



**MCGILL OFFICE
OF RELIGIOUS AND
SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**MULTI
FAITH NETWORK**

Report of MORSL's Spring Multi-Faith Network Meeting -- Tuesday February 1, 2022

Part one: Welcome and introductions

Members present.

1. Godswill Agbofode (ISM)
2. Elisheva Eisenberg (Hillel)
3. Sharon Dwozark (Presbyterian staff)
4. Ariel Pan (NCSS)
5. Rabbi Ellen Greenspan (Jewish staff)
6. Dr. Juss Kaur (Sikh staff)
7. Adriana Cleves (Baha'i staff)
8. Chloe Liu (GCF)
9. Cathy Jarvis (Latter-day Saint staff)
10. Mathew Birgen-MORSL
11. Candice Wendt-MORSL
12. Carlene Gardner- Director, MORSL

Regrets and Absences of reps from

1. SSMU
2. MCGSS
3. MCSS
4. Am McGill
5. Chabad
6. Challah for Hunger
7. Dharma Society
8. Falun Dafa
9. IJV
10. Ismaili
11. MSA
12. McGill Chavurah
13. OCF
14. Quakers
15. St. Martha's
16. Secular Student Alliance (SSA)
17. TMA
18. PGSS
19. P2C
20. IVCF

Part two: Updates

Group updates (highlights and challenges)

1. Presbyterian (A and P) - Sharon Dworzak

- Sharon will soon be replaced in her role by Susan, whom she will introduce to the MFN
- Cancelled programming, virtual services
- Considering gathering outdoors
- Her community is invited to participate in a special event in commemoration of Shoah which is meaningful for them

2. Graduate Christian Fellowship – Chloe Liu

- Friendships are still being forged in online connections despite limitations
- Upcoming challenge once in person again is finding a space

3. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Cathy Jarvis

- Painful shutting down
- Meeting online only

- Cathy is searching for a new LDS volunteer replacement and will update the MFN
4. Baha'i Community – Adriana Cleves
- McGill students and professors in the Baha'i community have been making online meetings fun with engaging conversations: book clubs, spiritual topics
5. Jewish (reform) Community – Rabbi Ellen Greenspan
- Dealing with zoom fatigue
 - Fear of coming back in person also
 - Book club has helped increase participants in online events
 - Her friend and colleague, a deaf Rabbi will speak on Feb. 11th. All are invited; Feb. is Jewish disabilities awareness and inclusion month (JDAIM)
6. Hillel McGill - Elisheva Eisenberg
- Doing less on zoom due to zoom fatigue and disappointment this winter
 - Had one online event, Tu B'Shevat with good turnout
 - Several zoom committees are actively planning future activities
7. Newman Catholic Students' Society - Ariel Pan
- Good news, two new execs joined the leadership team
 - Has been hard to gain new participants until recently
 - Watch parties Friday nights, The Chosen
 - Multi-lingual Rosary events Wed. nights
 - Non-McGill people often attend events, which they welcome
 - Some in-person events planned for the end of Feb.
 - Cook-along series online, this is a spin-off of Sat. night suppers
8. Juss Kaur - Sikh Students
- Streaming online services and Sunday discussions
 - Big challenge is meeting new students
 - Misses meeting people in person
 - Concerns about applying vaccine passport rules to sacred spaces
9. InterVarsity International Student Ministry - Godswill Agbofode
- Café is active again
 - Doing as much as possible in person
12. MORSL-Carlene Gardner.
- MORSL is currently hiring for three positions. The application to these positions will close on February 7th, 2022.
 - Web designer,
 - Communication Assistant: Audio-visual
 - Peer program volunteer.

- There is a Jewish-Christian dialogue event that is open to our MFN members to register and participate. The event seeks to enhance interfaith dialogue. Email rebsherill@outlook.ca to register.
- The McMaster University Interfaith working group is hosting an interview on “Spirituality and activism: A Black Buddhist’s woman’s perspective.”. This event, scheduled for Feb.9th 2022 as part of Black history month, is open to our MFN to attend. [Register online for Zoom link](#)
- MORSL is currently offering 2 series of events: a meaning-making to support students’ personal spiritual development and the “Did you know” series to support religious literacy.
- MORSL is currently sponsoring 12 students to attend Movement chaplaincy training during this semester. This course teaches individuals how to provide spiritual care to those involved in social activism. We plan to offer this experience regularly to cohorts of students.

Part Three: Break-out Room Discussions about Community

Topic: What can MORSL and the MFN do to better build spiritual and interfaith community and connection among students?

Ideas and observations shared:

- Students would enjoy in-person interfaith events, when possible, especially an annual kick-off or wrap up, a bigger event where they can meet different people and celebrate
- Social events with an interfaith element are preferred over educational events, such as listening to a speaker
- Leverage connections with faith clubs to spread social media posts and get more participants
- MORSL has potential to capitalize more on social media connections with people they know
- Social media plays an important role; takes time and effort to maximize use
- We are wired for in-person social interactions, we are not meant to be lone creatures, what we are living now is not natural for us and very hard
- Students would welcome outdoor MORSL gatherings to help in-person be safe
- Reaching out to first year students specifically could be valuable
- Events with food are valued by students, including cooking events that help people celebrate food from different cultures.
- Unstructured social time with new people is valued by students.
- Recurring interfaith events with different faith group leading each week/month etc. e.g. prayer events.
- Leverage on remote access to attend various faith/spiritual services in places of worship.
- Conduct a multi-faith worship event.

Part Four: Break-out Room Discussion about Spiritual Fair Planning

Topic: How might MORSL and the MFN craft a virtual Discover Spiritual McGill Fair this semester?

- Film festival: MORSL can host a film watch party followed by a discussion after, drawing from the film.
- Trivia night quiz and/or myth busting game night.
- Cook-along festival: Morsl in liaison with a faith club, can post a recipe of a particular dish then then participants can cook the food and at the end, the host faith club can discuss the significance of the food in relation to their faith.
- Since the fair will be held remotely, then hosting one event at a time would be better. i.e., Morning, afternoon, evening.
- The idea of having Brian Karwana do a presentation on religious artefacts was also suggested.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 6:30 pm.