

**From Compassion to Courage; From
Welcome to Witness: A Gathering to
Share a Meal and our Thoughts**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017
Wolfville Farmers' Market**



The members of WAICC, the Wolfville and Area InterChurch Council, welcome everyone to this community gathering.

The past few months have been increasingly filled with voices that polarize and isolate, encouraging anxiety and mistrust, fostering fear of “others”.

In this anxious and confusing time, the Wolfville and Area Inter Church Council is offering a space for people from all backgrounds to gather, share a meal, hear voices asking questions that are on many hearts, and discuss ways we can come together and stay together.

Our speakers will briefly address the following topics:

- ☞ **Anna Robbins:** How people of faith or goodwill can respond and find or make meaning in the midst of this situation; how we can understand and practice empathy and compassion
- ☞ **Andrew Biro:** Understanding the use of fear and scarcity to build political power; the dangers of the use of media and language in the current climate
- ☞ **Robin McGee:** The heightened anxiety of our times, and the impact of it on our psyches and well-being and how we live with one another
- ☞ **Suzanne Handley:** How we, as individuals and as a community, can respond to acts of violence and terrorism, such as the shootings in the mosque in Quebec City

Suzanne Handley is a teacher and writer who lives with her family on a farm in Berwick. She teaches grade 7, 8, and 9 Social Studies and French. Suzanne also writes novels, two of which have been published, with a third currently in the works. All her books deal with questions of faith, identity, and self-knowledge. Suzanne has been a part of the Wolfville Muslim community since 2004.

Andrew Biro is a professor and head of the Politics department at Acadia University. He is also affiliated with Acadia’s graduate program in Social and Political Thought, and the undergraduate program in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. His research and teaching interests are in the areas of environmental politics, critical theory, political economy, and politics and the media.

Robin McGee is a Registered Clinical Psychologist, mother, wife, educator and friend. Living in Port Williams, Nova Scotia, she has been a dedicated clinician in health and education settings for over 25 years. She has worked in public mental health services, is currently a consultant with the AVRSB, and has a small private practice. She is a recipient of the IWK Award for Outstanding Practice in Clinical Psychology.

Anna Robbins serves as Associate Professor of Theology, Culture and Ethics, and as Vice-President of Acadia Divinity College in Wolfville. In 2000, she was appointed to the faculty of the London School of Theology, teaching theology and contemporary culture and was involved, as theological consultant, with several organizations in the UK, including Theos, Christians in Politics, Tearfund, and the Evangelical Alliance. Anna speaks and writes widely, with a passion to help people to engage matters of contemporary culture and faith.

Our Agenda ...

☞ 5-6pm

– Preparation of Stone Soup;
people are welcome to gather,
meet, talk as the soup is cooking

☞ 6-7pm

– Supper and more conversation

☞ 7-8pm

– Welcome
– Presentations by speakers
– Identifying themes, questions,
ideas from the presentations

☞ 8-8:40pm

– Small group discussions

8-8:20 First round

8:20-8:40 Second round

☞ 8:40-9pm

– Harvesting Ideas

– Wrap-up

☞ 9pm

– Close of the Gathering
(People are welcome to stay and
continue conversations)

Wolfville and Area InterChurch Council (WAICC)

The InterChurch Council was formed almost 50 years ago, and has taken a leading and active role in bringing local churches together to serve the community

Current WAICC programs and activities include the operation of the Wolfville Area Food Bank and the provision of emergency financial aid and special needs assistance to individuals and families in the community. WAICC was instrumental in the effort to bring two families from Syria to the community and continues to support the work of the Refugee Support Network—Wolfville and Area.

The members of WAICC are:

- ☞ Annapolis Valley Quaker Meeting
- ☞ L'Arche Homefires
- ☞ Manning Chapel, Acadia University
- ☞ Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge, United Church
- ☞ Port Williams Baptist Church
- ☞ St. Francis Roman Catholic Church
- ☞ St. John's Anglican Church (Port Williams)
- ☞ St. John's Anglican Church (Wolfville))
- ☞ Wolfville Baptist Church

**For more information, check out the
WAICC website at waicc.org, or our
Facebook page at
fb.me/wolfvilleareainterchurchcouncil
Email address: info@waicc.org**

Do Not Retreat into Your Private World

Do not retreat into your private world,
That place of safety, sheltered
from the storm,

Where you may tend your garden,
seek your soul,
And rest with loved ones where the fire
burns warm.

To tend a garden is a precious thing,
But dearer still the one where all may roam,
The weeds of poison, poverty, and war,
Demand your care, who call the earth your
home.

To seek your soul it is a precious thing,
But you will never find it on your own,
Only among the clamour, threat, and pain
Of other people's need will love be known.

To rest with loved ones is a precious thing,
But peace of mind exacts a higher cost,
Your children will not rest and play in quiet,
While they still hear the crying of the lost.

Do not retreat into your private world,
There are more ways than firesides
to keep warm.
There is no shelter from the rage of life,
So meet its eye, and dance within the storm.

- Kathy Galloway

*(From 2002-2009, Kathy was the Leader of
the Iona Community, an international,
intentional Christian community.
She now heads Christian Aid Scotland.)*