rights, genocide prevention and tolerance education, and community transformation.



THE ELIJAH BOARD OF WORLD RELIGIOUS LEADERS



BUDDHIST LEADERS



H.H. the Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, India

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama is the spiritual and political leader of the Tibetan people. As such, he carries on a tradition that stretches unbroken to the 13th century. His Holiness has traveled to more than 52 countries and met with presidents, prime ministers and crowned rulers of major nations. He has held dialogues with the heads of different religions and many well-known scientists. He has waged a peaceful campaign to free Tibet from Chinese rule, a struggle that won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. As The Dalai Lama lives in Dharamsala, he heads the Tibetan government in exile.



Jan Chozen Bays, USA

Jan Chozen Bays, MD, has studied and practiced Zen Buddhism since 1973. She is an ordained Soto Zen priest and teaches at the Great Vow Zen Monastery, a residential center for intensive Zen training in Clatskanie, Oregon. She is the author of "Jizo Bodhisattva", "Modern Healing" and "Traditional Buddhist Practice".



Ven. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Thailand

The Ven. Phra Dharmakosajarn is Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU), Regional Ecclesiastical Governor, and Assistant Abbot of Wat Prayoonrawongsawas, Bangkok. He has formerly been Dean of MCU's Graduate School and Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the World Council of Religious Leaders.



Ven. Norman Fischer, USA

Zoketsu Norman Fischer is a poet, Zen priest and teacher in the Soto Zen lineage of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi. He served as co-abbot of the San Francisco Zen Center, the oldest and largest Zen organization in the Western world, from 1995-2000. He is now founder and teacher of the Everyday Zen Foundation, an organization devoted to sharing Zen teaching and practice widely with the world.



Blanche Zenkei Hartman, USA

Zenkei Blanche Hartman began sitting in 1969 at the Berkeley Zen Center with Sojun Mel Weitsman and in San Francisco with Suzuki-roshi. She was priest ordained in 1977 by Zentatsu Baker-roshi and received dharma transmission with Sojun Mel Weitsman in 1988. Zenkei became abbess of San Francisco Zen Center in February of 1996.



Dharma Master Hsin-Tao, Taiwan

Dharma Master Hsin Tao is the founder of the Museum of World Religions, the President of The Global Family for Love and Peace, and the founder of the Ling Jiou Mountain Wu-Sheng Monastery on Taiwan's northeastern coast, which now houses nearly 100 nuns and monks. Master Hsin Tao also leads the Ling Jiou Mountain Prajna Cultural Education Foundation, the Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Foundation, the Social Welfare and Charity Foundation of Taipei County, and related projects in New York, Vancouver, Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Indonesia and Hong Kong.



Ven. Khandro Rinpoche

At the age of two, Ven. Khandro Rinpoche was recognized by His Holiness the 16th Karmapa as the re-incarnation of the Great Dakini of Tsurphu, Khandro Ugyen Tsomo, who was one of the most well known female masters of her time. Rinpoche is a teacher in both the Kagyu and Nyingma traditions of Tibetan Buddhism. She speaks fluent English, Tibetan and Hindi dialects and has completed a western education at St. Joseph's Convent, Wynberg Allen and St. Mary's Convent. Rinpoche has been teaching in Europe, North America and Southeast Asia since 1987.



Ven. Bhikkhuni Kusuma, Sri Lanka

The Ven Bhikkhuni Kusuma pioneered the re-establishment of the female Buddhist order and became the first fully ordained nun in 1996, 1000 years after the Order had died out. She is a member of the executive committee of the International Association of Buddhist Women - Sakyaditha and permanent member of the World Sangha Council. She is building the Ayya Khema International Buddhist Mandir in Sri Lanka, a study and retreat center that will offer studies of Pali and Buddhism.



Ven. Jinwol Lee, Korea

The Ven. Jinwol Lee is the President of United Religions Initiative of Korea, Dean of Gwangmyeong Buddhist College in Cheongju, Korea, an Executive Council Member of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, and Professor of Buddhist Studies at the Seoul Graduate School of Buddhism. He received his Doctorate in Buddhist Studies from the University of California at Berkeley and is widely published in both English and Korean.



Ven. Sayadaw Ashin Nyanissara, Myanmar

Ven. Ashin Nyanissara is a teacher of Buddhism and a humanitarian. He is the founder of BBM College in Lower Myanmar and was responsible for the construction of a water supply system that now provides clean drinking water to over eight thousand residents of Sagaing Hills, Myanmar as well as a fully modernized hospital in Burma that serves over 250 people a day. He is the founder of the Theravada Dhamma Society of America.



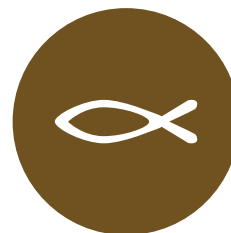
Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena, India

A Buddhist monk, Ven. Sanghasena founded the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) in Ladakh. Since then, he has worked tirelessly to put the Buddha's teachings on loving kindness and compassion into action. He has been awarded the "National Award for the Welfare of People with Disabilities" by the Indian Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.



Ven. Karma Lekshe Tsomo, USA

Karma Lekshe Tsomo is an Assistant Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of San Diego. She is president of Sakyadhita: International Association of Buddhist Women and director of Jamyang Foundation, an initiative to provide educational opportunities for women in developing countries, especially in the Indian Himalayas and Bangladesh.



CHRISTIAN LEADERS



Archbishop Hilarion Alfeyev, Russia

Archbishop Alfeyev is the Chairman of the Inter-Christian Affairs of the Department for External Church Relations of the Moscow Patriarchate. He is the author of 250 publications including 30 books in six languages. He holds a doctoral degree in philosophy from Oxford and a doctorate in theology from St. Sergius Orthodox Theological Institute in Paris. Archbishop Alfeyev is an accomplished musician, whose religious oratorios have been performed in Rome, Moscow and other venues. He is the former Bishop of Vienna and Austria, and was elevated to the dignity of Archbishop on 20 April 2009.



Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, Turkey

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew is the 270th successor to the Apostle Andrew and spiritual leader of 300 million Orthodox Christians worldwide. Since ascending the Ecumenical Throne on November 2nd, 1991, he has tirelessly pursued the vision of his enthronement message: Spiritual revival, orthodox unity, christian reconciliation, interfaith tolerance and coexistence, protection of the environment and a world united in peace, justice, solidarity and love.



Prior Isabelle Flye-Saintmarie, Israel

Sr. Isabelle Flye Sainte Marie is prioress of the monastic family of Bethlehem, the Assumption of the Virgin and St. Bruno. The monastic family consists of 28 houses in 14 countries. The characteristic of this monastic family consists of a liturgical life, silence, solitude and fraternal communion in deep listening to the gospel.



Bishop Frank Griswold, USA

Bishop Griswold was elected to a nine-year term as Presiding Bishop at the 1997 General Convention and invested in January 1998. He was educated at St Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire and earned an AB in English literature from Harvard College. He attended the General Theological Seminary and earned his BA in theology and MA from Oriel College, Oxford University. He serves as Primate and chief pastor of the Episcopal Church, president of the House of Bishops and president and chief executive officer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.



Katharine Henderson, U.S.A.

