

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Allentown, PA
Permit No. 759

2009 Fall Minicourse

THE BIG BANG THE BIBLE AND BEYOND

Presenters:

Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Gerard
Rev. Dr. Walter Wagner

**A Series of
Four Monday Evenings**

October 19, 26

November 2, 9

7:00 to 9:00p

Seegers Union, Room 111
Muhlenberg College Campus
2400 Chew St, Allentown PA



INSTITUTE FOR
JEWISH-CHRISTIAN
UNDERSTANDING
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

The Big Bang The Bible And Beyond

The Big Bang is about more than the origin of the world. Since ancient times controversy and creation have gone together. And creation and commitment belong together, too. Contemporary debates over Intelligent Design vs. Punctuated Evolution may have less to do with fossils than with attitudes toward who humans are, what we are to do in this world, how we are to live with one another, and where the world is headed. Accounts in biblical texts that both Jews and Christians read provide perspectives, warnings, encouragements, and opportunities that may bring light and hope out of the Bang.

Through centering on key passages in the Jewish Bible/Old Testament, our presenters will explore the passages in historical contexts, how Christians and Jews have understood them, and what they may continue to mean for us today. Differences and convergences will emerge as we discuss issues such as order and freedom, relations between men and women, sin and forgiveness, healing and renewal.

INSTITUTE FOR
JEWISH-CHRISTIAN
UNDERSTANDING
MUHLENBERG COLLEGE
2400 CHEW STREET, ALLENTOWN PA 18104



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Presenters

Rabbi Jonathan Gerard is a Reform rabbi with a doctorate in psychology from Andover Newton Theological School. He has served congregations in Texas, New York, New England, and Pennsylvania, and maintains a practice in family systems therapy. Since retiring from Easton's Temple Covenant of Peace in 2007, he has been a prison chaplain, teacher of Judaica and ESL, and editorial writer for the Morning Call. He has been a board member of ProJeCt and the Children's Home of Easton, past president of the greater Philadelphia region of Reform rabbis, and on the executive board of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Jonathan is married to Muhlenberg College faculty member Dr. Pearl Rosenberg and has three grown children.

Rev. Walter Wagner is a Lutheran pastor who has served congregations in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. With a Ph.D. from Drew University in biblical studies and church history, he has been on the faculties of California Lutheran University and Upsala and Muhlenberg Colleges. He currently is adjunct faculty at Moravian College and Theological Seminary and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Dr. Wagner has been active in ecumenical and inter-religious work since 1961, including involvement in the formation of the IJCU in the 1980s and current leadership at the Lehigh Dialogue Center. His latest book is the award-winning *Opening the Qur'an: Introducing Islam's Holy Book* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2008). He and the Rev. Deborah Wagner live in Bethlehem. Deborah is the interim pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Allentown and they are the parents of one son.

THE BIG BANG THE BIBLE AND BEYOND

Course Schedule

October 19: In the Beginning

October 26: In and Out of the Garden

November 2: Lady Wisdom's Cosmic House

November 9: Psalmists and Prophets: Challenges and our Responses



Please leave ample time to locate on-street parking.

IJCU members may use a \$5 program discount coupon with their registration.

Make check payable to: **IJCU of Muhlenberg College**
2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA 18104; 484-664-3470; 484-664-5627

Name _____

Address _____

Congregation/Masjid _____

E-mail _____ Telephone _____

Check enclosed for \$65 or \$60 with Program Discount Coupon (PDC).

CEU credit requested (*8 contact hours*); total \$70 or \$65 with PDC enclosed.