

Light, Living, Laughter and Hope

A Special Interfaith Evening of Music and Spoken Word



"I believe that opposites are best when matched, love and power, justice and compassion, faith and doubt, seriousness and play. The Sacred is the "and" that brings those opposites into one harmonious whole." - Sandy Sasso

"I am one of a growing number of people who don't want to put the Sacred in such a small container." - Carrie Newcomer

With Rabbi Sandy Sasso & Carrie Newcomer

Join Rabbi Sandy Sasso and Quaker songwriter Carrie Newcomer for a very special interfaith evening of stories and songs. These creative works will celebrate and honor beloved stories from the Jewish tradition, while affirming the common thread of our shared human experience. Both accomplished artists are highly respected for their work in the interfaith community, and enjoy creating an evening of stories and songs that do not preach, but rather tell the story of the continuing spiritual thread. Sasso's stories for children and adults are rich in personal history and spiritual tradition, they are poignant, powerful and ask all the right questions. Newcomer's songs are thoughtful, poetic, good naturedly humorous and grounded in a tradition of honoring the presence of the sacred in our daily lives. This collaboration of life affirming stories and songs, promises to be an evening to remember.



about the Workshops

Workshops: Carrie and Sandy are both accomplished educators and facilitate several different workshops based upon on to topics of songwriting, creative writing and Midrash.

Midrash as a Tool for Spiritual Reflection: Reading the Bible with Question Marks With Rabbi Sandy Sasso

What would it mean to understand the Bible as a living text that spoke to every generation of readers differently, as it continues to speak to us? Throughout the ages, spiritual seekers allowed the biblical narratives to enter their lives, even as they let their lives enter the narrative. They created an imaginative body of literature, Midrash, to enrich the Biblical text and keep it fresh and vital. In this workshop we will listen to stories of doubt and courage, grace and hope and discover how the human imagination illumines the universal spiritual struggle. We will create a safe space for asking questions and for letting the Bible help us write the untold stories of our lives. The narratives we engage will give us a language to speak our own fears and joys, to name our greatest longing and most fervent hope.

Our Lives As SacredStory: A Creative Exploration Of the Heart and Spirit of Our Experience With Songwriter Carrie Newcomer

Carrie Newcomer invites participants to explore and honor the depth, grace and wonder of personal journey and story. This workshop will use song, conversation, creative writing, group and individual experience designed to explore our stories with a spiritual lens. For Carrie, a practicing Quaker, there is no line between the sacred and ordinary. In this workshop we will honor the spiritual road each participant has traveled. Experiences will include individual and small and large group work. This workshop has been developed to be very safe, nurturing and encouraging. It welcomes all, including those who have previous songwriting or creative writing experience as well as those who are interested in exploring new ways to tell their own personal and spiritual story.



Midrash and Song as Tools for Spiritual Reflection: A Creative Exploration of Sacred Text With Rabbi Sandy Sasso and Songwriter Carrie Newcomer

Rabbi Sandy Sasso and Quaker songwriter, Carrie Newcomer invite participants to join them as they combine their workshops to create story and song. No previous musical or writing experience is needed. The workshop is open to all who are interested in the process of Midrash and moving story into creative expression.

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about the Artists

Rabbi Sandy Sasso has been the rabbi of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis since 1977. She is active in the arts, civic affairs, and interfaith communities, and has written and lectured on women and spirituality and the religious imagination in children. She was the first woman ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, received a Doctorate of Ministry from ChristianTheological Seminary in Indianapolis, and holds several honorary doctorates. She has been recognized for her outstanding contribution to children's literature by the Church and Synagogue Library Association. Her books, including 'God's Paintbrush', have won many national awards. "The Shema in the Mezuzah" won the National Jewish Book Award for the best illustrated children's book of 2012. *Moment Magazine* said of her writing – "Simple and meaningful...engages and encourages the spiritual yearning of readers, young and old." Sasso is the author of several works on midrash and spirituality, including "Midrash- Reading the Bible with Question Marks". Rabbi Sasso has been a honored as one of the "influential Women in Indiana" by the Indianapolis Business Journal and was featured as among "Indy's Most Influential Clergy" by Nuvo News Weekly. She writes a monthly column in The Indianapolis Star and teaches Judaism, Midrash and Creative Writing at Butler Univ.



Carrie Newcomer is a Grammy winning songwriter, recording artist, performer and educator. In recent years she has become a prominent voice for progressive spirituality, social justice and interfaith dialogue. Her ability for sharp observation of the world lead the Dallas Morning News to rave, "She's the kind of artist whose music makes you stop, think and then say, 'that is so true'." In 2012 Carrie released her 13th album on Rounder Records, *Kindred Spirits* with prior albums including the critically acclaimed *The Geography of Light*, *The Gathering of Spirits*, and *Before and After*. She has toured with Alison Krauss Europe and the U.S. Nickel Creek recorded Newcomer's song "I Should've Known Better", on their Grammy-winning album *This Side*. She was listed as one of "The 50 most influential folk musicians of the past 50 years" by Chicago's WFMT. In the fall of 2009 and 2011 Newcomer was a cultural ambassador to India invited by the American Embassy of India to tour the country performing for Indian audiences and visiting community services organizations. In October 2011 she released her interfaith collaborative benefit album *Everything is Everywhere* with world master of the Indian Sarod, Amjad Ali Khan. In June 2012 Carrie Newcomer traveled to Kenya, Africa performing in schools, hospitals, spiritual community and AIDS clinics. Carrie internationally facilitates workshops and presents keynotes on the topics of songwriting, spirituality and vocation. In 2011 and 2012 Carrie joined Parker J. Palmer in events based on his book *Healing the Heart of Democracy*.



Gary Walters, pianist

Gary Walters joins this collaboration and provides a beautiful musical thread to the evening. Gary is a performing and recording musician, composer, arranger and educator. He has been touring and recording with Carrie Newcomer for over five years. He is a member of the faculty at Butler University, teaching applied Jazz Piano as well as directing several jazz combos. In April 2010, Gary released his first recording, "Moments in Time."