

# Reading Sacred Texts as Friends

Theme: Non-Christian Sacred Texts • April 15 • George School

## The Plenary Session: *Reading Texts Inside Out*

Eastern religious texts have held the interest of many Friends in the past century, and many Quakers today draw on these texts for alternatives to the Bible and for their own spiritual growth. This session will provide an introduction to sample texts from Hinduism and Buddhism that touch on Quaker themes. We will then do some comparison to biblical texts.

## Workshop A: *Bodhisattvas and the Bible*

This will be a continuation of the plenary session drawing on the texts presented and other examples in Hinduism and Buddhism. We will also pursue the comparison to selected biblical texts.

**Workshop Leader: Lonnie Valentine** has been Professor of Peace and Justice at the Earlham School of Religion since 1989. He has taught courses in world religions, including courses exploring religion and peace and war. He has published articles related to this topic in the *Journal of Psychology and in the Encyclopedia of Violence, Peace and Conflict*. He is a 1983 *Peace and Justice Studies* graduate of ESR and received his doctorate from Emory University in *Constructive Theology*.

## Workshop B: *Reading the Sacred Text of Muslims*

This workshop will explore selected passages from the sacred text of Islam: *The Qur'an*. Some of the questions that will be addressed include: Who is God for Muslims? How does Islam understand issues of peace and justice? What is jihad?

**Workshop Leader: Jim Higginbotham** is Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at ESR. He has taught at colleges and seminaries in Indiana, Ohio, and China; and he has broad experience in pastoral ministry, counseling, chaplaincy, and community organizing.

## Workshop C: *Dances of Universal Peace, As Quakers, As Christians*

This workshop centers around the Dances of Universal Peace, which draw on the world's religious traditions and involve simple music and movements. Participation, not presentation, is the focus. Participants will spend time dancing and reflecting on the songs, words, movements, and most importantly on the experience of engaging sacred phrases from other traditions. We will explore how Quakers and other Christians understand intersections between spirituality and the body.

**Workshop Leader: Jennie Dove-Isbell** is Coordinator of Annual Fund and Constituent relations at ESR, and a full-time Christian Spirituality student. She is a supervised dance leader in the Dances of Universal Peace network, a massage therapist and a yoga teacher. Jennie's husband, Craig Dove-Isbell, musician, philosopher, and ESR student, will provide music.

## Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(E-mail is requested for postponement notification and to forward details on the following event.)

# of regular reservations (\$23 per person) \_\_\_\_\_ # of student reservations (\$10 per person) \_\_\_\_\_

Workshop preference 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Workshop preference 2 \_\_\_\_\_

(Please attach a separate sheet listing name and workshop preferences for each participant or use additional registration forms. Please print legibly.)

Fee covers conference materials and lunch. Student cost is for lunch only.

Registration deadline is **7 April 2006**. Please make checks payable to Earlham School of Religion.

Send registration form and payment to:

Philadelphia Vitality March 2006, Drawer 36, Earlham School of Religion, 228 College Avenue, Richmond In 47374

For more information contact: Lana Belcher at 800-432-1377 or belchla@earlham.edu.

Listen to what you

Reflect on what you

Love what you believe

Preach what you love

- August  
Sarnow  
On the



## A Resource for Philadelphia Friends

Earlham School of Religion is committed to being a resource for education and renewal to Friends across the broad spectrum of the Religious Society of Friends.

ESR has consulted with various Friends in the Philadelphia area to determine beneficial ways the seminary can serve as such a resource. As a result of these conversations, ESR is offering a **three-year series of one-day conferences** devoted to deepening Friends' faith and enriching life and worship together.

### Vitality Among Friends

2006:  
**Reading Sacred Texts  
as Friends**

2007:  
**Discerning the Leading  
of the Spirit**

2008:  
**Vitality of Meetings**

These sessions will be led by ESR faculty, alumni/ae or invited guests.

## 2006 Conference Series: Reading Sacred Texts as Friends

### Non-Christian Sacred Texts Saturday, April 15

George School  
Newtown, PA

- 8:30-9:00 Registration  
9:00-10:30 Welcome and plenary session  
*Reading Texts Inside Out*  
10:30-11:00 Break  
11:00-12:15 Workshop  
(choose one for morning)  
**A:** *Bodhisattvas and the Bible*  
**B:** *Reading the Sacred Text of Muslims*  
**C:** *Dances of Universal Peace, As Quakers, As Christians*  
12:15-1:15 Lunch on site  
1:15-2:30 Workshop  
(choose a different selection for afternoon)  
A B C  
2:30-3:00 Wrap up

Watch for information regarding the  
**2007 Conference Series:**  
Discerning the Leading of the Spirit  
**February, March and April, 2007**

### Driving directions :

George School  
1690 Newtown-Langhorne Road  
Newtown, PA 18940

Driving directions and campus map are available at <http://www.georgeschool.org/campusmap.asp>. Please park in the lot south of the Meetinghouse.



# Vitality AMONG Friends



228 College Avenue  
Richmond IN 47374  
800-432-1377  
[esr.earlham.edu](http://esr.earlham.edu)

CONFERENCE  
S E R I E S  
E V E N T 3  
APRIL 15  
NON-CHRISTIAN SACRED TEXTS  
GEORGE SCHOOL