The Rev. Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson is President of Auburn Seminary, New York, a think-act tank that combines research, education, media and movement building. Author of *God's Troublemakers: How Women of Faith are Changing the World* (Continuum, 2006), Henderson has pioneered programs for excellence in religious and progressive moral leadership in the public square. She is a bridge-builder between the Christian, Jewish and Muslim world and is particularly involved in debates around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She has spearheaded innovative educational programs including gathering young leaders from war-torn countries to practice conflict resolution and multifaith understanding (Face to Face/Faith to Faith). Henderson is a regular contributor to The Washington Post's "On Faith" forum and has appeared in outlets including The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Crain's New York Business, and NPR's On the Media.

**Dimitra Koukoura, Greece**

Professor Dimitra Koukoura was appointed lecturer on Homiletics and Communication at “Aristotle” University of Thessaloniki in 1993 and was the first and only woman in the Department of Theology.

She currently teaches Homiletics and Church Communication, Rhetorics, Introduction to Theology and Women’s Issues. She has published seven books and numerous articles in multiple languages. She has been involved in the ecumenical movement for the 25 last years, attending the three last WCC Assemblies, representing the Ecumenical Patriarchate and she is a member of the Faith and Order Plenary Commission and F&O Standing Commission and member of the Commission Churches in Dialogue – CEC (2004-2009). She represents the WCC on the steering committee of Global Christian Forum. She is fluent in English, French and Italian and understands Spanish and Russian.

**Bishop Lennart Koskinen, Sweden**

Lennart K. Koskinen is Bishop of Visby and the Church of Sweden overseas. A student of eastern and western philosophy, Sanskrit and Greek, he received his PhD in theology in 1980, and has served

as lecturer in philosophy of religion. He has served as Dean of the Cathedral of Stockholm and assistant to the Bishop of Stockholm, where he was responsible for social-ethical questions, contacts with civil society and international dialogue.

**Cardinal Jorge Maria Mejia, The Vatican**

Jorge Maria Cardinal Mejia has served as Secretary of the College of Cardinals and Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church. He has taught Sacred Scripture, Biblical Greek, Hebrew and Archeology, as well as serving as the Director of the Catholic Journal *Criterio* for over 20 years. He received the red biretta and the deaconry of S. Girolama della Carita, in 2001. Cardinal Mejia heads the Vatican delegation to the dialogue with the Chief Rabbinate of Israel.

**Patriarch Mesrob II, Turkey**

Patriarch Mesrob II was elected the 84th Armenian Patriarch of Istanbul & All Turkey in 1998. Before his enthronement he served as Patriarchal Locum Tenens and Chairman of the Patriarchal Synod. He has taught Ecumenical Theology at St. Thomas Aquinas University in Rome and Old Testament Studies at the Armenian Theological Seminary in Jerusalem. Patriarch Mesrob has been seriously ill for the past two years. The Elijah Institute respects the decision of the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul to maintain Mesrob in his title, even though he is fully incapacitated due to health reasons. The Patriarchate is represented by Bishop Masalian.

**Archbishop Boutrous Mouallem, Israel**

His Excellency Archbishop Boutrous Mouallem was ordained as Metropolitane of Sao Paulo and all of Brazil in 1990. He was been appointed by Paul VI and later confirmed by John Paul II as the only Oriental Catholic member in the committee of the Catholic-Orthodox Theological dialogue. Archbishop Muallem has been active in many interfaith initiatives, including participating at the first International Christian-Jewish Conference in 1994. He was appointed Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galilee in 1998 and has published over 40 books in Arabic and Portuguese.

**Metropolitan Nifon, Romania**

His Eminence Metropolitan Nifon of Târgoviste is Professor for Missiology and Ecumenism at the Orthodox Theological Faculty of Târgoviste and Patriarchal Exarch for Church, for external and ecumenical relationships of the Patriarchate of the Romanian Orthodox Church. He serves on the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration as well as the governing bodies for the World Council of Churches.

**The Very Reverend June Osborne, England**

June Osborne is the Dean of Salisbury and as such she is the most senior woman in the Church of England, the senior priest of the Salisbury Diocese and responsible for Salisbury Cathedral. She has previously worked in parishes in some of the poorest urban areas of London and Birmingham and spent many years in different roles in the Church of England's General Synod. She currently takes a particular interest in the Episcopal Church of the Sudan where she has responsibility for training their deans. She is married to a barrister and has two children who are both at Oxford University.

**Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Austria**

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn is an Austrian Cardinal of the Catholic Church and theologian. He currently serves as the Archbishop of Vienna and President of the Austrian Bishops Conference. He was elevated to the cardinalate in 1998. Cardinal Schonborn is active in dialogue with the Orthodox Churches and has a keen interest in Jewish-Christian relations. He is an original thinker and often expresses fresh views on important public issues.

**Cardinal Telesphore Placidus Toppo**

Telesphore Placidus Toppo is a Cardinal Priest and Archbishop of Ranchi in the Roman Catholic Church. He is the first Adivasi Indian to be created a Cardinal. Born the 8th of 10 children, Toppo studied at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi and Theology at the Urbanianum, Rome. After a stint at Torpa, as Headmaster of St Joseph's School and Director of the Lievens Vocational Center, Toppo was ordained bishop for the diocese of Dumka and soon transferred to Ranchi as Archbishop. Toppo was made Cardinal by Pope John Paul II on 21 October 2003. He is the former president of CBCI (Catholic Bishops' Conference of India).

**Abbot Primate Notker Wolf OSB, Italy**

Dr. Notker Wolf OSB is Titular head and first representative of the Benedictine Order, which consists of monasteries throughout the world of 8,500 men and 16,500 women. He is the Abbot of the Primatial Abbey of Sant'Anselmo, Rome and Grand Chancellor of the Pontifical College of Sant'Anselmo, Rome.



LEADERS OF RELIGIONS OF INDIA



Swami Agnivesh, India

Swami Agnivesh is the president of the World Council of Arya Samaj "Society of Nobles", a Hindu reform movement, founded by Swami Dayananda Saraswati in 1875. He is also Chairperson of United Nations Trust Fund, President of World Council of Arya Samaj and Chairperson of Bonded Labour Liberation Front. Among Swami Agnivesh's immense contributions is his championing of dialogue and peace activities, the anti-caste movement, liberation of bonded labour activities, a movement against alcoholism, and equal rights of women (such as their right to education and reading Indian scriptures).



Swami Amarananda, Switzerland

Swami Amarananda is the Director of the Centre Védantique in Geneva. Shortly after receiving a Civil Engineering degree, he joined the Order of Ramakrishna in 1966. He sat on the Committee of World Faiths Development Dialogue (1998-2000), and the Inter-religious Platform, Geneva since its inception. Swami Amarananda participated in European peace meetings under the auspices of Sant'Egidio and the Third and Fourth and Fifth Parliaments of World's Religions.

His printed works include Stories from Vedanta, Views from the Vedantic Window (in press), drama texts for use by children, and Biographie de Ramakrishna (co-author).

**Mata Amritanandamayi, India**

Amma, as she is known all over the world today, has inspired and started innumerable humanitarian services. She has earned international recognition for her outstanding contributions to the world community. She is recognized as an extraordinary spiritual leader by the United Nations and by people all over the world.

