Religious Traditions in the Pursuit of Justice

THREE RABBI PANEL: JEWS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm
in the Stern Center Ballroom (4th Floor)

What does God require of you? Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk modestly with your God – Micah Ch.6: v.8

The Three Rabbi Panel is one of the proudest accomplishments of Jewish Studies as it showcases the unity of the Charleston community and the importance of dialogue or, as in our case, trialogue. Now in its sixteenth year, with a new generation of rabbis, the Three Rabbi Panels have helped create a cohesive, welcoming, and open Jewish community. This fall we are collaborating with the Christian Jewish Council of Greater Charleston on two panel discussions, together exploring six different responses to the Bible’s call to pursue justice. Opening the discussion to the Christian community highlights the virtues of religious cooperation and acceptance, an important feature of Charleston’s and South Carolina’s long history of religious tolerance.

This semester we challenge some of our community’s spiritual leaders to speak with candor about their denomination’s interpretation of justice and what law and tradition dictate about justice’s scope. What is justice and what does it require of us – action or belief, or both? Are charity and justice one and the same? Is there a relationship between belief in a Judeo-Christian God and the requirement to pursue justice? What is our obligation to others, both inside and outside of our own faith community? Should justice be the overarching principle in some of the controversial issues of our time: gay rights, poverty, and immigration?

Attendance at the mirrored panels is an opportunity for all of us to increase our knowledge-base, highlight the universal value of justice, and acknowledge important differences in its application.

A hearty thank you to the panelists for participating and to our moderators, Dr. Martin Perlmutter and Dr. James R. Sawers.

THREE CLERGY PANEL: CHRISTIANS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 7:00 pm
in the Stern Center Ballroom (4th Floor)

Sponsored by the Christian-Jewish Council of Greater Charleston

Both panels are presented by the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston and are co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston.