

Center for Religious Tolerance

Religion as a Force for Peace

Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) of Sarasota-Bradenton

The Women's Interfaith Network (WIN) of Sarasota-Bradenton completed its second year in December, 2009. Members currently represent Judaism, several forms of Christianity, Islam, Quakerism, Buddhism and Humanism as well as indigenous and spiritual traditions. WIN's mission is to work towards harmony and cooperation across religious, racial, ethnic, cultural and national boundaries. All events are open to the public.

Activities in 2009 included Common Ground luncheons providing an opportunity to learn about each others' religions, interfaith Passover Seders held at members' houses, a visit to a local mosque, and an interfaith celebration of Grandparents' Day at The Pines Nursing Home, co-hosted by the Sarasota Sailors' Circus.



WIN Celebrates Grandparents' Day at the Pines

Quotes from participants:

- "I loved the diversity in our group and am surprised at how much I learned."
- "I had never heard of the Wiccan religion. It pleased me to learn how the earth and seasonal cycles are celebrated. I can now dispel the idea that Wiccans are devil worshippers."
- "I gained a completely new perspective on Muslims and how their customs vary in different countries."
- "It was comforting to hear other women expressing doubts about their own religious teachings."
- "I made friends with people I'd never have known and am richer for it."

Activities being planned for 2010 include:

- Expansion of the Common Ground program to include dinners as well as lunches
- A film fest at the North County Library featuring films from the Middle East, Europe and America followed by discussion
- A book discussion club at the Women's Resource Center

For further information, contact one of the WIN co-chairs:

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