

Information about the South West inter Faith Team

SWIFT, South West InterfaithTeam, recently held one of its most successful Speakers Forum at one of Orland's own - the Prayer Center of Orland Park (PCOP). The PCOP has hosted several SWIFT events, besides playing host to a steady stream of church groups, grade-school & high-school groups, college groups and various civic groups over the years.

SWIFT has previously presented programs with themes of "Our Concept of God", "What is Our Common Ground", "Abraham", "Our Holy Scriptures", "Prophets and Prophethood" and several others at various places of worship - aiming to educate each other about the differences and similarities amongst the 3 religions. For this particular event, SWIFT invited three scholars -- each an expert in their own religion -- to speak to the theme of the "Afterlife According to Our Faiths". The three speakers took turns in presenting their faith's perspective on the subject.

Besides arranging these lecture-type Speaker Forums, SWIFT also arranges programs that are open to its member organizations, such as an annual family-focused picnic and also Interfaith Dinners for more social and personal interaction. It participates in informational awareness events such as St Xavier's Interfaith Expo, American Islamic Association Community Fair and the Discover Tinley Expo. SWIFT also partners with such service organizations as Habitat for Humanity, Greater Chicago Food Depository, PADS and Respond Now to allow members to work together on community service projects. SWIFT basically provides something for everyone in whichever capacity they are comfortable. It is SWIFT policy to not discuss politics at its events and also to not allow anyone to try to convert anyone to their set of beliefs or religion.

Member organizations include: American Islamic Association (Frankfort), B'nai Yehuda Beth Sholom (Homewood), Faith United Methodist Church (Orland Park), Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart (Frankfort), Homewood United Methodist Church, Prayer Center of Orland Park Mosque, St Michaels Catholic Church (Orland Park), St Peters United Church of Christ (Frankfort), St. Stephens Catholic Church (Tinley Park) and Temple Anshe Sholom (Olympia Fields).

For more information on SWIFT and its activities, please visit www.SWIFTinterfaith.org.