



CHICAGO SUNDAY EVENING CLUB

2010

ANNUAL REPORT

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Our History. The Chicago Sunday Evening Club was founded in 1908 by Clifford W. Barnes and a group of business leaders to organize weekly religious services in Chicago's Orchestra Hall, presenting outstanding speakers from the world of religion. Broadcasts began on radio in 1922 and on television in 1956, live from Orchestra Hall, moving to the studio of WTTW 11 (PBS) in 1969.

In 1992, the weekly television program took on a new format, a new focus and a new name, *30 Good Minutes*. Broadcast weekly on WTTW 11 and the Internet, the program covers spirituality and religion, exploring the richness and diversity of faith in America.

Our Mission. The mission of the Chicago Sunday Evening Club is to foster compassion, reconciliation and peace by communicating stories and ideas from many faith traditions.

The Chicago Sunday Evening Club is a 501(c)(3) Illinois not-for-profit corporation organized in 1908 for religious purposes.

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In a world that increasingly knows too much conflict and hostility, we need safe places like *30 Good Minutes* where people can speak to reconciliation and our essential oneness under the same Divine power.

Eugene Sutton

Love God and One Another

For most of the 20th century, interfaith dialogue in America meant conversation between Christians and Jews. The Chicago Sunday Evening Club was no different. We started our interfaith work in 1912, when Rabbi Steven S. Wise first spoke to our Orchestra Hall audience, but it wasn't until 1990 that we moved beyond Judeo-Christian traditions and presented Pir Vilayat Khan, a Sufi, as a guest on *30 Good Minutes*.

In the past twenty years, the Chicago Sunday Evening Club has moved more deeply into interfaith work, responding to the need for people from different religious traditions to talk, to learn from each other and to become friends.

In 1993, we produced *Peace Like a River*, a television documentary covering the events of the 1993 Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago. It featured the voices of Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Zoroastrians and others.

In 1999, we began organizing the annual Chicago Leadership Prayer Breakfast. For 35 years it had been a Christian and Jewish event. That year, we invited the first Muslim participants. In 2008, Rabbi Sherre Hirsch became the first Jewish keynote speaker. In 2009, Eboo Patel became the first Muslim keynote speaker.

In 2010, after two decades of intentional interfaith work, the Chicago Sunday Evening Club board formally declared that our mission is to foster compassion, reconciliation and peace by communicating faith stories and ideas from many faith traditions.

A few years ago, more than one hundred Muslim scholars, clerics and intellectuals released *A Common Word Between You and Us*, an open letter to the Christian community calling on people of both faiths to follow their common teachings to love God and one another. The letter ended with:

So let our differences not cause hatred and strife between us. Let us vie with each other only in righteousness and good works. Let us respect each other, be fair, just and kind to another and live in sincere peace, harmony and mutual goodwill.

A response was printed shortly thereafter in the *New York Times*, signed by more than 400 leaders in the Christian community, ending with:

We are persuaded that our next step should be for our leaders at every level to meet together and begin the earnest work of determining how God would have us fulfill the requirement that we love God and one another.

The Chicago Sunday Evening Club is committed to keeping those conversations going. We are grateful to all the people whose names appear in these pages for your participation as partners in this work.

Robert D. Black



Year in Review

Television Production

30 Good Minutes, the CSEC's half-hour, weekly television program on WTTW 11 (PBS) in Chicago, is the centerpiece of our work. Now in its 56th season on television, it is one of America's longest running broadcasts. The program covers spirituality and religion, exploring the richness and diversity of faith in America.

In 2010, we presented 31 episodes of *30 Good Minutes* over 49 weeks of broadcasts (first run and re-runs), featuring 70 guests from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian, Bahá'í and Buddhist faith traditions.

A complete list of guests appears on pages 5–8.

One God. In January 2010, with a production grant from Odyssey Networks, we produced a special *30 Good Minutes* three-part series called *One God*. In the series, Christine Chakoian, Eboo Patel and Sherre Hirsch—Christian, Muslim and Jew—explored how their personal faith had been enriched and deepened by friendships with people of other faiths.

They shared with the audience how, by embracing the other, they not only strengthened

their own identity as Christian, Muslim and Jew, but they gained a deeper respect and appreciation for the faith traditions of their friends. *One God* received a 2011 DeRose Hinkhouse Award of Excellence from the Religion Communicators Council.