**Swami Atmapriyananda, India**

Hindu leader, Swami Atmapriyananda is the Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University. Before becoming a monk, he completed his PhD in the Department of Theoretical Physics, University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. Inspired by the ideal of renunciation and service as taught by Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sarada Devi, Swami Vivekananda and the direct disciples of Sri Ramakrishna, he joined as a Brahmacharin at Ramakrishna Mission Saradapitha, Belur Math, the Headquarters of the worldwide organization, Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission.

**Jagadguru Karmayogi Charukeerty Bhattarak Swamiji, India**

H.H. Swamiji is the present pontiff of the world renowned Jain Shravanabelagola Math. He studied Jain Philosophy in Prakrit, Sanskrit and Kannada and has an M.A. in History (Mysore University) and an M.A. in Philosophy (Bangalore University). H.H. Swamiji became a Jain Monk on December 12th, 1969 and ascended the Dharmacharya Peetha at Shravanabelagola Math on April 19th, 1970. He moved on to become the Chairman of The Managing Committee of Shravanabelagola Shrine.

**Chandra Swami, India**

In 1947, Chandra Swami was initiated into the Usadin order by Mahant Girdhari Dassji. At the age of 35, he had the ultimate and integral realization of the Divine. In time he became a well-respected yogi in India and abroad. He wrote various books on Hinduism, such as "The Practical Approach to Divinity." Even while observing complete silence for 13 years, he inspires people all over the world through his visits and written guidance.

**Swami Chidananda Saraswati, India**

Pujya Swamiji is President and Spiritual Head of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, one of the largest spiritual institutions in India. He is founder/ chairman of India Heritage Research Foundation (IHRF), an international, non-profit, humanitarian foundation which runs and sponsors free schools, women's vocational training programs, a medical clinic, orphanages/gurukuls, free medical health camps, "Clean, Green and Serene" programs, organic gardening programs, Cow-Care programs, an extensive rural development program, and innumerable other projects, including the first ever Encyclopaedia of Hinduism as well as ashrams and medical clinics in Tibet. He has contributed to numerous international, inter-faith summits, including the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders at the UN, the World Economic Forum and dialogues initiated by the Vatican.

**Shrivatsa Goswami, India**

Acharya Sri Shrivatsa Goswami is a member of an eminent family of spiritual leaders and scholars at Sri Radharamana Mandir, Vrindaban. His writings have been published by the University presses of Princeton, Berkeley and others. Among other commitments, he is connected with several important international peace and environmental movements.

**Sister Jayanti, UK**

Sister Jayanti is the European Director of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University and their NGO Representative to the United Nations, Geneva. She has been an emissary for peace for over 40 years, travelling extensively as a speaker and broadcaster. She has contributed to the interfaith movement for over 35 years, presenting at many events including the Parliament of the World's Religions and most recently at the Durban Interfaith Rally on Climate Justice held at the start of COP17.

**Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, India**

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has inspired numerous educational and charitable organizations around the globe. He established the Art of Living Foundation in 1982 to promote self-development and health-related educational programs, many of which feature his Sudarshan Kriya technique. To date, his programs have been enjoyed by more than a million people in more than 100 countries. Sri Sri Ravi Sankar has served on the advisory board of Yale University's School of Divinity and chaired the International Conference of Religions at Kyoto, Japan.

**Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh, England**

A civil engineer by profession, Mohinder Singh is the chairman of the Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha in Birmingham, England. A strong proponent of interreligious dialogue, Singh is a member of the European Council of Religious Leaders and an advisor to the Sikh Heritage Trust.

**Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji, India**

His Holiness Sri Sri Sugunendra Theertha Swamiji is the youngest Swamiji ever to ascend the Paryaaya Peetam in Udupi and the author of many books on religion and philosophy. The Swamiji has set up a world-wide Maadhwa Sangha for the propagation of spirituality named Vishwa Maadhwa Sangha. He is dedicated to the eradication of unemployment and has founded "Suyoga," an institution that imparts training in the rudiments of selected vocations.



JEWISH LEADERS



Chief Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, Israel

In 1975, Rabbi Bakshi-Doron was appointed to the position of Chief Rabbi of Haifa, a position in which he served for 18 years, and in 1993, was appointed Chief Rabbi of the State of Israel. He has written dozens of articles dealing with religious issues. His first book (1982) researches halachic questions, and the second (1989) and third (1995) volumes deal with daily halachic issues and include orations given by him on special occasions. He serves as president of the Israeli Sephardic Community Committee, as president of various charity foundations and is a member of the directorate of LIBI.



Rabbi David Bigman, Israel

Rabbi David Bigman is the head of the Maale Gilboa Yeshiva since 1995. Rabbi Bigman studied in Yeshivat Merkaz Harav and in Yeshivat Netzech Yisrael and received smicha at Mechon Ariel in Haifa. From 1983 until 1988, Rabbi Bigman served as the Rabbi of Kibbutz Maale Gilboa and from 1987 until 1992 he served as Rosh Yeshiva in Yeshivat haKibbutz HaDati Ein Tzurim. He is active in issues pertaining to society and halacha, and in dialogue between secular and religious Israelis as well as between members of different faiths in Israel.



Rabbi Yuval Cherlow, Israel

Rabbi Yuval Cherlow (1957) is head of the Chesder Yeshiva of Petach Tikvah. He is a graduate of Yeshivat Har Etzion and was ordained as a Rabbi by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. Rabbi Cherlow is

one of the founders and leaders of the Tzohar Institute, set up after the assassination of Yitzchak Rabin to bridge the secular and religious sectors of Israeli society. Tzohar set itself the goal of returning the figure of the Rabbi to the centre of Israeli discourse, and making the Rabbi the one to whom anyone can turn; bringing him 'out of the Beit Midrash and making him available to the mainstream of Israeli society'. He currently serves as the head of the Religious and Ethics Centre in Jerusalem.



Chief Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, Israel

Rabbi Cohen serves as Chief Rabbi of Haifa. He is also the Founder and President of Ariel and President of the Haifa District Rabbinical Courts. Rabbi Cohen has achieved wide recognition for his work in bridging differences and solving internal divisions within Israeli society and the Jewish world.



Chief Rabbi Menachem HaCohen, Romania

Rabbi Menachem HaCohen currently serves as chief Rabbi of Romania. His rich rabbinic and public career includes many years in army chaplaincy, and service as a Rabbi of labor unions as well as of the labor settlements in Israel. A prolific writer and educator, Rabbi HaCohen also served for 14 years as a member of the Israeli parliament.



Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar, Russia

Rabbi Berel Lazar was elected Chief Rabbi of Russia in 2000. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Rabbinical Council of the World Congress of Russian Jewry and Chairman of the Rabbinical Alliance of the CIS. Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar opened Russia's first Jewish, post-communist day school and currently oversees 80 educational institutions. He is a leading advocate of religious freedom and human rights in Russia.

IJCIC

The International Jewish Committee On Interreligious Consultation (IJCIC)

The International Jewish Committee On Interreligious Consultation represents the major Jewish religious streams and communal agencies,

develops and coordinates relations with the Roman Catholic Church, the World Council of Churches, the Orthodox Church and other international central religious bodies. IJCIC provides ongoing consultations, promotes and participates in conferences, forums and dialogues on behalf of world Jewry to promote interfaith cooperation and to develop common agendas among religious communities.



Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel

Since 1980, Rabbi Michael Melchior has held the position of Chief Rabbi of Norway. He is the International Director of the Elie Wiesel Foundation as well as an administrator of various human rights, immigration and educational organizations. Since 1996, Rabbi Melchior has served as Chairman of Meimad, a Modern-Orthodox political party in Israel. He was elected to the Israeli Parliament in May 1999. Rabbi Melchior has received the Norwegian Nobel Institute's Prize for Tolerance and Bridge-Building.



Rabbi Richard Marker, USA

Rabbi Richard Marker has been a university chaplain, chief executive of a philanthropic foundation, a professor, a management consultant in the private sector, and an executive in the not-for-profit world. Rabbi Marker is Vice-President of IJCIC.



Rabbi Mordechai Peron, Israel

Rabbi Mordechai Peron served in the IDF since its conception in 1948. From 1971-77 he served as the Chief Rabbi of the IDF. Rabbi Peron served for 12 years as the Chief Rabbi of Zurich. He is the author of numerous books and publications on Judaism. Rabbi Peron is a member of the steering committee of the President and Prime Minister's Memorial Council to commemorate former Israeli Prime Ministers and Presidents.



Rabbi David Rosen, Israel

Rabbi Dr. David Rosen, the former Chief Rabbi of Ireland, is the International Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee and Director of AJC's Heilbrunn Institute for International Interreligious Understanding. He also serves as the Honorary Advisor on Interreligious Affairs to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. From 2005 – 2009 he served as Chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC) that represents World Jewry to other world religions. Rabbi Rosen is a Co-President of Religions for Peace (WCRP), the all-encompassing world interfaith body and a Past President and current Honorary President of the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCIJ). In 2005 he was knighted by the Pope for his contribution to Catholic-Jewish reconciliation, and in 2010 he was awarded a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II.



Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, England

Rabbi Dr. Sacks has been Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth since September 1, 1991. Prior to becoming Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Sacks had been Principal of Jews' College, London, the world's oldest rabbinical seminary, as well as rabbi of the Golders Green and Marble Arch Synagogues in London. He gained rabbinic ordination from Jews' College as well as from London's Yeshiva Etz Chaim.

**Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat, France**

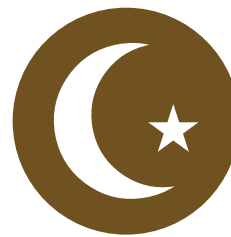
Chief Rabbi Rene Sirat holds a PhD in Hebrew Language and Literature. He has taught at the Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations at the University of Paris and served as Chief Rabbi of France from 1981-87. He is currently Chief Rabbi of the Central Consistory and Vice Chairperson of the Conference of European Rabbis. He is involved in interfaith teaching and research, through a variety of academic institutes of which he is president.

**Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, The Netherlands**

Sjalom Awraham Soetendorp is Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Community in The Hague. He presides over the European Region of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, and serves as Earth Charter Commissioner and is a Founding Board Member of the Green Cross International. Since 1993, Soetendorp has been co-chair of the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders with Sheikh Ahmed Kufaro, Grand Mufti of Syria. He acts as advisor to the American Jewish World Service and is the Founder and Chair of the Hope Foundation for Children for Universal Education.

**Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg, England**

Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg is Rabbi of the New North London Synagogue and Senior Rabbi of The Assembly of Masorti Synagogues UK. He is a leading writer and thinker on Judaism. Rabbi Wittenberg is the author of *The Three Pillars of Judaism*, *The Eternal Journey: Meditations on the Jewish Year*, and *The Silence of Dark Water: An Inner Journey*.



MUSLIM LEADERS



Sheikh Muhammad Nur Abdallah, USA

Sheikh Mohammed Nur Abdullah, Imam and director for the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis, came to the United States from Sudan in 1978. Sheikh Nur Abdullah is the past chairman of the ISNA Fiqh Council and has been a member of the Fiqh Council of North America since 1982. Sheikh Muhammad Nur Abdullah now lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and is currently the President of the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA).



Sayyed Jawad al-Khoei, England

After the first Gulf War, and following the tragic death of his grandfather, Sayyed Jawad was forced to leave Iraq due to the political unrest and the constant dangers that he and his family faced. He has studied Shi'a Islamic theology at Al-Kadhem University in Qum, Iran. At present, Sayyed Jawad dedicates most of his time between the United Kingdom and Iraq carrying on the work of his father and grandfather and fulfilling his responsibilities as Assistant Secretary-General of the Al-Khoei Foundation.



Dr. Y. Mossa Basha, USA

Dr. Basha is the current Chairman of the Muslim American Coalition. He was the former Chairman of the American Muslim Council (AMC), a national non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C. His accolades also include Board Member of the Board of Governors for the Arab American Institute, President of the Islamic Medical Association- Midwest Region, and former President of the Cultural Association of Franklin, Michigan.



Dr. Mustafa Ceric, Bosnia

Dr. Mustafa Ceric is the Reis-ul-Ulema - President of the Council of Ulema in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He graduated from Al-Azhar University in Cairo and afterwards accepted the position of Imam at the Islamic Cultural Center in the United States. During his tenure at the Center, he earned a Ph.D. in Islamic Theology at the University of Chicago. In 1987, he returned to his homeland and became a practicing Imam in a learning center in Zabreb.



Imam Plemon El Amin, USA

Imam El Amin has served for the past 24 years as the Resident Imam of the Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam. He worked closely as an aide and supporter of Imam W. Deen Mohammed and his Ministry for 33 years and takes his place on the EBWRL following the latter's death in 2008. Imam El Amin holds a PhD from Harvard University. His insightful and hands-on approach to leadership has helped develop the Atlanta Masjid into one of the largest and most progressive Muslim communities in the US.



Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, India

Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi is the President of the All-India Association of Imams and Mosques, which represents more than half a million Imams and 150 million Muslims, the world's second largest Muslim population. He travels widely, meeting people belonging to all shades of opinion and denominations. His open-minded and flexible approach has earned him goodwill around the world. He is a strong believer in dialogue.

**Dr. Muzaffar Iqbal, USA**

Dr. Iqbal is the founder-president of Center for Islam and Science, Canada, and editor of Islam & Science, a semi-annual journal of Islamic perspectives on science and civilization. Born in Lahore, Pakistan, he has lived in Canada since 1979. He holds a Ph.D. in chemistry (University of Saskatchewan, Canada, 1983), but most of his published work is related to Islam and various aspects of Islamic civilization, including the Islamic scientific tradition.

**Sheikh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani, USA**

A prominent scholar of traditional Islam, Shaykh Kabbani has spent his life spreading the teachings of peace, tolerance, respect and love that are the message of Islam. He is the Founder and Chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America, the Chairman of American Muslim Assistance relief organization, the Founder of Kamilat, an international Muslim women's organization, the Chairman of the As-Sunnah Foundation of America, and the Founder of Muslim Magazine, a top-rated Islamic newsmagazine.

**Dr. Wahiduddin Khan, USA**

Dr. Wahiduddin Khan devotes his life to presenting Islamic teachings in the style and language of the present day. He is the author of some two hundred books in India and abroad. Dr. Wahiduddin Khan is also founder of the Islamic Centre, India's vanguard Urdu Islamic Institution, which has done much to awaken in Muslims a new awareness of their religion and social responsibilities.

