



AQUINAS ACADEMY  
*Freedom of the spirit in the Spirit*

# WOMEN'S VOICES IN DIFFERENT TRADITIONS

**Women speak personally of the tradition in which they live.  
An invitation to be part of a conversation and exploration.**

**WHERE? Aquinas Academy, Level 5, 141 Harrington Street, Sydney**

**WHEN? 7 Wednesday mornings, 10am-12noon, May 7 – June 18**

**COST? \$126 per person**

## **WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2008 - ISLAMIC TRADITION**

### **1. Zuleyha Keskin**

Sydney-born Zuleyha, is of Turkish heritage, and is Vice-President of Affinity Intercultural Foundation. She is also a wife, mother and a community pharmacist. For her Masters, Zuleyha is writing a thesis entitled, '*Interfaith Dialogue from a Muslim Perspective*'.

Tel: 02 9897 7552/0410 429 775

### **2. Mahsheed Ansari**

Law student Mahsheed was born in Afghanistan, has lived in India, and her permanent home is Australia. She is passionate about meeting, understanding, studying and working with people in order to better herself and her community.

Tel: 02 9679 9595/0402 724 568

### **3. Makiz Ansari**

Afghan born Makiz grew up in Australia. She has a degree in Political Economy and Government & International Studies, has been a Research Assistant in Political Economy at Sydney University and taught economics and social sciences in high schools. She is currently studying for Masters of Teaching. Makiz is active in inter-faith and intercultural dialogue and is a Director of Affinity Intercultural Foundation.

Tel: 0402 724 568

## **WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2008 – HINDU TRADITION**

### **1. Mala Mehta**

Indian-born Mala works with a team of dedicated teachers and supportive parents and pioneered a formal teaching program of the Hindi Language, founding the Indo-Aust Bal Bharathi Vidyalaya Hindi School in Sydney. The school operates as an incorporated non-profit organisation, supported by the NSW Department of Training and Education. Mala is involved in a wide variety of activities and believes in Hindu as a way of life.

Tel: 0412 283 677

### **2. Farida Irani**

Farida is a Zoroastrian or a Zarthushti. This religion is a sister religion to Hindu. Farida is an Ayurveda Practitioner (Ayurveda is an ancient system of health care) as well as a practitioner of kriya Yoga. Farida will speak about Hindu but will refer to her Zoroastrian background too.

Tel: 02 9894 8979

### **WEDNESDAY 21 MAY 2008 – JEWISH TRADITION**

#### **Avril Alba**

Avril is the Director of Education at the Sydney Jewish Museum. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons)/ Bachelor of Music from Adelaide University and a Masters in Comparative Religion from Harvard University. She teaches for the Melton and MOSAIC programs, and the Depts. of History and Jewish, Biblical and Hebrew Studies at Sydney University. She is currently pursuing a doctorate at Sydney University in History and Jewish Studies.

Tel: 02 9360 7999

### **WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2008 – AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL TRADITION**

#### **Elsie Hiess**

Elsie is a Wiradjeri Elder and works out of La Perouse, Aboriginal Catholic Ministry.

### **WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE 2008 – SIKH TRADITION**

#### **Jessie Kaur Singh**

Jess is a world peace and human rights educator, advocate and practitioner. She is co-founder and president of the Centre of Melbourne Multi-faith and Others Network (COMMON), has attended and spoken at many conferences on world peace and inter-faith dialogue and is committed to UNESCO and its work. Jess was also on the successful bidding team for the Parliament of Religions to be held in Melbourne in 2009.

Tel: 03 9549 8958/0411 300 655

### **WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2008 – BUDDHIST TRADITION**

#### **Gillian Coote**

Gillian was a founding member of the Sydney Zen Centre and for many years co-ordinator of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship in Sydney. She is currently co-ordinating Roshi teaching and is also a green-collar worker with the Lane Cove Bush Regeneration Co-Operative. Gillian has been a documentary filmmaker, having researched, written, directed and produced award-winning films for television.

Tel: 02 9817 3466

### **WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2008 – CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

#### **Virginia Bourke**

Virginia is a Sr of St Joseph of Lochinvar in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. She holds a BA from the University of Newcastle and a BTh from the Sydney College of Divinity through which she is also completing an MTh. Virginia was a Secondary School teacher and school leader for many years before being elected for a term in the leadership of her Congregation. Virginia has had varying degrees of cross-cultural experience in Japan, New Guinea, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines where she studied the diploma course in Pastoral Theology at the East Asian Pastoral Institute. Currently Virginia ministers in the field of adult faith formation in a variety of programs.

#### **Information:**

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