



**Do Unto Others: A Conference on Animals and Religion**  
**Friday, April 24, 2009**  
**Fish Interfaith Center, Chapman University**

- 8:15 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. An Interfaith Celebration of Animals Wallace All Faiths Chapel
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Plenary Session Wallace All Faiths Chapel  
 Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jay McDaniel, Director for the Steel Center  
 for the Study of Religion and Philosophy, Hendrix College  
 “You Purr Therefore I Am: The Role of Animals in Human Spirituality”
- 11:45 a.m. Informal Lunch and Viewing of Exhibits and Bookstore  
 (See list of neighborhood veggie-friendly restaurants.)
- 1:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (choice of one of the following; see descriptions below)
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| Lorri Bauston, Founder, Animal Acres<br>“Vegan Kinship”   | Beckman Hall, Room TBA    |
| Rev. Michael Bruner, Minister,<br>Presbyterian Church (USA)<br>“Inside the Trenches: An Evangelical Looks at Animal Compassion”                     | Beckman Hall, Room TBA    |
| Dr. Kris Lecakes Haley, Chair, Emerson<br>Theological Institute’s Humane Religious Studies Department<br>“Animals and Spirituality: Why It Matters” | Wilkinson Founders Chapel |
- 2:45 p.m. Break
- 3:00 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (choice of one of the following; see descriptions below)
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| Dr. Beth Johnson, Minister,<br>Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship<br>“Can Anyone Hear Them? Empowering Congregations for Faithful Action” | Wilkinson Founders Chapel |
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- Tera Little, Ministerial Candidate, Beckman Hall, Room TBA  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
“Finding God on Your Plate: Ethical Eating as a Spiritual Discipline”
- Dr. Marvin Meyer, Chair, Religious Studies Beckman Hall, Room TBA  
Department; Director, Albert Schweitzer Institute; Chapman University  
“Schweitzer and the Animals”
- 4:15 p.m. Break
- 4:30 p.m. Plenary Session Wallace All Faiths Chapel  
Panel Discussion: “Engaging Heart and Mind; Expanding the Circle of  
Compassion; Empowering Faithful Action”  
Panelists: Dr. Jay McDaniel, Dr. Zandra Wagoner, Dr. Beth Johnson  
Moderator: Dr. Ronald Farmer
- 5:45 p.m. Break
- 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service led by Chapman Hillel Wallace All Faiths Chapel  
(Everyone is invited to participate.)
- 7:00 p.m. Vegan Banquet Beckman Hall 404
- 7:30 p.m. Keynote Address by Karen Dawn, Author of *Thanking the Monkey:  
Rethinking the Way We Treat Animals*
- 8:15 p.m. Book Signing with Karen Dawn

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## Description of Concurrent Sessions

### 1:30 p.m. Session

#### **“Vegan Kinship”**

Exploring our relationship with our farmed animal friends, through heartwarming rescue stories and inspiration from the animals themselves.

#### **“Inside the Trenches: An Evangelical Looks at Animal Compassion”**

Animal compassion will be examined from the perspective of an ordained minister in the evangelical tradition who has worked for two of the largest animal welfare groups in the world, Best Friends Animal Society and the Humane Society of the United States. As one of the principal authors of “A Proclamation for Animal Compassion” and the lead religious consultant for Proposition 2 in California, Rev. Bruner will talk about his experience as an animal advocate

who also happens to be an evangelical pastor; and how as a stranger in the worlds of both evangelicalism and animal welfare, one can lead to unusual perspectives on both.

**“Animals and Spirituality: Why It Matters”**

This session will acquaint attendees with high level principles associated with animal welfare and advocacy by exploring the concepts of animal sentience, speciesism and spirituality through the inventory of spiritually and socially responsible personal choices. Participants will be invited to gain a deeper understanding of their spiritual connection with animals, consider the ethical, moral and spiritual basis for compassion towards all life, and investigate and discuss the personal and global impact of one’s choices.

3:00 p.m. Session

**“Can Anyone Hear Them? Empowering Congregations for Faithful Action”**

This workshop will focus on how congregations can engage issues of animal rights and welfare through services, education, and advocacy. We will explore the ways that we can hear animals’ voices and experience within our faith community and be empowered to act on behalf of animals. Participants will gain understanding of how to approach animal issues within their faith community, experience elements of services that advocate for animals, and gain resources to take back to their faith communities.

**“Finding God on Your Plate: Ethical Eating as a Spiritual Discipline”**

Finding God in the whirl-wind of contemporary life can be easier than you think—just look down at your plate! We’ll explore various aspects of ethical eating and share ways that a deceptively simple act—eating—can be a key component of spiritual discipline.

