

# 'Faith in a City' Community Concert at the Armory

The Somerville Museum presents its second Faith in a City Community Concert on Saturday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m. at The Center for the Arts at the Armory, 191 Highland Avenue, Somerville. Tickets are \$5, members of the Somerville Museum and participating congregations are free. All are welcome, including families.

Faith in a City is a project exploring religion in Somerville through music, photography, video, interviews and history as a way of better understanding our community. The focus is how religion is meaningful to people across the city.

Religious music and recitation abound in Somerville's places of worship, but congregation mem-

bers are often the only people who get to experience them. As a part of the Faith in a City project, the Somerville Museum is presenting community concerts, providing an opportunity to hear some of the city's religious music and recitation.

The December 7 concert will feature five performances:

- Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz and members of the congregation of Temple B'nai Brith
- St. Benedict Parish Girls' Choir, Mayra Lemus, Choir Director
- Mission Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ Gospel Choir, Franklin Wright, Music Director; Dennis Wright, Choir Director
- Recitation by Keyzom Bhutti, Buddhist



ti, Buddhist

• Imam Mohamed Nabil, Islamic Society of Boston

About the program:

Rabbi Eliana Jacobowitz and members of the congregation of Temple B'nai Brith will perform a selection of songs. Temple B'nai Brith began as Somerville's Hebrew Educational Society, founded in 1904 by immigrants from Eastern Europe. The congregation purchased property in Winter Hill in 1915, and the temple's Byzantine Revival building was completed by the mid-1920's. Israeli-born Rabbi Eliana says, "One of the things I love most about this congregation is that on one hand, it has deep connections to traditional forms of Judaism, and on the other hand it is progressive and very much connected to the wider community. That to me is the essence of Judaism today. It is a Judaism that is a continuation of our ancient traditions, but that also evolves."

The concert also includes music performed by St. Benedict Church Girls' Choir, directed by Mayra Lemus. Established in 1911, St. Benedict is a Catholic parish in East Somerville. In 1991, the church began offering Mass in Spanish. "They were so open-hearted and kind to the Spanish [speaking] community that worshipped here," says one longtime member of the congregation. Today, the Sunday Spanish language Mass is the church's most attended Sunday Mass.

The concert also features a performance by the Mission Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ Gospel Choir, directed by Dennis Wright, with Franklin Wright, Music Director. Mission Church is a Pentecostal congregation founded in 1974

by Bishop Henry A. Moultrie, II and Church Mother DyAnne E. Moultrie. The congregation purchased its church in Somerville in 1976. Church volunteers organize a monthly Shepherd's Kitchen food pantry, serving hundreds of people from Somerville and beyond.

The concert will also present prayer and recitation by Keyzom Bhutti. Born in eastern Tibet, Keyzom Bhutti apprenticed with Dr. Tensin Chodrak, the Dalai Lama's senior personal physician, and traveled with him to Europe and the United States. She moved to Massachusetts in 1998. Bhutti converted the garage of her Somerville home into a Buddhist prayer room, where she prays each morning beginning at 3:30 a.m. When asked to summarize her beliefs, Bhutti says, "We are here for not more than 100 years. We are visitors. We are not permanent. We are all interconnected, so collect virtue and help each other."

Finally, the concert includes recitation by the Islamic Society of Boston's Imam Mohamed Nabil. The Islamic Society of Boston (ISB) in Cambridge started in the early 1980's as an association of Muslim student groups from Boston area univer-

sities. As the students graduated and became professionals, some hoped to start a mosque of their own. In 1993, the Knights of Columbus Hall in Cambridge came up for sale, and the group was able to purchase the building. Imam Mohamed Nabil says that for him, the Quran, the central religious text of Islam, is like a friend. "When I have a problem in my life, I keep reading, and I find a solution or some idea that relates to my problem. When I am feeling down, I go to the Quran and I keep reading ... until I feel OK again."

The December 7 Faith in a City concert will also feature photography by Massachusetts Cultural Council Photography Fellowship Finalist and Somerville Arts Council Board Member Yorgos Efthymiadis with support from Mass Humanities.

Everyone is Welcome. The reduced ticket price for the event is thanks to The Boston Foundation's Live Arts Boston grant program. The concert is produced by Mayra Lemus, Franklin Wright, Rabbi Eliana, Imam Nabil, Keyzom Bhutti and Charan Devereaux for the Somerville Museum. Special thanks to Q Division Studios, Joel Edinberg, Claire Goh and Michael Healey.



Ms. Cam's

# Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#708

1. In what sport will you hear the term "tomato can"?
2. In what movie did Humphrey Bogart play Charlie Allnut?
3. Where would you find the semicircular canals?
4. In *Game of Thrones*, what is the translation of the term "valar dohaeris"?
5. What was the first desegregated hotel casino in Las Vegas?
6. What is the tallest structure in Las Vegas?
7. Tom Joad is a character in which John Steinbeck novel?
8. What is the first astrological sign in the zodiac?
9. What is the name of George Bailey's guardian angel in the film *It's a Wonderful Life*?
10. What date is associated with The Ides of March?
11. What is the main ingredient of Mince Meat Pie?
12. What is the official state pie of Florida?

Answers on page 23

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