



1100 Chestnut St.  
Vancouver, BC V6J 3J9  
Phone (604) 738-7827  
Fax (604) 736-5665

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **H.R. MACMILLAN SPACE CENTRE LAUNCHES ASTRONOMY MONTH WITH SOME SOUL SEARCHING**

**Vancouver, BC, May 4, 2006** – The H.R. MacMillan Space Centre is literally putting its faith in the stars this Astronomy Month by offering Lower Mainland residents a deep and meaningful opportunity to explore the spiritual side of the heavens.

Blending science with spirituality, the Space Centre is presenting, Star Watching, Soul Searching, a two-evening meditation on the stars, featuring speakers from different faiths talking about their personal, spiritual connection with the night skies above.

Presented in partnership with the Vancouver InterSpiritual Centre, Star Watching, Soul Searching takes place May 11 and 12, at 7 p.m. in the Planetarium Theatre and will touch on faiths from from Sikhism to Anglicanism to Gitksan traditions.

Rabbi David Mivasair, a spiritual leader of Vancouver's Ahavat Olam Synagogue and a founding director of the InterSpiritual Centre, will be one of the speakers featured at Star Watching, Soul Searching.

"Jewish spirituality is deeply grounded in our awareness of the physical reality. For example, every Shabbat and Yom Tov, before beginning to pray, we sing from Psalm 19 'The heavens declare the presence of God; the sky tells of God's deeds,'" said Rabbi Mivasair.

"Gazing into the heavens opens a window, a hint of the ultimately unknowable Source of All Being. Watching the stars is a spiritual experience accessible to everyone blessed with vision to see," he added.

"The beauty and mystery of the stars touch all of us in profound ways," said Donna Livingstone, executive director of the Space Centre. "We are delighted to be working with the InterSpiritual Centre of Vancouver in exploring how the stars and the heavens have inspired people of faith through words, song, prayer, and dance. Their perspectives will help us all open our eyes to the universe."

Other featured speakers include:

- Pandit Prameya Chaitanya, a Hindu priest who will talk about his close relationship with the earth and stars;
- Sukhvinder Kaur Vinning, a former vice president of the Multifaith Action Society and an active and faithful Sikh with a strong background in science;
- Reverend Angus Stuart, an avid outdoorsman and Anglican priest and pastor of St. Francis-in-the-Wood Anglican Church in West Vancouver;
- Iman Dr. Seyeia Mohammed Hejazi, a Shi'ite Muslim Scholar from Iran who studied at the distinguished Qom centre and at the Sorbonne;

- Margaret Grenier, the artistic and administrative director for the Dancers of Damelahamid Society which is dedicated to reviving Gitskan dance traditions belonging to her family's ancestry.

Tickets are available at the Space Centre or by calling 604-738-7826.

Founded in 1968, the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre is a non-profit community resource that brings the wonder of space to Earth, while providing a personal sense of ongoing discovery. Through innovative programming, exhibits and activities, our goal is to inspire sustained interest in the fields of earth science, space science and astronomy from a Canadian perspective. The mission of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre is to portray the drama of the Universe in an interesting, exciting, accurate and entertaining way. The Space Centre aims to advance public knowledge and celebrate space and earth sciences.

**Media Contacts:**

Erika Korstrom, Marketing & Communications Officer, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre,  
Tel: 604-738-7827 ext. 249 Email: [ekorstrom@hrmacmillanspacecentre.com](mailto:ekorstrom@hrmacmillanspacecentre.com)

Michele Penz, Calico Communications for the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre  
Tel: 778-888-2249