

Chaplain-E-News

A look at Religious Life at DU in the coming weeks



Start from a higher place!

September 9, 2011

False devils?



*Idolatry is committed, not merely by setting up false gods, but also by setting up false devils by making me afraid of war or alcohol, or economic law, when they should be afraid of spiritual corruption and cowardice. (G. K. Chesterton, Illustrated London News, 9/11/1909)**

One thing common to just about every religious tradition I know is the counsel against idolatry. That is, the counsel against setting anything up in the place of God; it can be money, sports figures, self-interest, Simon Cowell, love-of-country, anything! Such a tendency must be common to all of us, given the universality of the caution against it. (And the caution is not against making little statues of dogs with horns. They are simply physical representations of some spiritual/psychological issue.)

I was struck, however, but the nice turn-of-phrase by turn-of-the-20th-century English author G.K. Chesterton. Certainly, he recognized that we are prone to setting up false gods (or idols). But his assertion that setting up false devils is just as dangerous seems a very appropriate consideration at this time, of this year.

First, we are on the eve of the tenth anniversary of 9/11/2001. That awful day, ten years ago, was the manifestation of Chesterton's observation (reported, VERY coincidentally, ninety-two years previously, to the day!). The terrorists had apparently set up both false gods (as in their understanding of religion), AND false devils (as in blaming America for all of their problems) . . . and many innocent people suffered. But that awful day, ten years ago, also prompted many Americans to set up OUR own false gods and false devils . . . and many innocent people have suffered as a result.

But, second, we are also on the eve of the start of another academic year at the University of Denver (and elsewhere); classes begin here the day after September 11th. Many of us at colleges and universities--whether students or faculty--cling both to false gods and false devils. When we are at our best, we hope the light of inquiry and knowledge will help dispel some of the darkness of both falsehoods. But that takes a lot of humility--not a virtue that is highly appreciated these days.

We begin anew. We can choose to cling to the darkness, to false security, to the gods and devils of our own making. Or we can choose to humbly seek the truth--even with those whom we might disagree or not understand--and follow that path wherever it may lead, perhaps to peace. Chesterton would probably say that such humble searching was an act of great courage. And, I believe, it would honor the memory of all the victims of the horror of that day.

Here's to a new year, new possibilities, and a better world.

Blessings,

Gary

*My source for this was <http://www.orthodoxytoday.org/articles7/ChestertonMorality.php>

PS: If you'd like to comment on the above meditation, please visit my blog "On a bike and a prayer" at <http://duchap.blogspot.com/>.

Upcoming
Events

[Look right for
DETAILS](#)

Monday, September 12
9/11-Ten Years Later

Gathering at the Table in
Grace and Peace
(11:30)

Remembrance, Reconciliation
and Renewal
(5:45 pm)

Tuesday, September 13
Music and Meditation



**9/11:
Ten
Years
Later**

[Gathering at the Table in Grace and Peace](#)

In recognition of the shared tragedy of September 11, 2001, students, faculty and staff are invited to a meal with the entire community.

Monday, September 12
11:30am - 1:00pm

Warren Circle (east of Mary Reed, south of University Hall)

(Noon, Evans Chapel)

Thursday, September 15

Music and Meditation
(Noon, Ruffato Hall)

The Constitution, the Budget
& Morality
(4:30 pm)

Tuesday, September 20

Book Discussion: The Ringer
(Noon)

Friday, September 23

Volunteer at Metro CareRing
(9:00 am)

Remembrance, Reconciliation and Renewal

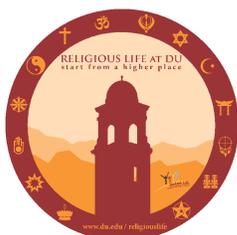
We will continue the observance the 10th anniversary of 9/11 with a service reflecting on the changes wrought in our society by the events of that day, and pledging our hope for a better future.

