

## UPCOMING INTERFAITH EVENTS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

**Interfaith Book Club:** Meets from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in Study Room 333 at the Washington County Free Library, downtown Hagerstown. Contact: Gwen Skrabak at 301-797-1603.

- Thursday, January 18 – *When Things Fall Apart: Heart Advice for Difficult Times* by Pema Chodron
- Thursday, March 15 – *Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe* by Greg M. Epstein
- Thursday, May 17 – *The Heart of the Amish: Life Lessons on Peacemaking and the Power of Forgiveness* by Suzanne Woods Fisher

**Interfaith Winter Retreat:** Saturday, February 3 at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center, Sharpsburg. 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. An all-day retreat introducing "*Interfaith Sacred Listening Circles.*" For a number of years Ed Poling has been leading small-group experiences in faith-sharing and meditation. This can be a powerful experience with people of diverse beliefs and practices. Come and be a part of a sacred listening circle that is open to hearing and learning from people who practice their faith differently. We may discover what Thomas Merton said: "*We are already one. But we imagine that we are not. And what we have to recover is our original unity. What we have to be is what we are.*"

**Hagerstown Area Religious Council Luncheon:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 12:30—2:00 pm. "Sibling Rivalry in the Abrahamic Family." Leaders from our Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities will share what their sacred texts have to say about how we are to treat one another. Panel of Rabbi Ari Plost, Imam Syed Burmi, and Rev. Audrey Hollenberg Duffey. Location to be announced.

**Statement of Peace**— In light of the recent escalation in fear and hostility toward people of other religious traditions, the Interfaith Coalition and the Hagerstown Area Religious Council have issued a joint, public statement that encourages persons of faith in our community to use "language that promotes respect and civility and discourages language that demeans others' beliefs or incites violence." We invite all the religious leaders in our community to sign the statement to show our unity and desire to live together peacefully. To download a copy, go to <http://harccoalition.org> and click on "Interfaith". Also a copy is available to sign tonight.

**Yard Signs:** "*No matter where you are from, we are glad you're our neighbor.*" Hagerstown Area Religious Council has 18" x 24" yard signs available to show your support for diversity. The words are displayed also in Spanish and Arabic. Cost is \$13. Contact Kathy Powderly at 301-842-4272 or [Kathy.harc@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.harc@gmail.com) for more information. Signs available tonight.

**Planning Meeting:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018. For those interested in helping to plan interfaith events, we'll be meeting at the home of Ed & Marge Poling, 161 Stanford Road, Hagerstown; 5:30 pm pot luck meal. (Bring a dish to share.) Contact Ed at 301-766-9005.

**Facebook:** "Like" us on our Facebook page: "Interfaith Coalition of Washington County." Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/125909250824944/>

**Webpage:** <http://harccoalition.org/interfaith-coalition/>