Peace, Compassion & Environment.

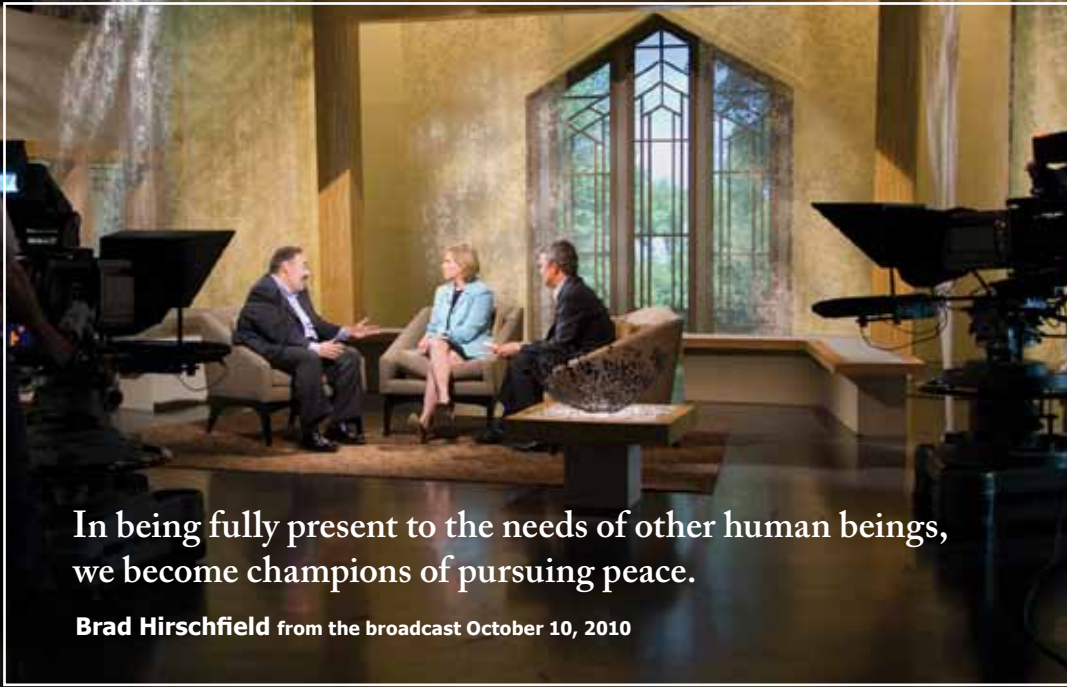
In the fall of 2010, with a production grant from Odyssey Networks, we produced three *30 Good Minutes* two-part specials on the topics of *Peace, Compassion and the Environment*.

Through personal profiles, short reflections and conversation, Joan Chittister and Brad Hirschfield (Peace), Joan Brown Campbell and John Killinger (Compassion), Sally Bingham and Nigel Savage (Environment) and others helped us understand how every faith tradition has a common call to peace, compassionate acts and care for creation.

Technology

In 2010, we continued to expand the content of our award-winning 30goodminutes.org web site with program transcripts dating back to the 1970s and transcripts, video and audio clips





In being fully present to the needs of other human beings, we become champions of pursuing peace.

Brad Hirschfield from the broadcast October 10, 2010



from the past decade. There are currently 700 programs available as text, with more than 600 video clips and 250 audio clips. Internet traffic continued its steady growth, giving *30 Good Minutes* a national and international audience beyond the local Chicago television broadcast.

Mobile Phones. In 2010, in partnership with Odyssey Networks, *30 Good Minutes* launched its own channel on a new, all-video mobile phone application called Call on Faith (www.callonfaith.com) for iPhone, Blackberry and Android smart phones. These short videos, originally broadcast on the *30 Good Minutes* television program, are updated regularly and appear with channels from a wide range of religious organizations and faith traditions.

Chicago Leadership Prayer Breakfast

Since 2000, the Chicago Sunday Evening Club has organized the Chicago Leadership Prayer Breakfast, held annually on the first Friday in December. The purpose of the event is to gather as an interfaith community of corporate, civic, non-profit, government and religious leaders to pray for the city, the country and the world.

