

The lecture series, “*Listening to Other Voices*,” is an attempt by the Benedictine Monks of Glastonbury Abbey to share their spiritual search for God with friends and visitors to the abbey. In doing so, the monks continue to live the fifteen hundred year tradition of Saint Benedict (480-547) and the monastic movement which followed from his inspiration. For centuries, Benedictine monasteries have been shelters for people in stormy times. They have offered education and learning in many areas of life. They have offered a stable place for people yearning for God, for meaning, for community.

Today, the monks of Hingham continue that tradition. Since 1954 this small community of monks has reached out to thousands of people each year who come for retreats, workshops and conferences, and various social events which bring a sense of community to a people searching for meaning and belonging. Most important to the monks is a life of prayer and reflection. Catholic and non-Catholic alike are welcome to join the monks in Common Prayer which takes place in the Church five times daily. To all visitors, the Benedictine tradition proclaims PAX, peace, and invites you to this special place.

www.glastonburyabbey.org

Questions? Please call 781-749-2155 x300

Friends of the Series

Please consider becoming a Friend of the Series this year. Three categories are offered:

Friends: Donations of \$100 to \$250 to support the cost of maintaining the program.

Patrons: Donations of \$251 to \$499 to help defray travel expenses of our speakers.

Sponsors: Donations of \$500 or more to offset the honorarium for a given speaker.

Donors will be acknowledged in our Friends brochure handed out the night of each lecture.

Mail your donation to:
Listening to Other Voices
Glastonbury Abbey
16 Hull St.
Hingham, MA 02043

The Benedictine Monks of Glastonbury Abbey offer this yearly series as part of their ongoing commitment to interreligious dialogue.

Most events are virtual presentations.

Please check our website for the latest update for each lecture at www.glastonburyabbey.org.

We invite you to join us to watch these virtual presentations on the larger screens at the Morcone Center, 16 Hull Street, Hingham, MA.

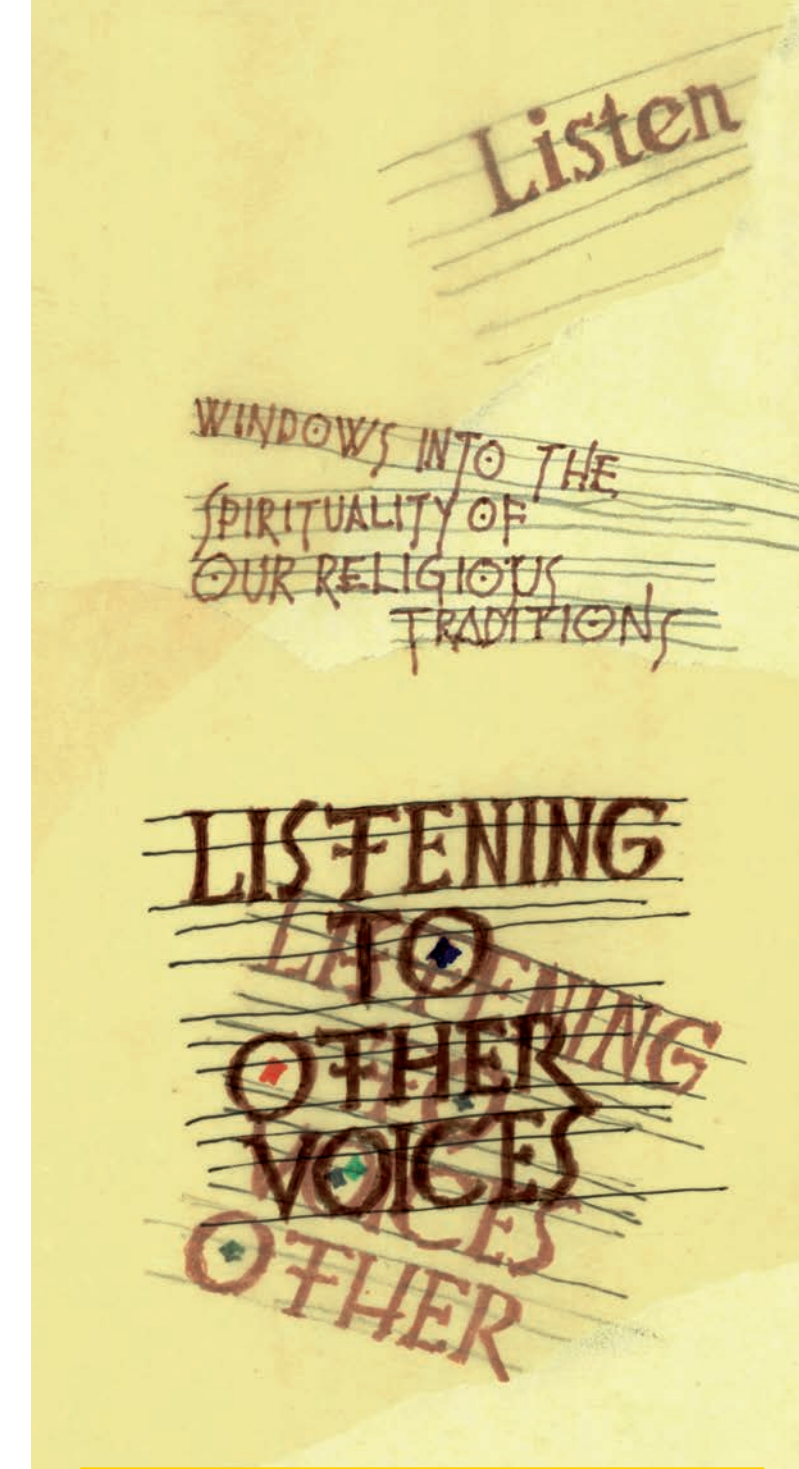
Communal discussion will follow. Of course, as is our custom, refreshments will be served at the Center! The lectures will also be available via Zoom.

