

THE CHURCH FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF ALL PEOPLES

Presents the

13th Annual Howard Thurman Convocation



Speaker: Chaplain James Yee

Former US Army Muslim Chaplain at Guantánamo Bay

Topic: Faith in a Time of Crisis

Dr. Carl Blake, pianist

Mr. Julian Levant, tenor

October 19, 2008, 3:00 p.m.

2041 LARKIN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

Phone: (415) 776-4910 Email: info@fellowshipsf.org

www.fellowshipsf.org

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDING MINISTER

Dear Members and Friends:

Each year, The Church for The Fellowship of All Peoples celebrates its anniversary by convening the Howard Thurman Convocation. It is a special time for us to remember those visionary and courageous individuals who made real the idea of an inclusive religious organism dedicated to the search for common ground among all the peoples of the world.

The church was born in a time of great external and internal crisis, symbolized by World War II and the systemic racial divide. In October 1944, the church came into being, a year before the creation of the United Nations.

Dr. Howard Thurman, co-founding minister, narrates the beginning of our church in the wonderful book, *Footprints of a Dream*. In it he states the following:

"The movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of men often calls them to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate the spirit which is yet in the making. In a moment of dedication, they are given wisdom and courage to dare a deed that challenges and to kindle a hope that inspires."

While commemorating our legacy, the convocation also calls us forward to address the challenges of our day, this day. It demands that we re-commit our resources – personal, institutional, systemic – to promote with renewed vigor our commitment to transforming the barriers that undercut our common humanity and, therefore, divinity.

We are honored to have as our speaker for this year's convocation, our 13th, Chaplain James Yee. While serving as chaplain at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, Chaplain Yee objected to the cruel and degrading abuses to which Muslim "detainees" were subjected. For his honesty and integrity he was arrested and imprisoned for seventy-six days, being falsely accused of spying, espionage, and aiding the alleged Taliban and Al-Qaeda prisoners.

How does one keep hope and faith alive under such circumstances? What "tools of the spirit" attended his sojourn, giving a hint of triumph? Chaplain Yee will share his journey in his keynote address: "Faith in a Time of Crisis."

Chaplain Yee will also receive the Howard Thurman Award. The award is given annually to an individual or persons, embodying the life and legacy of Dr. Thurman, search for common ground.

We are also blessed to have music provided by two extraordinary musicians, Dr. Carl Blake and Mr. Julian Levant.

Become a part of the "movement of the ennobling Spirit" by joining us each Sunday morning as we re-kindle our dedication to embodying a more compassionate world.

In Faith,

Dr. Dorsey Odell Blake
Presiding Minister

BIOGRAPHIES

CHAPLAIN JAMES J. YEE - Captain Yee is a former US Army Chaplain and graduate of West Point who served as the Muslim Chaplain for the U.S. prison camp in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba that became controversial for its treatment of detainees designated as "enemy combatants" by the U.S. government. While ministering to prisoners at Guantánamo Bay, Captain Yee objected to the cruel and degrading abuses to which the prisoners were subjected. This outspokenness led to his arrest and imprisonment, while being falsely accused of spying and espionage. After months of government investigation, all criminal charges were dropped. With his record wiped clean, Chaplain Yee resigned from the U.S. Army receiving an Honorable Discharge and was later awarded a second Army Commendation Medal for "exceptionally meritorious service."

Chaplain Yee's gripping account of his Guantánamo experience and struggle for justice has been recently published and is entitled *For God And Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire*. The Washington Post called it "required reading for all U.S. officials waging war on Islamic terrorists."

DR. CARL LeROY BLAKE, pianist - Carl Blake holds three degrees in piano performance: the Bachelor of Music (*magna cum laude*) from Boston University, the Master of Arts from San Jose State University, and the Doctor of Musical Arts from Cornell University. He is the first recipient of the Marian Anderson Young Artist Award (presented by Ms. Anderson herself) that led to a year of private study with Pierre Sancan of the Paris Conservatory of Music.

Dr. Blake is a concert artist who has received international critical acclaim. He has performed three times in Carnegie Recital Hall, once in Wigmore Hall in London and has traveled as an Artistic Ambassador for the U.S. Department of State to countries in the Caribbean Islands, Central and South America and Mexico.

Blake is the recipient of two Fulbright Scholar Awards to teach and perform in Honduras, Central America. Currently he is piano instructor at Oakland School for the Arts.