Monday, September 12

5:45 pm

Holocaust Memorial/Social Action Site (under the Buchtel Tower, between Penrose Library and Margery Reed Hall)

**Music
and
Meditation**



Spend an hour in the restful atmosphere of either Evans Chapel or the Mountain View Meeting Room (Ruffato Hall). Reflections, musical and spoken, will be offered on the theme of "Peace".

Upcoming Religious Holy Days

Monday, Sept 12

[Kshamavani](#)
(Jainism)

Mon - Fri, Sept 12 - 16

[Ghambar Paitishem](#)
(Zoroastrianism)

Friday, Sept 23

[Mabon](#)
(Wiccan)

[Shuki-sorei-sai](#)
(Shinto)

[Fall Ohigon](#)
(Buddhism)

Details!

Tuesday, September 13

Noon
Evans Chapel

Thursday, September 15

Noon
Mountain View Meeting Room (401 Ruffato Hall)



**The Constitution,
the Budget,
& Morality**

Dates with an asterisk "*" indicate that the observance begins at sundown the previous evening.

[Note: No religious holidays are officially observed at DU.]

For a comprehensive Interfaith Calendar,

All sides engaged in the recent budget debates have claimed both that their position was constitutional and moral. Yet the debate itself was pretty acrimonious and divisive. Was there a moral "high ground"? Join Daniels College of Business professor Buie Seawell, Economics professor Tracy Mott and Sturm College of Law professor Kris Miccio in a conversation about the morality of a budget!

click [here](#).

About the Chaplain's Office

Vision

The University Chaplain passionately advocates for the integration of religious, spiritual and ethical voices and values at the University of Denver.

Mission

To that end, the Chaplain's Office:

- nurtures the life of the heart and spirit, both individually and corporately;
- supports the integrity of each individual community member's quest for truth, meaning, and belonging;
- celebrates the diversity of the world's religious and spiritual traditions, especially as represented at DU;
- promotes meaningful encounters, engagement and understanding across lines of religious and disciplinary commitments; and
- challenges the community to translate its commitments into action.

Website

www.du.edu/religiouslife

Portfolio site:

portfolio.du.edu/religiouslife

Links I Like

I regularly listen to the programs from the following sites. I commend them to you!

on Being
with Krista Tippet

Interfaith Voices
with Maureen Fiedler

You have a Right to know:

Thursday, September 15

4:30 - 6:00 pm

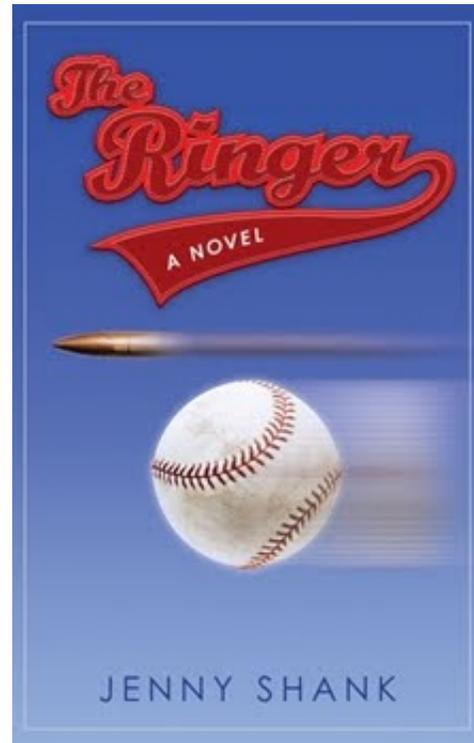
1864 Conference Room, Driscoll North

Book Discussion!

The Ringer

by

Jenny Shank
(Permanent Press,
2011)



The Book Discussions return! This fall's first selection is a novel by Colorado author Jenny Shank. Set in Denver, it tells the story of two families that come together because of an arrest-gone-wrong that affects them both. *The Ringer* is Shank's debut novel, and it has garnered ALL sorts of praise. In addition to being by a Denver-born author, being set in Denver, AND loosely-based on a true story, it also features baseball (as we'll be looking at the end of the season!).

Sgt. Steve Banet of Campus Safety will co-facilitate!

