

Interfaith Fast For Peace, October 8th 2007

Monday, 17 September 2007, 10:02 am
Press Release: Tikkun

[The Network of Spiritual Progressives](#)
[A Project of the Tikkun Community](#)

An important message!

The Network of Spiritual Progressives is joining with the National Council of Churches and many other organizations to sponsor an interfaith fast for peace, October 8th. We hope you'll participate, both as an individual and through a local NSP chapter or an NSP chapter working with other interfaith groups.

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We also are supporting the Moratorium this coming Friday, Sept. 21st, and urge people to make the moratorium visible in the following way: wherever you are at noon on Sept 21st, stop what you are doing and stand in silent attention, meditation and/or prayer in solidarity with the peace movement's call for an immediate end to the US occupation of Iraq and in solidarity with the call for a Global Marshall Plan and a national rejection of the Strategy of Domination in favor of the Strategy of Generosity. If you are in a car, pull it to the curb and stand silently next to the car. If you are in a hospital, classroom, govt. building, or wherever you are, a restaurant, or anywhere else, and just stop what you are doing and stand up in silence for 5 minutes. And spread the word to others. We urge this to be repeated each third Friday of the month till the troops have been totally withdrawn from Iraq and environs.

All this can also help build attention to the Interfaith Fast for Peace on Oct. 8th.

Here is how:

**ELEVEN STEPS ON THE SACRED PATH
TOWARD THE INTERFAITH
PEACEMAKING FAST
ON OCTOBER 8**

Read the Call at

<http://www.interfaithfast.org>

or

<http://www.shalomctr.org/node/1269>

and share it with others. You can use the brief version you will find at the end of this letter. If you are the clergyperson of a congregation, place a phone call to and arrange to meet with the clergypersons or leaders of religious communities other than your own -- to explore

arrangements such as those below. (If you are not clergy yourself, you could place the calls anyway or ask your clergy person to do so.) Those who agree to plan this could become an informal "planning committee" for the event.

2. October 8 falls during Ramadan, when observant Muslims are already fasting each day and will break the fast (Iftar) after sunset. So it might be simplest for a mosque in your community to host a gathering during the day on October 7 - perhaps late afternoon - to hold a vigil or to pray together in the name of the One Compassionate God. The prayers might focus on the ending of bloodshed in Iraq, for the swift and safe return of US soldiers who are there, and for the end of street violence in America. If it is not workable for a mosque to host the event, arrange for a church or synagogue to do so.

3. If the communities agree on a vigil or similar sacred presence, one possible framework is using the Call to a Communal Fast in Time of Calamity, which is presented on the Web at -

<http://www.shalomctr.org/node/1281>

4. Ask several well-known religious leaders, from a spectrum of religious communities, to speak within this framework.

5. Call and Email key media people by October 1 to inform them of the event and invite them to be present. Explain that parts of the event will be highly "telegenic" and explain who speakers will be.

6. Plan for the Iftar break-fast meal after sundown. It will be simplest to meet various dietary laws and traditions by agreeing to bring only vegetarian foods. Drinks should NOT include wine or other forms of alcohol. Ask households in the congregations that are sharing in this effort to bring pot-luck foods for the evening.

7. Once you have a clear picture of the plan, please go to the Website

<http://www.interfaithfast.org>

and post the information there. THIS IS IMPORTANT BOTH BECAUSE IT WILL LET OTHERS IN YOUR VICINITY KNOW WHERE TO COME, AND BECAUSE YOUR PLANS WILL HELP STIR THE CREATIVE JUICES IN OTHER COMMUNITIES.

8. Send out word as soon as possible through all congregational bulletins that will agree to include it, about when and where and why people will be gathering on October 8. Use the brief version of the call you will find below, as a flyer. You might use the logo of the InterfaithFast Website in the flyer.

9. If possible before October 8, ask the planning committee to consider what the next INTERFAITH PEACEMAKING ACTION might be. Announce this at the gathering on October 8.

10. Invite those who gather to donate through a "collection plate" to meet whatever expenses you have had locally, and if possible devote one-tenth of that amount to meeting some of the expenses of the national effort. These donations (tax-deductible) can be sent to "Interfaith Fast," % The Shalom Center, 6711 Lincoln Drive, Philadelphia PA 19119, or to ----- . They will be used only to meet Interfaith Fast expenses.

11. Ask the planning committee to explore the possibility of creating a small ongoing interfaith group for a "Tent of Abraham, Hagar, and Sarah" that might meet either for an intensive weekend retreat or for a series of Sunday afternoons, to get to know each other and act together. See the chapter on "Pitching the Tent" in the book *The Tent of Abraham* (Beacon) for suggestions on doing this. Plan to use the book for adult education in various religious congregations. **KEEP THE PROCESS GOING &**