**Chief Khadi Ahmed Natour, Israel**

Ahmad Natour is the President of Israel's High Shari'a Court of Appeal (Chief Kadi). He also serves as an adjunct Professor of Law at Haifa University. In addition to earning two law degrees at Tel Aviv University, Kadi Natour is a doctoral candidate at the American University of Washington, D.C. He also has two certifications in "Family Mediation" and "Independent Judiciary and the Rule of Law".

**Dr. Adamou Ndam Njoya, Cameroon**

Dr. Adamou Ndam Njoya currently serves as Minister Plenipotentiary in Cameroon's government and President of the Cameroon Democratic Union (CDU) political party. From 1994 to 1999, he served as President of the World Conference on Religion and Peace and currently holds a position the organization's International Governing Board. He has published several academic books, articles, poems and four novels.

**Imam Dr. Abduljalil Sajid, UK**

Imam Sajid is the Chairman of Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony (MCRRH) and one of the founders of the Muslim Council of Britain, the largest umbrella organisation of Muslims in the UK. Imam Sajid also serves as President of the UK Chapter of the World Conference of Religion for Peace, the Deputy President of European World Conference of Religion and Peace, President of the National Association of British Pakistanis and a member of the Central Working Committee of the Muslim Council of Britain.



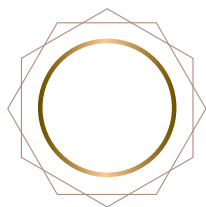
Dr. Ahmed Taoufiq, Morocco

Dr. Ahmed Taoufiq is Morocco's Minister of Habous (endowments) and Islamic Affairs. He has served as the Director of both Morocco's Institute of African Studies and the Generale Library. He is a renowned historian, focusing on nineteenth century Moroccan society, as well as a certified archaeologist. Dr. Taoufiq is also a distinguished poet, having published several works in tandem with Jarat Abi Mussa.



Dr. Muhammad Suheyl Umar

Dr. Muhammad Suheyl Umar is the Director of Iqbal Academy Pakistan and his area of specialty and interests include Sufism as well as the thought of Muhammad Iqbal and the intellectual history of the Indian subcontinent from Shah Waliullah to Iqbal. He is the Founder-Editor of Riwayat, a scholarly Urdu journal; Editor, Iqbal Review, a quarterly journal, published alternately in Urdu and English (as well as in Persian, Arabic and Turkish) focusing on Iqbal studies in addition to Islamic Studies, Comparative Religion, Philosophy, Literature, History, Arts and Sociology.



ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS



Archimandrite Philaret Bulekov, Russia

Hegumen Philaret is vice-chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Russian Orthodox Church since March 2011. From 1997-1999 – secretary of the Moscow Patriarchate Representation to the Patriarch of Antioch and All the East in Damascus. From 2000-2004 – rector of the Parish of St. Sergius of Radonezh in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2002 he was elevated to the rank of hegumen, in 2013 – to the rank of archimandrite. Since 2004 he worked as Russian Orthodox Church Representative to the Council of Europe and rector of the Parish of All Saints in Strasbourg.



Samani Charitra Prajna, India

Samani Charitra Prajna has received her MA degree in Comparative Religion and Philosophy at the Jain Vishva Bharati Institute in Ladnun, Rajasthan, India, where she is now the Vice-Chancellor. The JVBI is an academic platform for advanced studies, research, training and dissemination of Oriental & Conventional Philosophy, Religion, Culture & Values. In addition, she teaches preksha meditation and stress management.



Bishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon, Nigeria

Bishop Josiah Idowu-Fearon is the Anglican Archbishop of the Province of Kaduna, Nigeria and Bishop of Kaduna diocese. He has a PhD in Islamic studies and is widely known in Nigeria for his work on Muslim-Christian relations as "Mr Dialogue". He is co-founder of the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christianity at Kaduna.



Br. Thomas Josef Goetz, Germany

Br. Josef Thomas Josef Goetz OSB is the former Secretary of the German Commission of MID - Monastic Interreligious Dialogue. He is member of the Board of the European-Network for Buddhist-Christian studies (www.buddhist-chritian-studies.org) and of the Board of the Institute Occurso (www.occurso.de) for the Dialogue of Religions. As a Benedictine monk, he has spent 30 years engaged in monastic interreligious dialogue (www.dimmid.org) . He studied mathematics, physics in Munich and Catholic Theology in France and has published in Buddhist-Christian Dialogue. He is a former co-Principal and is still a teacher and the Head of the Administration of the Archabbey of St.Ottilien. Br. Goetz represents Board member Abbot Notker.



Sister Maureen Goodman, UK

Sister Maureen is the Programme Director of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, UK and the Brahma Kumaris NGO representative to the UN in Vienna. She has served on several committees for interreligious dialogue including the World Congress of Faiths Executive and the Prince's Trust Forum of Faiths. She travels widely conducting seminars and lectures on spiritual development.



Karshni Swami Sri Gurusharananand, India

Karshni Swami Sri Gurusharananand is a leading spiritual leader from India. He heads the renowned Karshni Udasin Ashram at Ramanreti, Mathura, India. A great exponent of Indian wisdom tradition, he tours extensively around the world to propagate spiritual values. He holds a Phd in Indian philosophy from Benares Hindu University. For long he has been committed to interfaith dialogue and has institutionalised it as “Samvada”, an ongoing dialogue series.



Ruben L.F. Habito, USA

Prof. Ruben L.F. Habito is Professor of World Religions and Spirituality at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, and also serves as Guiding Teacher of the Maria Kannon Zen community in Dallas, Texas, USA. He is the author of Zen and the Spiritual Exercises: Paths of Awakening and Transformation (Orbis, 2013) and other volumes in English and Japanese.



Philipp Hildmann, Germany

Philipp W. Hildmann, PhD studied German philology and Evangelical religious studies in Erlangen, Zurich and Munich. Philipp was Senior Advisor for Values, Standards and Social Change at the Academy for Politics and Current Affairs, Hanns Seidel Foundation, Munich and is the Director of the Office of the Chairman, Hanns Seidel Foundation.

**Rabbi Steven Langnas, USA/Switzerland**

Rabbi Steven Langnas is an American-Swiss rabbi. From 1990 to 1998, Langnas was a teacher, assistant rabbi and second cantor in the Jewish Community of Basel. From 1998 to 2011, he was rabbi of the Jewish community of Munich. Langnas is a member of the Conference of European Rabbis, which he represents at this meeting.

**Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias, USA**

His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas (Lulias) of Dardanellia was the inaugural Metropolitan of Hong Kong and Southeast Asia and is now serving as Director of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute. Metropolitan Nikitas Lulias is the permanent representative of Patriarch Bartholomew to the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders.

**Sanaa Aly Marei Makhoulf, Egypt**

Sanaa Aly Marei Makhoulf is a Senior Instructor of Rhetoric and Composition in the Department of Rhetoric and Composition at the American University in Cairo. She is currently writing her Ph.D. on “Shades of Tolerance: An examination of the Spiritual Writings of al-Amir ‘Abd al-Qadir al-Jaza’iri, at Harvard University. She is representing WISE: Women’s Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality.