Details, details

Tuesday, September 20

Noon to 1:00 pm

Fireside Room, Driscoll North (near Jazzman's and the relocated Penrose Library)

Religion & Ethics
Newsweekly

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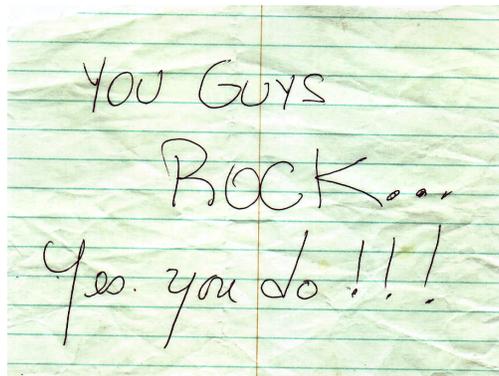
DU-ING SOMETHING

Volunteer
at
Metro CareRing

Spend a morning DU-ING good for those less fortunate. Metro CareRing is one of Denver's largest food pantries. But it does more than simply operate as a pantry. Join in and learn ALL that they do! Let Gary know if you would like to participate!

Details

Friday, September 23
9:00 - 11:30 am
Metro CareRing, 1100 E. 18th Ave., Denver



Move-in Day
Kudos!

Move-In Day was a great success thanks, in part, to the help of lots of students and student groups. Hospitality is the name of the game in my book, and the chapters of this year's volume include:

- Member groups of the DU Religious Council**
- Several athletic teams**
- Members of Greek Life**

Thank You!

DU Religious Group Meeting Times & Places



NOTE: As of the beginning of June, many of the student groups below will NOT meet until school resumes in September. If you are interested in one or more groups, however, you may certainly contact the individual listed.

Campus Crusade

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, Evans Chapel -- worship
 Contact Shawn Cramer at shawn.cramer@uscm.org

Catholic Campus Ministry

Sundays, 6:00 pm, Evans Chapel -- Mass
 Contact Br. John Ignatius at brjohnignatius@gmail.com

Christian Challenge

Thursdays, 7:30 pm, Fireside Room (Driscoll North)
 Contact millerp04@yahoo.com

Christian Science Organization

Mondays, 7:00 - 8:00 pm, Fireside Room (Driscoll North)
 Contact Kristi at kristigessler@gmail.com

CounterCulture

Mondays, 7:30 pm, 1864 Conference Room (Driscoll North)
 Contact Christina at christina.e.hunter@gmail.com

Denver United Church (Interdenominational Christian)

Weekly Sunday Services 9:30 & 11:30 am in Sturm Hall. College Class at 10 am
 Contact Pastor Justin Spicer, justin.spicer@denverunited.com, 303-324-2021

The Foundation

Thursdays, 7:02 pm, TBA -- worship/service project
 Contact Ryan Canaday at rycanaday@yahoo.com

DU GCF (Grad Christian Fellowship)

Wednesday, 12:15 - 1:45 pm; Fireside Room, Driscoll North
 Bible Study and fellowship (confirm with tombalma@usa.net)

Hillel

Tuesdays, 5:30 pm, Hillel House -- Student groups
 Fridays, 6:00 pm, Hillel House -- Shabbat service and dinner

International Neighbors Network

Thursdays, 12:00 -- 1:00 pm, University Park UMC -- lunch
 Contact Kelli Hayes at kelli@ineighbornet.org

International Students Inc.

Fridays, 6:30 - 9:00 pm -- Bible Study
 Contact Laura at lauracom2@gmail.com

Navigators

Time and location, TBA
 Contact Bill Cron at bdcron@comcast.net

Young Life College Fellowship

Sundays, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Young Life House.
 1986 South York Street, Denver, CO 80210.
 Contact Tank with questions: Kenbtank@gmail.com or 303-472-8140

For more information, contact:

The Rev. Gary R. Brower, PhD (General Inquiries)
 University Chaplain
gary.brower@du.edu
 Office Phone: (303) 871-4488

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