Anne Pramaggiore, President and Chief Operating Officer of ComEd, was chair of the 2010 breakfast, which attracted an audience of more than 500 guests in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago, including the Honorable Richard M. Daley, Mayor of the City of Chicago. The event was underwritten in part by Northern Trust.

A list of donors and table sponsors is on page 12.

The 2010 keynote speaker was Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, President of The Interfaith Alliance in Washington, DC, and Pastor for Preaching and Worship at Northminster Church in Monroe, Louisiana.

Excerpts from Dr. Gaddy's keynote address are on page 9.

"Consider This" Series

In April 2010, we brought author and religion writer, Cathleen Falsani, to St. James Cathedral in Chicago in a collaboration with Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago and St. James Cathedral on a series of public events called *Consider This*. The series presents experts on the topics of religion, theology and ethics for the spiritually curious in the 21st century.



We are all responsible for holding up the best in other religious traditions.

Eboo Patel from the broadcast February 21, 2010

Partners

Odyssey Networks. One of our most important partners is Odyssey Networks, the nation's largest multi-faith coalition dedicated to promoting tolerance, peace and social justice through the production and distribution of media. Odyssey's membership includes more than 75 faith groups and organizations. The Chicago Sunday Evening Club has been a member since 1988.



In 2009 and 2010, we received generous Odyssey Networks production grants to underwrite the *One God* series and our programs on *Peace, Compassion and the Environment*. The Chicago Sunday Evening Club's extensive library of programs is featured frequently on Odyssey Networks outlets, in particular their daily "Daybook" e-newsletter, available at www.OdysseyNetworks.org.

Day 1. Day 1, formerly The Protestant Hour, is a national radio and website ministry of the Alliance for Christian Media, a voice of

the mainline Protestant churches, presenting outstanding preachers from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, and other denominations. In 2010, we continued our partnership with Day 1 to provide video segments of *30 Good Minutes* messages and interviews, which are featured at www.Day1.org.

Good Preacher.com. In 2010, the Chicago Sunday Evening Club continued its collaboration with GoodPreacher.com, a sermon preparation website for pastors and preachers maintained by the publishers of *Lectionary Homiletics*, a bi-monthly preaching journal. Sermons from the Chicago Sunday Evening Club archives are frequently featured on their web site.

WTTW Channel 11. Our partnership with WTTW Channel 11, the most watched PBS station in America, began in 1956 with live broadcasts of Chicago Sunday Evening Club services from Orchestra Hall. In 1969 the program moved to the WTTW studios on Chicago's northwest side, where programs are now taped in high definition television in their state-of-the-art production center.

Program Guests



Featured Speakers



Randall Balmer
Professor of American Religious
History, Barnard College
New York, New York



Sally Bingham
Episcopal Priest & President
The Regeneration Project
San Francisco, California



Christine Chakoian
Senior Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
Lake Forest, Illinois



Anna Carter Florence
Associate Professor of Preaching
Columbia Theological Seminary
Decatur, Georgia



Diana Butler Bass
Author & Scholar
Arlington, Virginia



Joan Brown Campbell
Director of Religion
Chautauqua Institution
Chautauqua, New York



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Erie, Pennsylvania



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Senior Pastor Emeritus
The Riverside Church
New York, New York



Edward Beck
Passionist Priest & Author
Pelham, New York



Tony Campolo
Professor Emeritus
of Sociology & Author
Eastern University
Saint Davids, Pennsylvania



Cathleen Falsani
Author & Religion Columnist
Laguna Beach, California



C. Welton Gaddy
President
The Interfaith Alliance
Washington, D.C.

Featured Speakers continued



Philip Gulley

Quaker Minister
& Author
Danville, Indiana



Scott Black Johnston

Senior Pastor, Fifth Avenue
Presbyterian Church
New York, New York



Jacqui Lewis

Senior Minister
Middle Collegiate Church
New York, New York



Eboo Patel

Founder & Executive Director
Interfaith Youth Core
Chicago, Illinois



Terry Hershey

Author & Speaker
Vashon Island, Washington



Serene Jones

President, Union
Theological Seminary
New York, New York



Barbara Lundblad

Professor of Preaching
Union Theological Seminary
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Vice President of Ministries
Adventist Health System
Orlando, Florida