Seating is limited. First come, first served.

The lectures are free. Donations are gratefully accepted.

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The Glastonbury Interfaith Lecture Series
“*What Does It Mean to Be Human?
A Faith Perspective*”
2023-2024

LISTENING TO OTHER VOICES: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN: A FAITH PERSPECTIVE

From Father Timothy Joyce OSB

Our Glastonbury Inter-faith lecture series in this 25th anniversary year has chosen the theme of “What Does it Mean to Be Fully Human: A Faith Perspective”. Sharing the particular insights of various faith traditions, the speakers will address how their own tradition looks at our human story. And the speakers are truly ecumenical in scope for this year’s program, coming from very varied traditions.

In October Tiokasin Ghosthorse speaks on what the Indigenous people of our country believe and practice which is a very nature centered approach to humans as earthlings. In November Shabana Basij-Rasikh, a Muslim from Afghanistan, will share some of her efforts to bring education to young Muslim women. Simran Jeet Singh is probably the first Sikh speaker we have ever had in our lecture series. He will be with us in January and introduce us to Sikh wisdom, which integrates ethical living and moral activism with living happily. Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim are the only Christian speakers on our slate this year and will present in February. They will explore the evolutionary perspective of Pierre Teilhard deChardin as it opens up a new human story for us today. They also share the outstanding work of Thomas Berry who had been their own mentor. Rabbi Karyn Kedar who will present the Jewish slant on being human will follow them, in March. The year’s series will reach its finality in April with Narayan Helen Liebenson. She will explore the Buddha’s teachings on the human path of finding meaning and awakening. This will be a wonderful conclusion to a stimulating, informative year. Thanks for joining us in person or on-line.

Program Notes:

This year, the Committee expects our programs to be in person at the Morcone Center. These will be hybrid presentations, offering an online option as well as the dynamic experience of personally meeting the presenter. *There is one exception for the November 16 presentation, which will be virtual only.* We invite you to join us for all the lectures, in person as well as viewing the virtual presentation on the large screens at the Morcone Center. As always, communal discussions and refreshments will be offered.

Please Note: Online registration is required for ALL lectures. Please check our website for the latest update for each lecture.

www.glastonburyabbey.org

October 19, 2023 – *Acknowledging Relationship: A Recall of the Conscious Heart*

Tiokasin Ghosthorse

There is no word for domination or for human beings in the Lakota language. The Lakota people (or, all of us) have suffered for many years from an identity crisis, derived from a disconnection from the wise elder: Mother Earth. Native people’s consciousness of this connection offers a reminder of the untapped abundance that exists when one remembers their origin.