**Bishop Sahak Masalian, Turkey**

His Eminence Bishop Sahak Mashalian was born in Istanbul in 1962, ordained as a priest in 1992 and as a bishop in 2008. He holds academic degrees of a Licence in Philosophy (Istanbul University), BD in Theology (Louvain University) and MA in Spirituality (Dublin Milltown Institute). He worked in Istanbul as a priest and itenary preacher, in Jerusalem as a monk, a religious teacher and a principal of the local Secondary School Tarkmanchats, and in Armenia as a lecturer and a dean of the Theological University of the Holy Etchmiadzin. Now He is the Director of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations in the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul and a lecturer in Armenian College Sahakian.

**Haviva Pedaya, Israel**

Prof. Haviva Pedaya is a poetess, author, cultural critic and scholar–researcher. She is a member of the faculty of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, a scholar of Jewish mysticism. Her most recent studies deal with the Jewish–Arabic milieu from the viewpoint of theory and criticism, and with art and music. She is a member of the steering committee of the website for piyyut and singing communities.

**Edward Probert, Canon, UK**

The Reverend Canon Edward Probert was appointed Canon Chancellor of the Salisbury Cathedral in 2004. He is a member of the Diocesan Board of Education, chair of governors of Sarum Academy and is a governor of Bishop Wordsworth's Grammar School. Canon Probert is representing the Very Reverend June Osborne.

**Swami Rameshwarananda Giri, Spain**

Swami Rameshwarananda is the Founder and President of Fundación Phi, dedicated to favouring and strengthening the development of human potential and to harmonizing body, mind, spirit and environment. He is also the founder of the University of Consciousness Project, an area of study and learning where worldwide sages and leaders can meet to share knowledge and wisdom. Within this context, he is currently working on the creation of an RTD Campus, devoted to research and technological development projects on the field of Environmental Sustainable Development. Swamiji is also the Vice-President of the Fundació Mediambiental, the Head of the School of Yoga Vedanta and Meditation and the President of the Interfaith Meeting Forum in Valencia (EEIV).

**Andreas Renz, Germany**

Dr. Andreas Renz, is a research specialist on interreligious dialogue in the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising, and lecturer at the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. He co-founded the international scientific network "Theological Forum Christianity - Islam".

**Martin Rötting, Germany**

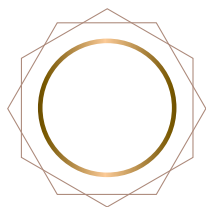
Dr. Martin Roetting is chairman of the OCCURSO Institute of interreligious and intercultural encounter and chaplain and officer for international affairs at the catholic chaplaincy at Ludwig Maximilian University Munich. Martin studied theology, ecumenism and interreligious dialogue in Munich, South Korea and Dublin and has a PhD in religious studies with a thesis on interreligious learning in buddhist-christian dialogue.

**Sukhbir Singh, UK**

Sukhbir Singh is an interfaith activist and community leader working with Bhai Sahib Mohinder Singh and the Guru Nanak Nishkam Seva Jata. He has been involved in Elijah's decade for a decade.

**Abbot Timothy Wright, UK**

Timothy Wright is a Benedictine monk of Ampleforth Abbey, York UK. He is currently working as 'Visiting Catholic Scholar' at Benedictine University, Lisle, IL, USA, a Catholic run university where 35% of the students are Muslim. He is also the Abbot Primate's Delegate for Dialogue with Islam. Prior to this he was based for seven years in Rome, as a Spiritual Director in a seminary. During this time he undertook a PhD through the University of Wales on the relationship of the Rule of Benedict and the Qur'an. From that a book was published by Liturgical Press MN USA in 2013 entitled No Peace without Prayer, encouraging Christians and Muslims to pray together, a Benedictine perspective.



PAST PARTICIPANTS AND BOARD MEMBERS



Sheikh Mohammed Mohammed Ali, UK

Sheikh Mohammed Ali is a Shiite scholar of Islamic theology and history and mechanical engineer by training, holding BSc, MA, and Phd degrees. He is a member and leader of the National Consensus Alliance, the Iraqi Reconstruction Group, Forum 2020, and other NGOs. An Iraqi by birth and frequent visitor to Iraq, he is currently a resident of the United Kingdom. He has lectured in conferences around the world and has vast experience within UN agencies in New York and Geneva. Sheikh Ali is a human rights activist.



Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar, Israel

Sefardi Chief Rabbi, Shlomo Amar was born in Morocco in 1948 and immigrated to Israel in 1962. A close associate of the Shas Party's spiritual leader and former Chief Rabbi Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Rabbi Amar served as head of the Petah Tikva Rabbinical Court. In March 2002, he was elected chief rabbi of Tel-Aviv, the first sole chief rabbi of the city. Rabbi Amar was sent by then Interior Minister Eli Yishai to Ethiopia to meet with the Falash Mura community there. In 2003, Rabbi Amar was appointed Chief Rabbi of Israel.



Rabbi Joseph Azran, Israel

Rabbi Joseph Azran is the Chief Rabbi of Rishon Lezion. He is also a member of the Chief Rabbinate's permanent dialogue commission with the Vatican and member of the Paris Beth Din. Rabbi Azran served as a Member of Parliament from the religious party Shas in the Israeli Knesset for two terms, and held the role of Deputy Speaker of the Knesset during one term.



Dr. Muhammad Zaki Badawi, UK

Shaikh Mohammed Aboulkhair Zaki Badawi KBE was a prominent Egyptian Islamic scholar, community activist, and promoter of interfaith dialogue. He was the principal of the Muslim College in London, which he founded in 1986. He was a frequent writer and broadcaster on Islamic affairs, and was made an honorary Knight Commander of the British Empire (KBE) in 2004. Badawi was also appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Francis I in recognition of his interfaith work. Dr. Badawi passed away in 2006.



His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan bin Talal

Prince El Hassan bin Talal is the youngest son of King Talal and Queen Zein El Sharaf. Prince Hassan has founded and is actively involved in a number of Jordanian and international institutes and committees, such as The Arab Thought Forum, Higher Council for Science and Technology, and the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies.



Rabbi Dr. Naftali Brawer, England

Rabbi Brawer is the rabbi of Northwood United Synagogue and serves on the Chief Rabbi of England's cabinet with responsibility for Jewish-Muslim relations. He is a regular columnist for the Jewish Chronicle and a broadcaster on the BBC. Rabbi Brawer is an honorary research fellow and lecturer at the London School of Jewish Studies where he teaches applied ethics. He holds a PhD in Hebrew and Jewish Studies from University College London.



Archbishop Dr. Elias Chacour, Israel

Archbishop Dr. Elias Chacour currently serves as Archbishop of Akko, Haifa, Nazareth and all Galilee of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church. He is vice president of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, and the founder of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Northern Israel. Archbishop Chacour is the recipient of the prestigious World Methodist Peace Award and the Niwano Peace Prize.



Jalal Hatami, Israel

Jalal Hatami was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the Bahá'í International Community in August 2008. He is resident at the Bahá'í World Centre in Haifa, Israel and his primary focus is the relationship with governmental authorities and civil society in Israel. While living in the United States, Mr. Hatami served on various regional and local Bahá'í institutions there. In 2005, he was invited to serve at the World Centre as Director of the Office of Social and Economic Development, a position he held until his current appointment.



