

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at [www.tctv.net](http://www.tctv.net).

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs) at the Olympia FOR's website, [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org). Simply click the TV programs link to reach [www.olympiafor.org/tv\\_programs.htm](http://www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm), scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

## JUNE 2012

# "INTERFAITH VOICES FOR PEACE"

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

When discussing current events – in news media and in comments by politicians and ordinary people – we often hear people speak negatively about other people's religions. They make broad accusations based on the actions of one or a few persons.

Actually – even though some individuals fall short – the **authentic beliefs and teachings** of various religious faiths actually support profound **respect** for all human beings, profound **compassion**, and **peace**.

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's June 2012 TV program explores humane truths in four different faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Buddhism. We explore how the scriptures and other writings – and the actual lived traditions – within these faiths have moved their members to work for peace.

We also examine some common threads such as the oneness of the human family, compassion, and the Golden Rule.

Near the end of the program we affirm the value of interfaith respect and cooperation, which we have already been modeling throughout the program.

We also express support for Interfaith Works of Thurston County, (360) 357-7224 [www.interfaith-works.org](http://www.interfaith-works.org), which has been doing excellent work for decades, including bringing together people from different faiths to work on hunger, homelessness, and other issues as well as interfaith understanding.

Our four guests speak from their own respective backgrounds:

**Danny Kadden** shares extensive knowledge of the Jewish tradition and also works as Executive Director of Interfaith Works.

**Don Foran** comes from the Catholic part of the Christian tradition and also connects literature, and poetry with profound issues of the real world, including peace and social justice.

**Sheikh Yosof Wanly** is the new Imaam of the Islamic Center of Olympia and shares some of Islam's core beliefs that most Americans don't know about.

**Dan Ryan** practices the Zen form of Buddhism and participates actively in the South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Veterans for Peace, and the Olympia FOR.

The national FOR's website mentions 12 affiliated Religious Peace Fellowships (RPFs) (Lutheran, Episcopal, Muslim, Jewish, etc.) on this list: [www.forusa.org/groups/religious-peace-fellowships](http://www.forusa.org/groups/religious-peace-fellowships)

This list on the national FOR's website also includes other faith-based groups that carry on important work for peace. These include the Shalom Center, Pax Christi, Pace e Bene, Sojourners, the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the National Religious Campaign Against Torture ([www.nrca.org](http://www.nrca.org)), and many others.

Religion deals with our deepest beliefs and insights about what it means to be human and to live here on this planet.

Billions of people refer to God by various names in various languages, and they practice various ways of understanding reality and finding their place in the world.

Indeed, one of the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's peace vigil signs says, "**All people are one human family,**" and another of our vigil signs says, "**We're all in this together.**"

On this small planet, we need to understand and respect each other's religious faith. That's one step toward peace. And we need to appreciate how various religions really do support peace.