Tiokasin Ghosthorse is a member of the Cheyenne River Lakota Nation of South Dakota and has a long history with Indigenous activism and advocacy. He is the Founder, Host and Executive Producer of “First Voices Radio” (formerly “First Voices Indigenous Radio”) for the last 30 years in New York City and Seattle/Olympia, Washington. In 2016, he received a Nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize from the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy.

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November 16, 2023 – *Seek Knowledge, Even to the Ends of the Earth!*

Shabana Basij-Rasikh

“They’re so passionate. They’re so active. They’re so eager. They’re so interested.” These are the words of Shabana Basij-Rasikh, describing her students from SOLA, the boarding school for Afghanistan young women, now based in Kigali, Rwanda. These are surely words that describe being fully human! As an introduction to her presentation, Basij-Rasikh, quotes the Prophet Muhammad, stating, “Seek knowledge, even as far as China!” and then adds, “The desire to learn is inherent to human nature; access to education is a human right.”

Shabana Basij-Rasikh is the president and co-founder of SOLA, the first boarding school for girls in Afghanistan. In 2021, as the Taliban swept into Kabul, Shabana led her school community into exile, re-establishing operations in Rwanda where classes continue to this day. She joins us to discuss SOLA’s founding, its future, and her lifelong commitment, in the spirit of her faith, to educating Afghan girls.

This is a virtual only presentation

January 18, 2024 – *The Light We Give: Sikh Wisdom on Seeing Our Shared Humanity*

Simran Jeet Singh Ph.D.

Dr Singh reflects on the lessons he continues to learn from the teachings of his tradition. The three tenets, oneness of all creation, the experience of oneness, which is love, and service, which is a natural extension of the first two principles have empowered him to forge a life of connection and justice. Combining personal anecdotes and stories with Sikh wisdom, he brings us to a fuller experience of being human.

Simran Jeet Singh, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Religion & Society Program at the Aspen Institute and the author of the national bestseller *The Light We Give: How Sikh Wisdom Can Transform Your Life* (Riverhead, Penguin Random House).

He is an Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity with Columbia University and the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and a Soros Equality Fellow with the Open Society Foundations. In 2020, *TIME Magazine* recognized him as one of sixteen people fighting for a more equal America.

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February 15, 2024 – *A Faith Perspective from Teilard de Chardin and Thomas Berry*

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim

The dynamic team of Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim return for this year’s exploration of what it means to be human. They will explore the lives and thought of Teilard de Chardin and Thomas Berry as transformative visions of being fully human. Touching on the personal spiritual journey of each man, they will highlight key ideas from both and reflect on how such an evolutionary perspective provides a new story for our times.

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim direct the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology. They were students of Thomas Berry, and following Berry’s footsteps were, until 2020, President and Vice President respectively of the American Teilhard Association.

March 21, 2024 – *Building a Vessel of Compassion*

Rabbi Karyn Kedar

“We are all broken, working out the dents. We are tender beings. The fragments have sharp edges and carry sparks of light. This is the truth of our humanity: To take what is shattered, piece by piece, and build a vessel of beauty, of compassion.”

Life is more meaningful when we choose to embark in the lifelong process of healing and becoming. Rabbi Kedar will explore the spiritual principles that can help us live with a compassionate and open heart for our relationships, our fractured world and ourselves.

Rabbi Karyn D. Kedar is the retired senior rabbi at Congregation BJBE in the Chicago area. Rabbi Kedar teaches courses and leads retreats that explore the need for meaning and purpose in our busy lives, creating an intentional life, spiritual awakening, forgiveness, as well as inspirational leadership and creating the synagogue for the twenty-first century.

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April 18, 2024 – *What Does It Mean to Be Human?*

Narayan Helen Liebenson

What does it mean to be a human being?

The question that informs this talk is also the central question that the Buddha addressed in his teachings. We all know that it is not easy being a human being. The Buddha’s teachings explain why this is so and what we can do about it. What is more, walking the path he provided for us yields a profound and progressive realization of meaning and awakening.

Narayan Helen Liebenson is a guiding teacher of the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center, an urban dharma center located in Cambridge, MA, where she has been teaching since it opened its doors in 1985. She has also guided and taught residential retreats at the Insight Meditation Center, located in Barre, MA, for the past 30 years. Her training includes study in the US and Asia with meditation masters in the Theravada, Chan, and Tibetan traditions. She finds it a joy and a privilege to share the Buddha’s teachings with all who are interested.