Judith Hertz, USA

Judith Hertz serves on the International Council of Presidents of the World Conference of Religions for Peace, as well as on the Executive Committee for the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East. She is an active member of the Jewish Reform Movement and within the organization, she co-chairs the Commission on Interreligious Affairs, serves on the Commission for Social Action and the Board of Directors of Women of Reform Judaism.

**H.H. Dadi Janki, India**

Dadi Janki is Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumari movement. She has traveled to the Brahma Kumaris centers in all 70 countries. For about four months each year she lives in Mt. Abu at the University's world headquarters and for the other eight months she works out of its International Coordinating Office in London. Even now at the age of 90, Dadi Janki refuses to set limits and boundaries as to what is achievable.

**H.H. Shri Shrikant Jichkar, India**

Dr. Shrikant Jichkar holds 20 post-graduate University degrees. In 1980, as the youngest member ever, he was elected Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) and subsequently became a powerful Minister with fourteen portfolios. Jichkar has served as a Member of the Indian Parliament (MP) and is President of the Marathi Encyclopedia Production Board. He is one of the great ritualists in India and an Agnihotri, one who continuously maintains the three sacred Vedic fires.

**Rabbi Daniel Kohn, Israel**

Rabbi Kohn is the rabbi of Bat Ayin, an orthodox Hassidic village in the Judean Mountains. Over the past 20 years he has taught hundreds of students, combining the world of Torah learning, Jewish mysticism and deep psychological insight, and has culled and developed effective techniques for personal and spiritual renewal. He is trained as a narrative therapist and life coach and teaches in various yeshivot and rabbinical programs.

**Albert Lincoln, Israel**

Albert Lincoln serves as the Secretary-General of the Bahá'í International Community in Haifa, Israel. He was appointed to this position by the international governing body, the Universal House of Justice, in October 1994. Mr. Lincoln served for 17 years as chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer of the national governing bodies of the Bahá'í communities where he lived, provided legal advice and representation to many Bahá'í institutions on the continent, and represented the Bahá'í International Community at numerous international conferences and seminars in Africa and Europe.

**Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, USA**

Cardinal McCarrick is an eminent leader in the Catholic Church and a distinguished human rights advocate. He serves as Chairman of the Domestic Policy Committee for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and is a founding member of the Papal Foundation. In December 2000, he was awarded the Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights by President George W. Bush. In February 2001, Archbishop McCarrick was elevated to the College of Cardinals. Cardinal McCarrick retired from the EBWRL in 2009.

**W. Dean Mohammad, USA**

Imam W. Dean Mohammad is a tireless laborer for the interests of peace and justice in our world. He has worked for and realized direct and genuine dialogue between people of all races and religions. Outdistancing the purveyors of narrow race concerns, Imam Mohammed's leadership continues to build upon a solid religious foundation with concrete plans for the strengthening of families and communities. W. Dean Mohammad passed away in 2008.

**Alison Murdoch**

Alison Murdoch is the founding Director of the Foundation for Developing Compassion and Wisdom, an educational NGO under the patronage of HH The Dalai Lama. She is also a Board member of the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition, a network of 160+ Tibetan Buddhist centres worldwide. She is passionate about finding fresh and contemporary ways to share the essence of the Buddha's teachings, especially with secular audiences and young people.

**H.H. Sri Rishi Prabhakarji, India**

Well versed in both Eastern and Western philosophies, Gururji Sri Rishi Prabhakar is a silent meditator with a large number of disciples. His fundamental instruction 'Siddha Samadhi Yoga,' (SSY) is made available to thousands of people around India by teachers trained by him. Rishi Prabhakar is currently involved with development in Karnataka and has been successful in eliminating tobacco and alcohol addiction from several villages.

**Gilla Rosen, Israel**

Gilla Rosen is Dean of the Yakar Centers for Tradition and Creativity in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Founded in England by Rabbi Michael Rosen, Yakar is a place to pray and study with passion and openness and to engage in social action. Gilla directs study programs and teaches Talmud and Midrash at Yakar and Nishmat, a center for women's advanced study, and she also works as a Yoetzet Halakha (advisor in Jewish family law). She lives in Jerusalem with her children and grandchildren.

**His Eminence Paul Cardinal Shan, Taiwan**

His Eminence Paul Cardinal Shan, the Bishop of Kaohsiung since 1991, has been an active member in religious education and theological councils. He was ordained a priest in 1955 and has served as a religious educator and minister in the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan. In 1998, Shan was appointed Cardinal by His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Cardinal Shan is also Chair of the Board of Trustees at Fu Jen Catholic University.

**Imam Muhammad Siddeeq, USA**

Imam Muhammad Siddeeq is a long time Muslim American pioneer. Professionally a biologist, medical researcher and teacher, he became Muslim under the leadership of Imam Mohammed's father, the late Hon. Elijah Muhammad. Imam Muhammad Siddeeq has held many positions in the Muslim community of the United States and has been mentor to newly converted and young Muslim men, many who have been released from prison.

**Rabbi Dov Singer, Israel**

Rabbi Singer represents a generation of young Israeli religious leaders, who are forging new paths in religious leadership. For the past 25 years he has been the head of a prestigious Yeshiva high school, that has trained thousands of students. He also heads the Center for Spiritual Renewal, where educators, religious leaders, psychologists and others seek to articulate novel contemporary forms of Jewish identity and spiritual experience, combining halachic aspirations with the changing needs of Israeli society.

**Harmoinder Singh**

S. Harmohinder Singh is reader in History at the University of Delhi. He has been teaching since 1975 and is considered an expert in Modern Indian History. Singh has been actively involved in the affairs of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management Committee, which manages the historical Gurudwaras of Delhi and runs a large number of public schools, colleges, and hospitals.

**H.H. Swami Swatantranand**

Swami Swatantranand was born on December 15th, 1950 in Itawa Uttarpradesh (India). He completed his studies at Kanpur University in 1974. He has traveled with J.P. Narayan as a social reformer in North India and was active in establishing peace initiatives in Punjab. Swamiji has established an ashram at Rishikesh named Swatantrananda ashram. He travels all around the world giving discourses on Veda, Bhagawatam and Upanishad.

**Father MD Thomas, India**

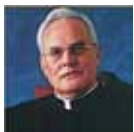
Father Thomas is the National Director of the Commission for Inter-religious Dialogue in the Catholic Bishop's Conference in India. He has worked in the area of interreligious dialogue for the past 17 years, delivering lectures worldwide. Father Thomas also has a doctorate in Hindi literature. His book, entitled "Kabeer and Christian Thought", was awarded by the Hindi Academy, Delhi. Fr. Thomas represents Cardinal Toppo at the present meeting.

**Ven. Geshe Tashi Tsering, UK**

Ven. Geshe Tashi is a Tibetan Lama who holds the Lharampa Geshse degree from Seramay Monastic University in South India. In 1991, he began a three year appointment at Nalanda Monastery in France to teach advanced level Tibetan Buddhist philosophy to Western students. Since 1994, he has been based at the Jamyang Buddhist Centre in London, where he is renowned for his ability to make philosophical teachings accessible to students. Ven. Geshe Tashi represents His Holiness the Dalai Lama at the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders

**Archbishop Fouad Twal, Jerusalem**

Archbishop Twal is the Roman Catholic archbishop and Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. He was ordained a priest in 1966 and was appointed the vicar of Ramallah. In 1972 he entered the Pontifical Lateran University where he studied for a doctorate in canon law. He was appointed the prelate of the territorial prelature of Tunis in May 1992 and was consecrated to the episcopate later that year. In 1995 the territorial prelature was elevated to become the Diocese of Tunis, and he was made an archbishop ad personam. In 2005 he was named the coadjutor Archbishop of Jerusalem and in 2008 he became Patriarch of Jerusalem.