JULIAN LEVANT, tenor - Julian Levant is one of the Bay Area's most beloved musicians. He has received international acclaim for his magnificent voice and artistry. An environmental health systems analyst, Mr. Levant holds a Master of Music Degree, San Francisco Conservatory and Master of Business Administration Degree, Ashford University.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Dr. Dorsey Blake, Presiding Minister
Rev. Kathryn Benton, Assistant Minister
Ms. Monica Cross, Ministerial Intern
Dr. Carl Blake, Pianist
Mr. Julian Levant, Soloist

Prelude	This Little Light of Mine (C. Taylor)	Dr. Carl Blake
Call to Assembly		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Opening Music	# 151 "I Wish I Knew How"	Congregation
Invocation		Rev. Kathryn Benton
Welcome & Acknowledgements		Gayle Orr-Smith
Music	Climb Every Mountain (Rodgers/Hammerstein) He's Got the Whole World in His Hand (M. Bond)	Mr. Julian Levant
Introduction of Speaker		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Music	Andante Espressivo (J. Brahms)	Dr. Carl Blake
Keynote Presentation		Chaplain James Yee
Offertory	# 348 "Guide My Feet"	Rev. Kathryn Benton
Music	Steal Away (Traditional) Zion's Walls (A. Copland)	Mr. Julian Levant
Recognition of Howard Thurman Award Recipient:		Mike Brown, Clara Allen, Glenn Nance, Chaplain James Yee
Remarks		Dr. Dorsey Blake
Sending Forth Music	#119 "Once to Every Soul & Nation"	Congregation
Blessing		Monica Cross
Postlude	Jesus, Take My Hand (C. Taylor)	Dr. Carl Blake

#151 "I Wish I Knew How"

I wish I know how it would feel to be free.
I wish I could break all these chains holding me.
I wish I could say all the things I could say,
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole world to hear.
Say 'em loud, say 'em clear for the whole world to hear.

I wish I could share all the love in my heart,
remove all the bars that still keep us apart.
I wish you could know what it means to be me,
Then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.
Then you'd see and agree everyone should be free.

I wish I could give all I'm longing to give.
I wish I could live like I'm longing to live.
I wish I could do all the things I can do,
though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.
Though I'm way overdue I'd be starting anew.

I wish I could be like a bird in the sky.
How sweet it would be if I found I could fly.
I'd soar to the sun and look down at the sea,
then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.
Then I'd sing 'cause I'd know how it feels to be free.

#348 "Guide My Feet"

Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
For I don't want to run this race in vain!

119 "Once to Every Soul and Nation"

Once to every soul and nation comes the moment to decide,
in the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good or evil side:
then to stand with truth is noble, when we share its wretched crust;
ere that cause bring fame and profit, and 'tis prosperous to be just.

Though the cause of evil prosper, yet 'tis truth alone is strong;
though its portion be the scaffold, and upon the throne be wrong.
Then it is the brave one chooses, while the coward stands aside,
till the multitude make virtue of the faith they have denied.

LIFE'S WORKING PAPER

For every man there is a necessity to establish as securely as possible the line along which he proposes to live his life. In developing his life's working paper, he must take into account many factors, in his reaction to which he may seem to throw them out of line with their true significance. As a man, he did not happen. He was born, he has a name, he has forebears, he is the product of a particular culture, he has a mother tongue, he belongs to a nation, and he is born into some kind of faith. In addition to all of these, he exists, in some curious way, as a person independent of all other facts. There is an intensely private world, all his own; it is intimate, exclusive, sealed.

The life working paper of the individual is made up of a creative synthesis of what the man is in all his parts and how he reacts to the living processes. It is wide of the mark to say that a man's working paper is ever wrong; it may not be fruitful, it may be negative, but it is never wrong. For such a judgment would imply that the synthesis is guaranteed to be a certain kind, of a specific character, resulting in a foreordained end. It can never be determined just what a man will fashion.

Two men may be born of the same parents, grow up in the same environment, be steeped in the same culture, and inspired by the same faith. Close or even cursory observation may reveal that each has fashioned a life working paper so unique that different roads are taken, and each day the two men grow farther apart. Or it may be that they move along precisely parallel lines that never meet.

Always, then, there is the miracle of the working paper. Whenever there appears in human history a personality whose story is available and whose reach extends far in all directions, the question of his working paper is as critical as is the significance of his life. We want to know what were the lines along which he decided to live his life. How did he relate himself to the central issues of his time? What were the questions which he had to answer? Was he under some necessity to give a universal character to his most private experience?

Source: Howard Thurman, The Mood of Christmas (Indiana: Friends United Press, 1973) 71.