**“Schweitzer and the Animals”**

This presentation addresses the ethic of the humanitarian, ethicist, and medical doctor Albert Schweitzer as it applies to animals. His ethic of reverence for life was intended to be an ethic for all of life—human, animal, and plant—and it considers all of life to be sacred. Yet potential difficulties and conflicts arise in the way the ethic is formulated and the means by which the ethic is made to apply to the challenges of life with the animals. This presentation attempts to explore these matters and offer possible conclusions on the ethical treatment of animals.

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**Bios of Keynote Speakers**

**Dr. Jay McDaniel**

Dr. Jay McDaniel is Professor of Religion at Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas, where he is also the Director for the Steel Center for the Study of Religion and Philosophy. As an eco-theologian, McDaniel has written extensively and passionately about the role of theology and religion in developing ecological consciousness and in creating better lives for animals.

Trained in the philosophy of religion and theology, Jay's specialty is Process or Whiteheadian thought. His Ph.D. dissertation was on Whitehead and Buddhism, with particular focus on whether and how, with help from Whitehead's way of thinking, human beings might jointly awaken to the wisdom of Buddhist enlightenment and simultaneously live from faith in God. Since writing the dissertation, he has had the privilege of teaching the religions of the world, and his interests have grown to include them all. Even though all religious traditions are finite and none can be said to have all the truth, he is impressed with the various kinds of wisdom that each contains: wisdom that seems relevant not only to their adherents but also to the wider world. He is simultaneously impressed by the need on the part of people in the many different traditions to develop forms of awareness that are sensitive to the value of the more-than-human world—that is, the plants and animals, the hills and rivers—and to engage in dialogue with one another for the sake of peace and mutual transformation.

Accordingly, he has written books on religion and ecology, religion and inter-religious dialogue, and spirituality in an age of consumerism. His current interest is to see how these myriad concerns might unfold in China. He has taken students to China several times and has made many good friends in China, thanks to the work of the China Project, which is based at the Center for Process Studies in Claremont, California.

Jay has written five books and edited three; these include: *Of God and Pelicans: A Theology of Reverence for Life*; *With Roots and Wings: Christianity in an Age of Ecology and Dialogue*; *Living from the Center: Spirituality in an Age of Consumerism*; *Gandhi's Hope: Learning from Other Religions as a Path to Peace*; and *Good News for Animals? Christian approaches to Animal Well-Being*. His current project is writing a book that can be used in China and in the United States to facilitate cross-cultural interchange. It uses the philosophy of Whitehead as a bridge by which people in the two cultures can communicate with one another and as a bridge by which people in both cultures, each in their own way, can move forward into the twenty-first century in ways that are socially just, ecologically sustainable, and spiritually satisfying.

### **Karen Dawn**

Born in the US, Karen Dawn grew up and studied in Australia. She worked as a news researcher and writer for various Australian publications and on ABC's nightly news magazine, "The 7:30 Report."

Living in New York in the 1990s, Karen worked every Sunday for six years at the Saint Francis of Xavier soup kitchen. But after reading *Animal Liberation* in 1998, she was moved to devote herself to helping those most abused by society and least able to help themselves—members of other species. Drawing on her knowledge of the media, she founded DawnWatch in November 1999. You'll find an interview with her in which she talks about the events that led up to its launch on the Animals Voice website at: [http://www.animalaudio.net/audio/Karen\\_Dawn.html](http://www.animalaudio.net/audio/Karen_Dawn.html).

Karen served on the Genesis Awards voting committee from 2001-2004 and became involved again as the print consultant in 2006. As a spokesperson for the animal protection movement, Karen Dawn has appeared on MTV, and she has lectured at national animal rights conferences since 2001.

She has hosted animal issues talk shows on KPFT and KPFK, the Houston and Los Angeles Pacifica stations. Her 2004 season of *Watchdog*, on KPFK, which includes guests such as Nobel Prize winner JM Coetzee, Wholefoods founder John Mackay, Musician Moby, Professor Peter Singer, and Feminist Icon Gloria Steinem, is available on line at [www.WatchdogRadio.com](http://www.WatchdogRadio.com).

Her opinion pieces have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, New York's *Newsday* and the *UK Guardian*. And she was featured in a *New York Times* piece on the Hurricane Katrina Animal disaster. She is a contributor to *Terrorists or Freedom Fighters: Reflections on the Liberation of Animals*, a 2004 anthology edited by Steve Best and Anthony Nocella, and to *In Defense of Animals: The Second Wave*, edited by Peter Singer.

In early 2008 Harper Collins published Karen's first solo book, *Thanking the Monkey: Rethinking the Way We Treat Animals*.