Sherre Hirsch

Rabbi & Author
Los Angeles, California



John Killinger

Author, Pastor & Teacher
Warrenton, Virginia



Ingrid Mattson

Professor of Islamic Studies
Hartford Seminary
Hartford, Connecticut



Nigel Savage

Executive Director
Hazon
New York, New York



Brad Hirschfield

President, National Jewish
Center for Learning
and Leadership
New York, New York



Harold Kushner

Rabbi & Writer
Natick, Massachusetts



Otis Moss III

Pastor, Trinity United
Church of Christ
Chicago, Illinois



Susan Sparks

Senior Pastor, Madison
Avenue Baptist Church
New York, New York

If you missed any of these programs when they were originally broadcast, you can find them online at www.30goodminutes.org

"Reflection" Speakers



Eugene Sutton
Bishop, Episcopal Diocese
of Maryland
Baltimore, Maryland



Christine Chakoian
Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
Lake Forest, Illinois



Martin Marty
Professor Emeritus of the
History of Modern Christianity
University of Chicago Divinity
School, Chicago, Illinois



Michael Siegel
Senior Rabbi, Anshe Emet
Synagogue, Chicago, Illinois



Phyllis Tickle
Author &
Episcopal Laywoman
Millington, Tennessee



Vicki Garvey
Canon for Lifelong Spiritual
Formation, Episcopal Diocese
of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois



Tom McGrath
Vice President of New Product
Development, Loyola Press
Chicago, Illinois



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Associate Professor of Ethics and
Theology, Chicago Theological
Seminary, Chicago, Illinois



William Willimon
Bishop, North Alabama
Conference,
United Methodist Church
Birmingham, Alabama



Karyn Kedar
Senior Rabbi & Author,
Congregation B'nai Jehoshua
Beth Elohim
Deerfield, Illinois



Otis Moss III
Pastor, Trinity United
Church of Christ
Chicago, Illinois



Judy Valente
Journalist, Producer & Poet
Normal, Illinois

Program Hosts



Lillian Daniel



Daniel Pawlus



Lydia Talbot



From our religious varieties, the faith we live by inside will touch our common life outside for the good of all.

Joan Brown Campbell from the broadcast November 11, 2010

Program Guest Hosts



Christine Chakoian



Joan Chittister



Sherre Hirsch



Eboo Patel

"Spiritual Journey" Profiles

Scott Alexander
 Susan Baller-Shepard
 Mui Baltrunas
 Claire Butterfield
 Joel Chasnoff
 Pat Crowley
 Leonardo Defilippis
 Maria Dimanshtein
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Chicago Leadership Prayer Breakfast

Excerpts from Dr. C. Welton Gaddy's keynote address on December 3, 2010

What is this world coming to?

The metaphorical pillars of the universe, the ecological foundations of the Earth, the moral underpinnings within religion, and the political pillars of government are shaking.

When spiritual recognitions of shaking foundations are made, typically they illicit the question, what have the righteous been doing? But that inquiry lures us into the past, mires us in old debates, incites guilt, invites us to cast blame, and offers very little hope for the future.

The better question is, what should the righteous be doing now?

There are two necessities for those who want to stabilize the foundations so essential to our well-being as individuals and a nation. The first is authentic, personal spiritual renewal. Prayer is important here and the most effective prayer is one of praise, in which we are renewed but also inspired to become at least a part of the answer to the request we have conveyed to God. We ask God for help and God says, "I have something for you to do."

So strengthened spiritually, we come to the second necessity, that we commit ourselves to innovative forms of inter-religious cooperation, courageous political involvement and compassionate social change. Inclusion is a religious mandate as well as a civil necessity.

Judaism equates acceptance of the stranger with acceptance of God. Islam understands diversity as God's gift to us in order that we may know one another. In Christianity, the legacy of Jesus' ministry catapulted a small sect in Jerusalem into an embrace of all kinds of people and a religion with an international vision. In other words, people in diverse religions who engage each other and seek a better fellowship and community do that not despite their respective faiths, but because of their respective faiths.

Inter-religious work requires the discipline of prayer, careful listening, and an honest examination of each of our own traditions. I pray that our nation, now the most religiously pluralist nation in the world, will learn that melding our diversity into cooperative ventures will make all of us stronger.



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Joan Chittister

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