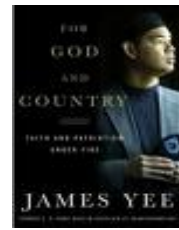
WE WANT YOU TO KNOW

Sister Bernie Galvin, cdp, will receive the Howard Thurman Award during the November 16, 11:00 AM service at The Church for The Fellowship of All Peoples. Currently on sabbatical, Sister Bernie founded and directed the work of Religious Witness with Homeless People for 15 years.

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2008

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY FAITH AND PARTIOTISM UNDER FIRE

James Yee, Former US Army Muslim Chaplain at
Guantánamo Bay, with Aimee Molloy



What do you believe in?

James Yee believed in God and America and one of those got him thrown in jail.

In 2001, Captain James "Yusuf" Yee was commissioned as one of the first Muslim chaplains in the United States Army. After the tragic attacks of September 11, 2001, he became a frequent government spokesman, helping to educate soldiers about Islam and build understanding throughout the military. Subsequently, Chaplain Yee was selected to serve as the Muslim Chaplain at Guantánamo Bay, where nearly 700 detainees captured in the war on terror were being held as "unlawful combatants."

In September 2003, after serving at Guantánamo for ten months in a role that gave him unrestricted access to the detainees--and after receiving numerous awards for his service there--Chaplain Yee was secretly arrested on his way to meet his wife and daughter for a routine two-week leave. He was locked away in a navy prison, subject to much of the same treatment that had been imposed on the Guantánamo detainees. Wrongfully accused of spying, and aiding the Taliban and Al Qaeda, Yee spent 76 excruciating days in solitary confinement and was threatened with the death penalty.

After the U.S. government determined it had made a grave mistake in its original allegations, it vindictively charged him with adultery and computer pornography. In the end all criminal charges were dropped and Chaplain Yee's record wiped clean. But his reputation was tarnished, and what has been a promising military career was left in ruins.

Depicting a journey of faith and service, Chaplain Yee's *For God and Country* is the story of a pioneering officer in the U.S. Army, who became a victim of the post-September 11 paranoia that gripped a starkly fearful nation. And it poses a fundamental question: If our country cannot be loyal to even the most patriotic Americans, can it remain loyal to itself?

James Yee, a third-generation Chinese-American and a 1990 graduate of West Point, served in the U.S. Army for 14 years, including a tour in Saudi Arabia during the aftermath of the first Gulf War. His spiritual conversion to Islam in 1991 guided his travels to Damascus, Syria, where he studied for four years. He twice traveled to Mecca to make the Haj, the sacred Muslim pilgrimage

Source: <http://www.publicaffairsbooks.com/publicaffairsbooks-cgi-bin/display?book=1586483692>

Save the Date: Howard Thurman Center Forum
December 7, 2008, 3:00 pm: Here at Fellowship Church in Thurman Hall
Speaker: Susan Collin Marks

Susan Collin Marks is Senior Vice President of Search for Common Ground and a South African who served as a peacemaker and peace builder under the auspices of the National Peace Accord during South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy.

SPONSORS

Act Against Torture	Howard Thurman Center for Spirituality and Social Justice
American Friends Service Committee	Religious Witness with Homeless People
Asian Pacific Bar Association	Asian Americans for Peace & Justice
Center for Islamic Studies	Muslim Community Association
Code Pink	National Lawyers Guild Bay Area
Iraq Moratorium Campaign	Sonoma County Network for Spiritual Activists
Iraq Veterans Against the War- North Bay Chapter	Sonoma Peace & Justice Center
Islamic Society of Santa Rosa	Starr King School for the Ministry
Joseph Samudio-Vietnam Vet	Unitarian Universalist Church-Berkeley
Santa Rosa Vets for Peace/Chapter 71	United for Peace and Justice-Bay Area
The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples	University of San Francisco

“Hate is another of the hounds of hell that dog the footsteps of the disinherited in season and out of season. During times of war hatred becomes quite reasonable, even though it has to masquerade often under the guise of patriotism.”

*Dr. Howard Thurman, **Jesus and the Disinherited***

The guiding spirit of Fellowship Church is expressed in our statement of commitment:

I affirm my need for a growing understanding of all peoples as children of God, and I seek after a vital experience of God as revealed in Jesus of Nazareth and other great religious spirits whose fellowship with God was the foundation of their fellowship with all people.

I desire to share in the spiritual growth and ethical awareness of people of varied national, cultural, racial, and creedal heritage united in a religious fellowship.

I desire the strength of corporate worship through membership in The Church for The Fellowship of All Peoples, with the imperative of personal dedication to the working out of God’s purposes here and in all places.