

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

And when did we see you wandering, and take you in? or without clothing, and give it to you? (Matthew 25:38)

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2-3)

Middfest International 2017 “Pathways to Peace”

Our world is full of examples of violence – war, terrorism, poverty, and discrimination. Whether you are a veteran, a business person, a teacher, a clergyperson, or simply a concerned citizen you search for peace and prosperity.

In contrast to former years’ focus on the cultures of different countries, Middfest 2017’s program **“Pathways to Peace”** continues a three year emphasis on peace and justice. Recognizing that many people who are looking for peace, and have been forced to become refugees, we will examine their plight.

In the beautifully restored **WINDAMERE** event venue in the heart of downtown Middletown **“Pathways to Peace”** will be an eleven day festival, starting February 28 and concluding on March 10, with exhibits, activities, and lessons given by prominent speakers.

You are invited to stop and see a **“Peace Labyrinth”** created by Janet Bear McTavish an artist from Minnesota, showing the visions of peace held by 17

different religions. Another exhibit consisting of 12 panels called, **“People on the Move”** will tell the human stories of several migrants as they traveled from one place to another. It was created for the Mennonite Central Committee U.S., a church known for its ministry to refugees.

We will have refugees making presentations of their stories, and variety of activities for children, high school and college students, working adults and retirees. We will have a **Simulation Game** teaching us the dynamics of conflict resolution and we will have continuing workshops, called **“Building Skills for Active Peace Making”**.

Our distinguished speakers include Saulo Padillo & Jorge Vielman, of the Mennonite Central Committee, describing their international work with “People on the Move” (Tues. Feb.28);

on Wed. March 1 we will have a panel featuring **Professor Liz Wilson** of Miami, and, **Dr. Satinder Bharaj**, of the Sikh community, entitled **“Eastern Roads to Peace”**, examining Asian Religions’ Views of peace;

Bill Frelich, from Human Rights Watch, an organization that received the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, will speak on **“Removing Obstacles to Peace”**, on Saturday, March 4;

Yasmine Taeb, Esq., Quaker lobbyist from the Friends Committee on National Legislation will share her experiences of **“Removing Obstacles For Refugees”** on Sunday March 5;

and a panel of a Jewish rabbi, a Moslem Imam and a Protestant clergyman, will contrast **“Abrahamic Religions’ Vision of Peace,”** on Wednesday March 8;

on Tuesday March 7, **Roy Winter, Associate Executive Director, Global Mission and ; Service**, of the Church of the Brethren, will speak about crises in Africa and the Middle East, **“Barriers to Peace”;**

“Experiencing Forgiveness” video on Terri Roberts’ story of Amish community’s forgiveness for the family whose son murdered several young Amish school children, on Thursday, March 9;

and on Friday March 10 we will meet another prominent international leader discussing how we can **“Set a Course”** for peace and safety.



Peace Labyrinth



The Windamere

Come, learn and experience the quest for “Pathways to Peace” in this rich gathering of activities.