

Simple Gifts (Shaker Hymn)

'Tis the gift to be simple,
'tis the gift to be free,
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gain'd,
To bow and to bend we shan't be asham'd,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come round right.

History

Simple Gifts is a Shaker song written by Elder Joseph Brackett in 1848. Though often classified as a hymn, several Shaker manuscripts refer to it as a "dance song" or "quick dance". Aaron Copeland brought widespread popularity to the song when he included it first in his score for Martha Graham's ballet, *Appalachian Spring*, first performed in October 1944, and later in the orchestral suite.



Siegal College
26500 Shaker Boulevard
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Shaker Simplicity and Global Sustainability: An Exploration of the Abrahamic Faiths in Relationship to the Environmental Crisis



Tuesdays, February 14 – March 27, 2012

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Siegal College 26500 Shaker Boulevard Cleveland OH 44122



Co-Sponsored by
Siegal College and the Shaker Heights Clergy Association
in honor of the
Centennial Celebration of Shaker Heights

TOPICS AND PRESENTERS

Tuesday, February 14

Avatar and Genesis 1 and 2: Religious schizophrenia regarding the environment

Jeffrey Schein, Director of Jewish Education, Siegal College
Katie Ong-Landini, Environmentalist
Earl Leiken, Mayor of Shaker Heights
Dr. Michael Bloom, Abrahamic Center of Notre Dame College

Tuesday, February 21

Shaker Tradition: Voluntary and Mandatory Simplicity

Cathie Winans, Shaker Historian

Tuesday, February 28

Islam, Koran, and the Environment

Dr. Zeki Saritoprak, Professor, John Carroll University

Tuesday, March 6

Christian Texts of Simplicity

Peter Faass, Rector Christ Episcopal Church

Tuesday, March 13

Christians Tradition and the Environment

Roger Osgood, Minister, Heights Christian Church

Tuesday, March 20

Talmudic Perspectives on Environmental Issues

Rabbi Zach Truboff, Cedar Sinai Synagogue

Tuesday, March 27

Synthesis, Further Study, and Ongoing Actions

Jeffrey Schein, Director of Jewish Education, Siegal College
Katie Ong-Landini, Environmentalist
Imam Ramez Islambouli, Professor Islamic and Arabic Studies



Join us for an unusual and fascinating exploration of the “green” directives factored into each of the Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. And, to help commemorate the centennial of Shaker Heights, we will also delve into the roots of the Shaker religious tradition as a protest against consumerism and materialism, providing a unique focal point for moral meaning making regarding the environment.

This seven-week course will deepen participants’ awareness and commitment to global sustainability as a religious imperative, while advancing understanding of other faiths through shared dialogue around these common issues.

Dates:	Tuesdays, February 14 – March 27, 2012
Times:	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Place:	Siegal College 25600 Shaker Boulevard Beachwood
Cost:	\$72
To register:	Call Siegal College at 216.464.4050 or visit www.siegalcollege.edu

For more information, please call Dr. Jeffrey Schein, Siegal College
216-464-4050, x 123.

