



COUNCIL FOR A
PARLIAMENT OF THE
WORLD'S RELIGIONS

PRESS RELEASE

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Chicago, Illinois

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BEARING THE LIGHT: HONORING OUR SPIRITUAL FOREMOTHERS AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND INTERFAITH SPIRITUALITY

On November 3rd at 7:30pm, the University of Chicago's majestic Rockefeller Chapel will be filled with the dynamic sounds of West African drumming and the ethereal 12th century chant of Hildegard of Bingen. As the combined chants of many different traditions reach a crescendo, the chapel will be bathed in light and the ringing of the Rockefeller Carillon, the second-largest musical instrument in the world.

An hour of music and readings honoring women across time and traditions, "Bearing the Light: Honoring Our Spiritual Foremothers" will feature the all-women's percussion ensemble Diamana Diya, directed by Helen Bond and Amy Lusk, and acclaimed sopranos Laura Lynch, Jillian Krickl, and Alessandra Visconti, as well as classical Indian dance and the soulful sounds of chant from Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Native American, and other spiritual traditions.

This event is free and open to the public, and takes place at Rockefeller Chapel, at 5850 South Woodlawn Avenue on the campus of the University of Chicago. A dessert reception follows with spirited conversations.

"Bearing the Light: Honoring Our Spiritual Foremothers" marks the inauguration of the Women's Task Force at the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religion. The Women's Task Force seeks to assure that women's voices are heard at the vital nexus of women's issues, religion, and spiritual leadership. "This is a night to celebrate the courage and wisdom and love of the women who have gone before us, and to inspire one another to speak from the deepest truths of our lives today," explained the Rev. Dr. Anne Benevenuti, co-chair of the Women's Task Force.

The roots of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions go back to the historic 1893 World's Parliament of Religions, hosted in conjunction with the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, marking the first time in history the traditions of East and West met for formal interreligious dialogue.

Parliaments of the World's Religions are the largest and most diverse interreligious gatherings in the world. 6,500 participants from over 80 countries representing over 200 religious, spiritual and traditional communities attended the most recent Parliament. The Council is governed by a board of 35 Trustees, with persons of Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Jain, Jewish, Hindu, Indigenous, Muslim, Pagan, Sikh, Zoroastrian, and humanistic traditions.

"At a time when hate and violence is rising, it is very timely that women of many faiths are honoring our foremothers who have always taken a stand for peace," remarked Imam Abdul Malik Mujahid, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.

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For more information about the November 3 event in Chicago, please contact Devin McLachlan at DevinMcLachlan@gmail.com For more information about the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, please visit www.parliamentofreligions.org or call (312) 629-2990.