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### **Bios of Session Leaders and Panelists**

**Lorri Bauston** is considered the “pioneer” of the farmed animal sanctuary movement. In 1986, she opened the country's first shelter for farmed animals as co-founder of Farm Sanctuary, at a time when rescuing and protecting farmed animals was unheard of. For three years, she sold soydogs at Grateful Dead concerts to pay for the organization's rescue and shelter work, and even lived in a school bus to make ends meet. As President and Executive Director of Farm Sanctuary for 18 years, she helped Farm Sanctuary grow from an organization of three – one sheep and two humans – to an organization of over 50 employees, thousands of members, and of course, hundreds of rescued farmed animals. Over the years, Lorri has directly saved thousands of animals from the cruelties of factory farming, and brought national attention to the plight of animals used for “food production.” Her work has been featured in hundreds of national and state news reports, and she has been featured in several documentaries. In 2005, Lorri Bauston formed the nonprofit organization, *Animal Acres* opening the Los Angeles Farmed Animal Sanctuary and Compassionate Living Center. In just three short years, Animal Acres has grown into one of Southern California's premier animal protection organizations.

**Reverend Michael Bruner**, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) was born and raised in the Philippines to missionary parents, where his love for animals developed at a very early age. He is a graduate of Princeton Seminary and is currently in a Ph.D. program at Fuller Seminary. Michael has taught English Literature and Religion at Azusa Pacific University for the past seven years and continues to work as a consultant for the Animals and Religion program of the HSUS. He lives in Pasadena with his wife, daughter, and dog.

**Dr. Ronald L. Farmer** is the Irvin C. and Edy Chapman Dean of the Wallace All Faiths Chapel and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Chapman University. In addition to teaching and interfaith work, Dr. Farmer is active in scholarly research and publication in the areas of hermeneutics, New Testament, and ethics. He recently appeared in a two-hour History Channel

documentary, for which he also served as a history consultant, and is currently co-editing a collection of essays promoting interfaith dialogue and cooperation among Jews, Christians, and Muslims. His most recent publication, a novel entitled *Awakening*, focuses on factory farming. He lives in Tustin, California, with his wife and four cats; their adopted pig, Calvin, lives at the Farm Sanctuary.

**Dr. Kris Lecakes Haley** is currently serving as the Chair of Emerson Theological Institute's Humane Religious Studies department and Co-director of its Animal Chaplain Ordination program. Prior to this, Kris directed Best Friends Animal Society's Animals and Religion program, a multifaith outreach program of Best Friends. Kris has also directed the Humane Education program for the Arizona Humane Society, where she brought sweeping change to the academic community by introducing a blended humane and character education model. With the addition of a spiritual component, this model was successfully introduced into the faith community for youth and adult education. She conducts classes that include, "Visioning for the World's Animals," "How to Create Your Animal Ministry," and is preparing to launch an online workshop on Dr. Will Tuttle's, "The World Peace Diet." In November of this year, she and her husband will chair the first, "Arizona Week for the Animals." Their most recent project is PEACEANIMAL—a movement designed to expand the definition of peace to include all species. Kris and her husband have a shared dedication to raising awareness about the interconnectedness of all life and the deep significance of our spiritual relationship with animals.

**Dr. Beth Johnson** is a Unitarian Universalist minister serving Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Vista California. She is also on the board of Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. A graduate of Claremont School of Theology, her doctoral project, "Transforming Conversations: The Voices of Animals in the Interdependent Web," focused on human-caused suffering of animals from the perspective of ecofeminist process theology. She has been involved in animal issues for 13 years and considers her call to ministry to include her work on behalf of animals.

**Tera Little** works as Director of Lifespan Programs for the Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association and is a ministerial candidate. She loves gardening, cooking and eating vegan food, and hanging out with her son and partner.

**Dr. Marvin Meyer** is Chair of the Religious Studies Department and Director of the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Chapman University. Marv is the author of numerous books and articles on Greco-Roman and Christian religions in antiquity and late antiquity, and on Albert Schweitzer's ethic of reverence for life. He has been interviewed on television programs that have aired on ABC, BBC, CNN, PBS, A&E, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, and the National Geographic Channel. His most recent work has focused on The Gospel of Judas, serving as one of the three translators. Marv lives with his wife, children, and dog in Orange, California.

**Dr. Zandra Wagoner** is Assistant Vice President of Undergraduate Programs and Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy at the University of La Verne. Zandra teaches and writes in the areas of religion, gender studies, feminist theology, and more recently, animals. She is one of the co-authors of "A Religious Proclamation for Animal Compassion," an interfaith document

sponsored by Best Friends Animal Society. Zandra also worked as a consultant for Best Friend's "Animals and Religion Network," and is now teaching a course called "Between Species: Humans, Animals and Religion." Zandra is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren.