

# The Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding

GROW IN UNDERSTANDING



Bahá'í



Buddhism



Christianity



Hinduism



Islam



Jainism



Judaism



Sikhism



Unitarian  
Universalism

## CCIU Interfaith Calendar, Holy Days and Holidays, May 2025

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CCIU Interfaith Calendar, Holy Days and Holidays, May 2025

### MAY

#### Bahá'í

**1 – The 12 th Day of Riḍván** concludes this important Bahá'í festival (Baha'ís suspend work on this day).

**16 - 'Aḏamat** (Grandeur), the 4 th month of the Bahá'í year.

**23 - The Declaration of the Báb** commemorates the day in 1844 on which He announced His identity as the Báb, or Gate, the Herald of the New Age (Bahá'ís suspend work on this day).

**28 - The Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh** marks the anniversary of the death of the founder of the Bahá'í faith. It is commemorated at 4:00 am DST (Bahá'ís suspend work on this day).

#### Buddhism

**12 - Wesak** is the most important day of the year for Buddhists. It commemorates the birth, awakening and passing away (paranibbana) of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. (Theravāda) (May be celebrated on different dates, according to country and tradition.)

#### Christianity

**29 - Ascension** (W) is the anniversary of Jesus' ascension into heaven and enthronement as universal sovereign. It comes 40 days after Easter, Pascha.

## Judaism

**16** – Lag Ba'Omer commemorates the day that Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, a great sage and author of the Kabbalah, Jewish mysticism passed away. Tradition says that on the last day of his life, he gathered his students and illuminated the world with his knowledge and mystical teachings of the Torah. To this day, bonfires are lit on this night to celebrate the importance of education and to signify the light which illuminated the world through Rabbi Shimon.

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**PLEASE COME TO A VIRTUAL  
DEVOTIONAL GATHERING  
DEDICATED TO**

*Uprooting Racism,  
Fostering Unity,  
and Realizing Oneness*

**First Friday, of every month,  
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. (EST)  
Next gathering: Friday, May 2, 2025**

"Racial prejudice, the most vital and challenging issue, must be vigorously tackled. The believers, or and all, must demonstrate complete freedom from it in their own lives, and show in deeds that it no longer has a place in their thinking." — Shoghi Effendi

Please join Karen Anderson this Friday, May 2, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. for a 60-minute virtual devotional focused on Uprooting Racism. This gathering is open to everyone and happens on the first Friday of

each month.

You can attend as a bystander or a participant — whatever you're comfortable with. We will end promptly at 8:30 p.m.

Please come. Please spread the word. Host a watch party from home or share the link widely with others who care about healing and justice.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88569985410...>

Meeting ID: 885 6998 5410

Passcode: 042431

"The holding of meetings for devotional exercises is to be specially encouraged... prayer and devotional meetings nourish the soul and awaken the heart." — The Universal House of Justice

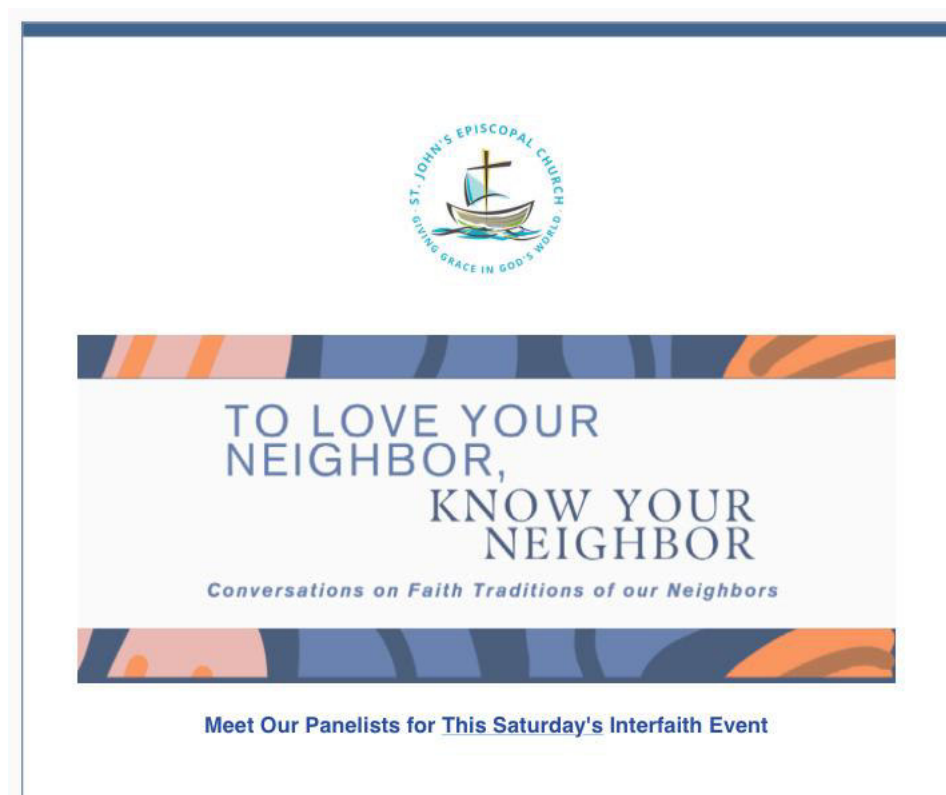
## Love Your Neighbor, Know Your Neighbor Panel Discussion