Cardinal Carlos Amigo Vallejo, Spain

Cardinal Carlos Amigo Vallejo O.F.M. has served as Archbishop of Seville since 1982 and has been an ordained priest since 1960. He presides over the Episcopal Commission of Missions and Cooperation between the Churches in the Spanish Episcopal Conference and was previously President of the Episcopal Commission of Superior Bishops. Cardinal Vallejo is a recipient of the Favorite Son of Andalusia Award.



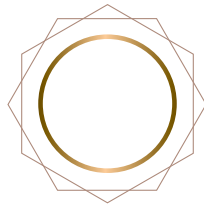
Dr. Abdurrahman Wahid, Indonesia

Abdurrahman Wahid is the former President of the Republic of Indonesia. He serves on the Board of numerous organizations dedicated to reconciliation of conflict. Some of his current positions include Rector of Darul Ulum University in East Java and President of the Non Violence Peace Movement. In 2003, Dr. Wahid was awarded the World Peace Prize Award.



Bishop Baerbel Wartenberg-Potter, Germany

Right Reverend Bishop Baerbel Wartenberg-Potter is the Bishop of Holstein-Luebeck, North Elbian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany. She has served as the Chairperson of the Joint Working Group of Christian Churches of Germany and the Director of the World Council of Churches' project on Women in Church and Society. Bishop Wartenberg-Potter retired from her office in 2007.



THINK TANK MEMBERS



Awet Andemicael, U.S.A.

Awet Andemicael researches and writes on Christian theology, primarily as it intersects with interfaith engagement, refugee studies, and music. She holds degrees from Harvard and Yale universities, and is currently pursuing doctoral study in theology and peace studies at the University of Notre Dame and Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies. She was born in Ethiopia to an Eritrean Evangelical (Lutheran) family with roots in the Eritrean/Ethiopian Orthodox Tewhado Church.



Michael von Brück, Germany

Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück is head of the Interfaculty Program of Religious Studies at the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich/Germany. He studied Theology, Indology and Comparative Linguistics at Rostock University, Indian Philosophy and Religion at Madras University. He specializes in Advaita Vedānta and Mahāyāna-Buddhism. Besides, he received a four years training in Yoga at a Yoga Institute in Madras and studied Zen-Buddhism in theory and practice in Japan. After a visiting professorship at Gurukul Lutheran College in Madras 1980 until 1985 he became Prof. of Comparative Religion at the University of Regensburg in 1988. In 1991 he took over the chair of Religious Studies at the University of Munich.

**Rahuldeep Singh Gill, USA**

Interfaith activist and Sikh scholar Rahuldeep Singh Gill, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Religion at California Lutheran University where he has launched an Asian Studies Minor, served as Associate Director for CLU's Center for Equality and Justice, and will serve as the Center's Director beginning in 2014. In addition to offerings in Christianity, global religions, and Indian thought, he teaches a yearly course on Sikh tradition and has twice won Diversity Professor of the Year since he joined the faculty in 2009.

**Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Israel**

Alon Goshen-Gottstein is the founder and director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute, and lecturer and director of the Center for the Study of Rabbinic Thought, Beit Morasha College, Jerusalem. Ordained a Rabbi in 1977, he holds a Ph.D. from Hebrew University of Jerusalem in the field of Rabbinic Thought. His four score publications are divided between the areas of Interreligious Dialogue, Theology of Religions, Jewish Spirituality and Rabbinic Thought.

**Maria Reis Habito, USA**

Maria Reis Habito is the International Program Director of the Museum of World Religions and the Director of the Elijah Interfaith Institute USA. She studied Chinese Language and Culture at Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, and received her M.A. in Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies and Philosophy at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet in Munich. She was a research fellow at Kyoto University and completed her Ph.D. at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet. Dr. Reis Habito represents Dharma Master Hsin Tao on the steering committee.

**Flora A. Keshgegian, PhD, USA**

Flora A. Keshgegian is the author of three books, *God Reflected: Metaphors for Life* (Fortress Press, 2008), *Time for Hope: Practices for Living in Today's World* (Continuum Publishing, 2006) and *Redeeming Memories: A Theology of Healing and Transformation* (Abingdon Press, 2000), as well as numerous articles. Her scholarship and writing focus on theological perspectives on memory, hope and redemption, especially in response to suffering, violence and trauma. Dr. Keshgegian has most recently taught at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She is ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church.

**Anantanand Rambachan, USA**

Anantanand Rambachan is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Religion at Saint Olaf College, Minnesota, USA, where he has been teaching since 1985. He received his M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in religion from the University of Leeds, in the United Kingdom. Prof. Rambachan is the author of several books, book-chapters and numerous articles and reviews in scholarly journals. Among these are: "Accomplishing the Accomplished: The Vedas as a Source of Valid Knowledge in Shankara", "The Limits of Scripture: Vivekananda's Reinterpretation of the Authority of the Vedas" and "The Advaita Worldview: God, World and Humanity". The British Broadcasting Corporation transmitted a series of 25 lectures by Prof. Rambachan around the world.

**Vanessa Rebecca Sasson, Canada**

Vanessa Sasson is a professor of Comparative Religion in the Liberal Arts Department of Marianopolis College where she has been teaching since 1999. She is also a Research Fellow in the Department of Biblical and Religious Studies at the University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa, and Adjunct Professor of Comparative Religion at McGill University. She directs an annual Graduate Interfaith Seminar at McGill and is the Canadian director of the Elijah Educational Network.

**Kurt G. Schreiber, USA**

Kurt Schreiber is the Program Director for the Center for Research on Economic Development and Information Technology (CREDIT). He serves as a member of the Elijah Interfaith Institute's Administrative Board. He received his law degree at the University of Michigan and has a Masters in Theological Studies from Vanderbilt University.

**Meir Sendor, USA**

Meir Sendor has been the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Sharon, MA for over two decades. He received his ordination from the Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University and his Doctorate in Medieval Jewish History from Harvard University. Rabbi Sendor has served as a visiting professor at Brandeis University, and an instructor for the Me'ah Program of Hebrew College. He lectures on medieval Jewish history, medieval Jewish philosophy and Kabbalah, the philosophy of Jewish law, the history of Jews and medicine and Jewish medical ethics, and serves on Bioethics Advisory Boards. He has written on issues in Jewish spirituality, Halakhah and Jewish history.

**Muhammad Suheyl Umar**

Muhammad Suheyl Umar is the Director of Iqbal Academy Pakistan and his area of specialty and interests include Sufism as well as the thought of Muhammad Iqbal and the intellectual history of the Indian subcontinent from Shah Waliullah to Iqbal. He is the Founder-Editor of Riwayat, a scholarly Urdu journal; Editor, Iqbal Review, a quarterly journal, published alternately in Urdu and English (as well as in Persian, Arabic and Turkish) focusing on Iqbal studies in addition to Islamic Studies, Comparative Religion, Philosophy, Literature, History, Arts and Sociology.



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