



Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable
P.O. Box 112016
Salt Lake City, UT 84147-2016
www.interfaithroundtable.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: [Colleen M. Scott, Roundtable Media Chair](#)

Salt Lake Main Library contact information: (801) 524-8200

2012 CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM CONFERENCE, SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY, NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 1, 2012

(November 12, 2012) Salt Lake City – The Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable is pleased to again participate in this annual event, dedicated to helping make our community of new ideas about religion in the modern world.

This year's conference will focus on an understanding of Hindu practice and belief, particularly in context of Western faith traditions prevalent in the Salt Lake area. The conference highlight will be the annual Diwali celebration Saturday afternoon: a festival of lights, music, dance, crafts, and food. It is an extraordinary opportunity to explore the cultural facets of this religious festival firsthand.

Thursday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m.

Film screening and discussion panel: "India: Love and Devotion"

"India: Love and Devotion" gives viewers an understanding of how devotion regulates daily practices and looks at religious beliefs which manifest in daily Indian life.

Panel moderator: Indra Neelameggham

Indra is much a sought-after speaker and panelist on the subjects of Indian culture and Hinduism. She and her husband Neale have been very involved in the Sri Ganesha Hindu Temple and India Cultural Center of Utah in South Jordan. She is a Board Member of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable.

Saturday, Dec. 1

2 p.m.

Welcome and presentation of guest of honor: Dr. Ashok Joshi

Keynote Address, Dr. Deepak Sarma: "Diwali and Its Pluralistic Approach to the Global World"
Diwali, as it has developed in the Hindu Diaspora, is a dispersive prism that permits one to observe the unity in the diversity and the diversity in the unity. Sarma will shed light on the history and

development of Hinduism(s) with the goal of revealing some of its glorious iridescence.

3 p.m.

Panel Discussion: “Building a Community of Global Faith”

Moderator: Dr. Muriel Schmidt, Director of Religious Studies, University of Utah

Members of various faith communities will explore commonalities between traditions that can foster a society in which all traditions and cultures can live in peace and harmony. Panelists: Joseph Gill, Sikh Temple of Utah; Dr. Iqbal Hossain, Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake; Father John E. Norman, St. Vincent Parish, Salt Lake City; Dr. Deepak Sarma, Case Western University; Jan Saeed, Office of Spiritual Life, Westminster College; Dr. Brian Birch, Utah Valley University

4:45 p.m.

Diwali Celebration

Music and Dance from the Sri Ganesha Hindu Temple of Utah, with additional performances by local cultural and faith groups.

6:30 p.m.

Dinner

When: November 29-December 1, 2012

Where: Salt Lake Main Public Library Auditorium, 210 East 400 South

No charge; free and open to the public

For more information about the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable, please visit www.interfaithroundtable.org, or [email](#) your inquiries.

Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable: celebrating our 10th Anniversary, 2002 – 2012

Over ten years of promoting love, harmony, and increased understanding among persons of all faith traditions, cultures, and belief systems in our community and throughout the world.

The Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable media links:

[Roundtable press coverage archive](#) [Roundtable press release archive](#) [Interfaith events calendar](#)
[“The Roundtable” newsletter](#) [Roster of Roundtable officers](#)