St. John's Episcopal Church

3 Cross Street, Essex, CT

Saturday, May 4, 2025

10:00-11:30 AM





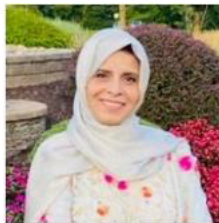
You're invited to a free, inclusive event co-hosted with the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU). Join us for a moderated panel featuring representatives from Judaism, Islam, and Christianity as they explore shared values and ways to work together for the common good. Happening this Saturday, May 3, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Undercroft.



**Rick Hathaway** is the executive director of the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU). Prior to joining CCIU Rick Hathaway served as a Vice President for Habitat for Humanity International, responsible for the overall success of Habitat's affordable housing activities in dozens of countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Over a 35-year career in community development he has supported volunteer programming, fund raising, and leadership development across 50 countries globally collaborating across faith boundaries in carrying out this work. During this period Rick and family lived in New Zealand, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, and Slovakia.

Rick graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1983 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Prior to joining Habitat, he spent six years as a Design Engineer with the Aircraft Engine Business Group of General Electric Corporation. Rick holds two master's degrees: one in Urban and Environmental Management from Australia's RMIT University in Melbourne, and another in Business Administration from Eastern University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was awarded a Doctor of Education from Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts in 2024. His dissertation, titled 'Developing Emerging Leaders in Civil Society: An Experiential Learning Initiative in North Macedonia', was awarded the 2024 Northeastern University Outstanding Doctorate in Community Impact.

Rick and his wife Wan Sook currently live in East Hampton, Connecticut and have two children Christine and Justin.



**Tamkanat Mohiuddin** earned a B.S. degree in Economics from Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan, and has diplomas in interior design and a certificate in domestic violence assistance. She has taught ESL in private and public schools in the US and in Pakistan. She has also served on the board of the CT Council for Interreligious Understanding and was a member of the Interfaith Clergy Association of Glastonbury, CT. She played a number of social service and teaching roles aiding refugees and immigrants in Houston, Texas prior to returning to Connecticut where she is currently active in community service. Tamkanat is married and has two adult children.



**Lance Goldberg** is a board member of the Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding and a West Hartford native who is very active in the Jewish community of Greater Hartford. An engaged member of The Emanuel Synagogue, he is also the immediate past president of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford and is presently serving on its board as well as on the Jewish Community Relations Council and as a committee chairman for the Greater Hartford Sports Hall of Fame. Lance has also been an award winning social studies and government teacher for over the past twenty years at Farmington High School teaching AP US Government and AP Comparative Government and overseeing many clubs. Additionally, he also teaches Jewish American History and The Holocaust on Sunday mornings to students at The Emanuel Synagogue as well as other rotating courses for the Jewish high school extension program JT Connect. Lance has Masters' degrees from Wesleyan and University of Hartford, and a BA from Charter Oak State University. Earlier in his professional career he worked in Hollywood as a sound engineer, and later he was the overnight supervisor at the Samaritan Homeless Shelter operated by the Manchester Area Conference of Churches. He lives in West Hartford with his son, a sophomore at Hall High School.

**Dear CCIU Advocates:**

We wanted to share with you a quick note about the excitement the Board has regarding recent and upcoming program activities. Our year started with a wonderful World Religion Day celebration co-sponsored with the Baha'is of West Hartford. The program was held at the West Hartford Town Hall and was streamed live. You can see the program in its entirety from our

website at [www.ccfiu.org](http://www.ccfiu.org).

In March, we resumed the annual interfaith film series, co-sponsored with the Wadsworth Atheneum. CCIU had offered this film series for many years prior to COVID, and so we were thrilled when the Wadsworth reached out to us about reinstituting. We expect to be able to continue the film series in the following years, and look forward to further developing our relationship with the Wadsworth.

The film series offering also coincided with the relaunch of our Love Your Neighbor Panel Discussions. These panel discussions are a mainstay of CCIU, and we can see the gathering momentum. Thanks for tireless efforts of our Executive Director, Rick Hathaway, we have so far held four of these events, and have scheduled twelve more before the end of the year. In 2026, we expect to hold at least 25 panel discussions, with commitments made for several already. During these discussions, audience members submit written questions which are posed to the panel by a moderator, resulting in a lively, educational and insightful conversation. A host site selects which three of CCIU's nine religions will be represented by the panelists. Our most Love Your Neighbor Panel Discussion was held at the Noah Webster Library in West Hartford on April 21st. The panelists represented three faith traditions - Yusuf Mansoor (Islam); Sujit Singh (Sikh); and Menaka Kannan (Bahá'í Faith). Each shared personal insights on family, service, and the journey of the soul, and fielded questions from audience participants. Their honesty, clarity, and warmth resonated with everyone in the room. Rick Hathaway moderated, and CCIU volunteers helped with setup, cleanup and refreshments.

We have Love Your Neighbor Panel Discussions scheduled in May: (1) 11:30 am on May 3 rd – St. John's Episcopal Church in Essex (Christianity, Islam and Judaism); (2) Noon on May 4 th – Universalist Church in West Hartford (Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism) and (3) 6:00 pm on May 27 th – Noah Webster Library (Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Judaism). Please watch your emails and our website to learn more about these events, or reach out directly to us at 860-566-9556 or at [rkh@ccfiu.org](mailto:rkh@ccfiu.org) to learn more, to volunteer or to explore the scheduling of an event.

These initiatives are only possible because of your ongoing support. We all know that these are perilous times, as strong forces are acting to divide us. CCIU acts a moral counterweight to these forces, and reflects the values that you hold dear. You can demonstrate your support for the work that we do by donating to [CCIU](http://ccfiu.org).

Sunday • June • 1 • 2025

# Race Amity Day

*Rain or Shine*

Bushnell Park at the Pavilion | Hartford, CT | 2pm-4pm

*Speakers | Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream | Entertainment*

Reverend Dr. Alvan Johnson – MC

Britt Williams – *Why Race Amity*

INTERACTIVE DRUMMING BY

Dr. Leonard Epps

CT CHIEF EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER



Mariana Monteiro



Ana Grace Academy of the Arts

Layavinyasa Company

Bill Beckham Choir

*Bring Lawn Chairs and Sun Protection*

SPONSORED BY:  
 CT Coalition for Race Amity | [ct-cra.org](http://ct-cra.org) and  
 CCIU (CT Council for Interreligious Understanding) | [cciu.org](http://cciu.org)

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding (CCIU) is seeking volunteers interested in a dynamic experience furthering the work of inter-faith dialogue, understanding, and community impact. CCIU promotes public awareness, understanding, and respect for religious diversity through an array of programs. CCIU equips individuals and communities for interfaith engagement, builds collaborative relationships, and stands in solidarity with diverse neighbors. Building off our common ground we can harness our gifts and talents towards greater impact serving the needs of our communities.

For more information contact Rick Hathaway, CCIU Executive Director ([richardhathaway32@gmail.com](mailto:richardhathaway32@gmail.com)).

- **Communications Coordinator:** This person is responsible for supporting key communications functions of the organization. Specific tasks can include – social media, traditional media, updating web site, and developing content for constituent communication. Looking for someone who can provide 6-8 hours per week, working from home or the CCIU office at Hartford International University.
- **Program Coordinator – Interfaith Dialogue:** This person is responsible for supporting the ‘To Love Your Neighbor, To know Your Neighbor’ dialogue series, Specific tasks can include – coordinating with and supporting host partners, panelists, and moderators and managing the schedule of events. Looking for someone who can provide 6-8 hours per week, working from home or the CCIU office at Hartford International University.
- **Donor Care Coordinator:** This person is responsible for coordinating tasks which support our coordination with our donors. Specific tasks could include preparing donor materials and managing

communication and reporting to our supporters. This could also include researching donor opportunities for CCIU. Looking for someone who can provide 6-8 hours per week, working from home or the CCIU office at Hartford International University.

**DONATE NOW**

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You are receiving this email because you signed in at an event sponsored by CCIU, and we want to keep you informed of opportunities to further interreligious understanding.

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Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding  
77 Sherman Street  
Hartford, CT 06105

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