



The World's Great Religions

Coordinated by Ed Vernon

January 14 thru February 13
9:30am-12:30pm
Maravilla Clubhouse
5486 Calle Real, Goleta

Session 1, Mon., Jan. 14 Maravilla Clubhouse Hinduism Pravrajika Vrajaprana

Pravrajika Vrajaprana has been a nun in Santa Barbara at the Sarada Convent of the Vedanta Society of Southern California since 1977, taking her final vows of monasticism or sannyasa in 1988.

Vrajaprana is the author of *Vedanta: A Simple Introduction* as well as other books and articles on Hinduism and Vedanta. Vrajaprana is a frequent participant in interfaith gatherings and was the Hindu representative at both the Dalai Lama's 2006 *Gathering of Hearts/Illuminating Compassion* conference as well as the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu's 2008 *Seeds of Compassion* conference. She has presented papers on topics relating to the Hindu traditions at the American Academy of Religion and at the East/West Philosophers' Conference.

Session 1, Mon., Jan. 14 Buddhism Rev. Henry Tōryō Adams

Rev. Adams grew up in Buffalo, Minnesota. He discovered his interest in Asian religions during a one-year high school exchange program in Chennai, India in 1995-1996. As an undergraduate student at St. Olaf College, he began his study of Buddhist scriptures. After receiving an M.A. in Buddhist Studies from the University of Michigan in 2003, he moved to Miyazaki, Japan where he worked for the Miyazaki Prefectural Government from 2004 to 2007. In 2007, Rev. Adams moved to Kyoto, Japan to pursue his ministerial studies at the Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin Buddhist Seminary. Upon graduating from the seminary in March 2010, he began serving the Oxnard Buddhist Temple and Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara on April 1, 2010.

Session 2, Mon., Jan. 21, Maravilla Clubhouse Judaism Rabbi Gross-Schaefer

Professor/Rabbi Arthur Gross-Schaefer, JD, CPA (inactive), MAHL, DD (honoris causa), and Community Shul of Santa Barbara. He is a professor at Loyola Marymount University. Rabbi Arthur, as he is called by his congregation, leads the spiritually based Community Shul of Montecito and Santa Barbara.

Cont.

ENROLLMENT FORM: World's Great Religions

VISTAS Members \$40, Non-members \$60

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Please enroll by January 2, 2013

Please carpool if you can--parking is limited

Session 3, Wed., Jan. 30 • Goleta Library • Christianity • Dr. Charles Farhadian

Session 4, Wed, Feb. 6 • Goleta Library • Islam • Imam Yama Niazi

Imam Yama Niazi was born in Pakistan and emigrated to Santa Barbara with his parents who were rug merchants. Yama was educated in Santa Barbara City schools and has become an Imam (Teacher) after many years of study. He is the spiritual leader to the 1,000 or so Muslims in our area.

Session 5, Wed, Feb. 13 • Maravilla Clbhse • 9:30-12:30 • Nonbeliever • Dr Thomas Mates

Thomas E. Mates, Ph.D. is a materials scientist at the University of California Santa Barbara. After completing his scientific education he began to study the history and public applications of religion. Several of his articles on religion and society have appeared in *The Humanist* and *Free Inquiry* magazines He recently published *A Judeo-Islamic Nation: The Evolution of America's Political Theology* (Mill City Press).

The final session will include discussion with as many presenters attending as possible to answer questions. Perhaps we could try to discover a common thread in the various belief systems. Also, it would be interesting to discuss the similarities and differences in concepts of a higher power.

VISTAS Winter 2013 Calendar

Seminar/Event	Inclusive Dates	Time	Venue
Documentary Club	Thurs, Jan 17	2:00pm	Maravilla Theater
Theater in the Making (5)	Tues, Jan 8	6:30pm	UCSB
World's Great Religions (5)	Mon, Jan 14 thru Feb 13	9:30am-12:30pm	Maravilla & Gol. Lib.
The Shakespeare Debate	Tues, Jan 22	9:30-12:30	Maravilla Theater
Winter Social	Sun, Jan 27	2:00pm-5:00pm	Music Acad of West
Imperial Presidency (4)	Mon, Jan 28 thru Feb 18	1:30-4:30pm	Maravilla Clubhouse
Health Care Ethics-From Paternalism to Autonomy	Tues, Feb 5	1:30-4:30pm	Maravilla Theater
Short Stories (3)	Wed, Feb 20 thru Mar 6	1:30-4:30pm	TBA
The Lady in Gold (5)	Wed, Mar 6, 13, 20, 27	9:30-12:30pm	SB Maritime Mus.
Citizens of London (3)	Mon, Mar 11, 18 & 25	1:30-4:30pm	Goleta Library



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