

BR federation's events promote peace

BY WILLIAM TAYLOR

Assistant People editor

While recent religious news around the globe has been of violence and strife, the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge is promoting a fall calendar of events focused on peace.



McCullough-Bade

"With all the strife, we really need an emphasis on peace," said the Rev. Robin McCullough-Bade, foundation executive director.

From a youth-led worship service to women of various faiths sharing their stories to a visiting composer who plans to write new music based on dialogue in Baton Rouge, peace will be a recurring theme, she said.

World Peace Day

The Interfaith Federation Youth Alliance will lead an interfaith World Peace Day service from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday in the Senate Chamber of the State Capitol Building, 900 N. Third St., in Baton Rouge.

The service with speakers, student displays and multicultural entertainment will mark the opening of Children Are the Future, an exhibit that will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Oct. 14.

The exhibit was created by Soka Gakkai International-USA, a partner of the United Nations, and the Buddhist Association for Peace, Culture



Advocate file photo by **BRENDEN NEVILLE**

Dancer Andrea Torres, 15, of the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts, performs during a World Peace Day event last year at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

and Education. Its aim is to illustrate The Convention of the Rights of the Child as adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1989 and to promote dialogue about the rights of children.

Monday is World Peace Day in Louisiana as declared by legislative resolution and gubernatorial proclamation; people are encouraged to pause at 10:01 a.m. to pray for peace.

Interfaith storytelling

Christian, Jewish and Muslim women will play the roles of key women from their traditions during A Night of Interfaith Storytelling: Women of Scripture, scheduled for 7

p.m. Monday in the Conference Center at First United Methodist Church, 930 North Blvd., in Baton Rouge.

The event is scheduled as part of "Women! A Week-long Celebration" presented by the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge and costs \$10.

Participants listed on the program include:

- Nancy Heck as Miriam, who crosses the Red Sea with her brothers Moses and Aaron and gives glory to God for giving freedom to her people. (Exodus 15:20-21)

- Alina Gardner as Esther, who plays a key role in delivering the Jews from a most cer-



Advocate file photo by **RICHARD ALAN HANNON**

Karl Piper, left, Rich Zietlow, Trent James and Everett Parker sing during the 2011 Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Community Prayer Breakfast at Boudreaux's.

tain death by the Persians.

- Ava Leavell Haymon as Mary, who found out she was going to give birth to Jesus and sang a song of praise.

- Celia Vine as Miriam, who at the end of her life is anguished because of the actions of her brother Moses.

- Niloufer Mohamed as Hagar, who gives birth to Abraham's first son, Ishmael, but is later banished with her son after the birth of Isaac to Sara and left to depend on God's protection.

- Shundra Hayes Muhammad as Khadijah, a businesswoman who becomes the wife of the Prophet Muhammad and the

first person to accept Islam, believing in her husband and his message.

■ McCullough-Bade as Mary Magdalene, a woman, set free of seven demons, who goes on to witness the crucifixion and burial of Jesus and to become the first one sent to tell others about the empty tomb.

Musical prayer breakfast

This year's Community Prayer Breakfast, sponsored annually by the federation, will feature Robert Kyr, an American composer, writer and filmmaker who has created 12 symphonies, three chamber symphonies and a wide range

of works for vocal ensembles of all types.

The breakfast is scheduled for 7 a.m. Oct. 25 at Boudreaux's, 2647 Government St. in Baton Rouge. The cost is \$20 with tickets available at the federation office, 3112 Convention St., in Baton Rouge. Call (225) 267-5600.

McCullough-Bade describes Kyr as "a peacemaker who understands the power of music to wage peace, provide healing and bring people together." She said the composer's visit would begin a dialogue/lyric writing process.

"We are going to have a lot of conversations and dialogues starting with the prayer breakfast itself and continuing on through November, speaking about what it means to wage peace in our personal lives as well as the community," she said.

Words expressed during those events will become the lyrics for an original 20- to 25-minute composition by Kyr. That composition will be premiered in Baton Rouge next year, hopefully at the federation's annual Sounds of Community concert with a choir, two vocalists and a small number of instrumentalists, McCullough-Bade said.

"It's quite ambitious to have the world premiere of this composition in Baton Rouge, but so is waging peace," she said.

► **ON THE INTERNET:**
<http://www.ifedgbr.com>