

• the journal



April 2009

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2009 CO Adult Conference

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But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said.”

—Matthew 28:5-6

CONFERENCE UPDATE:

a word about Summit's CO Adult Worldview Conference

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It's a match made in heaven—world-class worldview instruction in a breath-takingly beautiful setting. Located just outside the Garden of the Gods and featuring a beautiful castle as the central facility, the Glen Eyrie Conference Center has long been the site of Summit's CO Adult Worldview Conference held annually in Colorado Springs. This conference is designed to offer adults a taste of the worldview teaching that distinguishes Summit's Student Conferences.

The castle's "Great Room" was at near capacity March 01–06 with over 90 in attendance, representing churches, businesses, ministries, families, and schools. Conferees came from many different states, including Texas, Florida, California, Oregon, Kansas, and Colorado.

Like all Summit conferences, this one was heavy on content and dynamic in presentation. The week included over 30 hours of instruction in worldview analysis, leadership, Islam, entertainment, science, economics, postmodernism, marriage, bioethics, apologetics, history, cultural engagement, and the meaning of language.

Special guest Hugh Hewitt opened the conference Sunday night by carefully laying out the critical situation of our culture and recommending reading material for Christians who desire to be aware and effective. Hewitt's resume is overwhelming. A broadcast journalist with a daily talk show, he worked in the Reagan administration and is a respected political commentator, professor of law, frequent guest for major media outlets, and the author of 8 books, two of them *New York Times* bestsellers.

"God opened my eyes to more than I could list here! I can see how much I have 'assumed' was correct... I have, unfortunately, had my head in the sand on many issues—sometimes because I just didn't know, but sometimes because I didn't have answers to offer for the problems, and wasn't interested in entering a losing fight. Thank you, Summit, for equipping me to enter the battle."

—Jana K.

Joining Hewitt on the conference faculty were Chuck Edwards (Summit Ministries), Bob Linden (Peak Management Consulting and Training), Darrell Ferguson (Summit Ministries), John Stonestreet (Summit Ministries), Rev. Alan Crippen (John Jay Institute), Steve Austin (Swenson Advisors), Dr. Michael Bauman (Hillsdale College and Summit Semester), Dr. Del Tackett (Focus on the Family), Dr. Doug Groothuis (Denver Seminary), and Dr. Paul Prentiss (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs).

Tying it all together was Dr. David Noebel's "Worldview in Collision" teaching series, the feature of the evening sessions. In a world of constant crises and change, Christians must be able to understand the times from a Christian worldview. Dr. Noebel's unique approach reveals how today's major worldviews influence ten key areas of life.

Parents, teachers, pastors, and adults who desire to champion the Christian faith and equip the next generation to do the same will find Summit's Adult Worldview Conferences an invaluable resource. There are 2 remaining adult conferences in 2009, including specific programs for pastors (see TN details below) and educators (see VA details below).

If you know capable and committed Christians who could profit from one of these conferences, please let us know. If you desire to help finance this program, please don't hesitate to contact us (see the reply device in this *Journal*).

VA Adult Worldview Conference

June 21 – June 26

Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA)

Faculty includes: Dr. David Noebel, *Summit Ministries*; Rev. Jonathan Falwell, *Thomas Road Baptist Church*; Dr. Ergun Caner, *Liberty University*; Dr. Mat Staver, *Liberty Counsel and Liberty University*; School of Law; Rev. T.M. Moore, *Centurions Program and Breakpoint*; Mr. John Stonestreet, *Summit Ministries*; Dr. Steve Vandegriff, *Center for Youth Ministries*

TN Adult Worldview Conference

July 05 – July 10

Bryan College (Dayton, TN)

Faculty includes: Dr. David Noebel, *Summit Ministries*; Dr. Jeff Myers, *Bryan College and Passing the Baton*; Mr. John Stonestreet, *Summit Ministries*; Mrs. Debbie Brezina, *Author, The Spirit of Churchill*; Mr. Chuck Edwards, *Summit Ministries*; Dr. Terry Moffitt, *Cultural Activist and Education Specialist*; Rev. T.M. Moore, *Dean of Centurions, Prison Fellowship*; Dr. Kurt Wise, *Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*

from the PRESIDENT'S DESK

a word from Dr. Noebel

This month's column is dedicated to Summit graduates who wrote to express their appreciation for their Summit experience or whose parents wrote to express their thoughts about our two-week summer conferences.

These testimonials highlight the effectiveness of what two-weeks can accomplish in the lives of young people when they are challenged to think and act like Christ. Here are some letters to read and enjoy. Special thanks to readers who make this ministry possible

Ten years ago I brought my daughter "kicking and screaming" to the two-week Summit program in Manitou Springs, CO. The six-hour drive from Durango was pretty quiet...she put on her headphones and checked out. When I checked her in at the Summit she didn't even say "good-bye."

Two weeks later when my wife and I returned to pick her up, wow! What a change. All the way home all she could do was talk about all the great new ideas and knowledge she had gained at the Summit.

The following fall she left for college at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. She became a leader with a Christian Campus ministry and throughout her college days she actively challenged the secular, and sometimes outright hostile teachings from some of her professors.

She graduated *summa cum laude*, and then decided to go on the mission field. She has spent the last six years using her God given gifts and skills to help others. Currently she is a full-time missionary undercover in a communist country sharing Christ.

Next month she will return for a month, get married, and return to the mission field building God's Kingdom. Many times she has expressed her thanks for the "revelation" she received at Summit, it was a turning point in her life. God bless you and your work.

—R.A.T.,

I just wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for your ministry to college students. Over 10 years ago, I heard about you on a Dr. James Dobson radio program. I decided then that when my daughters were college age, I was going to send them. Well, one went last summer, and the other will go this summer.

You should know this story, however. My daughter did NOT want to go. She thought it would be a waste of a precious two weeks in the summer. I insisted that she go. She is, today, so thankful that I forced the issue. There's more to the story, however. She had been dating a young man who was in every way exceptional (MVP in football, track etc). Scholastically a top achiever as well. However, he wasn't a Christian. He was very open to spiritual things, but had many questions. By some miracle he was free those two weeks and willing to go. I, of course, was happy to make the important investment in sending both of them. I wanted him to be aware of where my daughter was coming from. Well, the result of

those two weeks was that he accepted the Lord, and both he and my daughter were never so "jazzed" as they were after those two weeks. They spoke incessantly of that experience. I thank you and I thank God for you.

—D.C.

I attended the Summit in 1998 (Session 7). I'm sure that you hear this often, but that session at Summit was a time that truly changed my life. The worldview training and the zeal for Christ that Summit gave me remains with me to this day.

I attended college at the U. of West Florida with degrees in Theatre and English, and I can honestly say that Summit saved my faith. My professors bombarded me with their own Secular Humanist worldviews so much so that I honestly had a crisis of faith. For a full year of my life in college, I wrestled with my faith and my place in educated society. However, through constant mediation on God's word and with the knowledge and tools I gained at Summit (even at times reviewing old Summit lecture notes), I survived with my faith intact and my love for Jesus even stronger. I was able to make it through graduate school at Yale and the University of Central Florida as a stronger Christian and a defender of my faith—giving my professors a run for their intellectual money.

After finishing school I've been pursuing an acting career. God has blessed me with hard-to-get employment at regional theatres and operas all over the country, and now I'm blessed with a First National Broadway Tour. I know that God has blessed me so that I may be salt and light to this dark field, and I strive daily to live up to that call. Even this very day the training received at Summit helps me to keep my faith strong in a place of employment where I must be in the world but not of it. Thank you for blessing my life.

—R.S.

These comments should inspire each reader to: a) pray for our students who are on the frontlines of the battle for their hearts and minds; b) help recruit a student for one of our Worldview Conferences this summer; c) help us enlarge our Summit Alumni Association by sending us names of those you know who attended one of Summit's programs; and d) continue to financially support this ministry.

P.S. Did you know that you can contribute to Summit through your everyday shopping with no extra cost to you? This is a great way to help Summit Ministries during these tough economic times. Here's how it works: begin all your online shopping at www.cvn.org and a percentage of your everyday shopping will go directly to Summit Ministries. It's that simple! And, best of all, membership is FREE! For more information, see pg. 7.

“I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for being such an influence in my life. Among the thousands of kids who have passed through your doors, I’m just another face, but God used Summit in a powerful way to prepare me for the secular humanist university.

This semester has challenged my faith in a way I had not yet experienced; yet, repeatedly I’ve drawn upon the resources recommended by Summit to learn how to combat it. It doesn’t surprise me to learn how many Christian kids walk away from the Faith when day after day I hear my faith ridiculed and blamed and conservatives maligned at every turn. I will continue to support Summit as much as I can and will be praying for this invaluable ministry as this world grows progressively darker. Thank you for allowing the light of Christ to shine through you.”

—B.H.

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

✝ Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you.”

So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

—Matthew 28:1–8

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The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian sermon reported in the Acts. The Resurrection, and its consequences were the “gospel” or good news which the Christians brought: what we call the “gospels,” the narratives of Our Lord’s life and death, were composed later for the benefit of those who had already accepted the gospel. They were in no sense the basis of Christianity: they were written for those already converted. The miracle of the Resurrection, and the theology of that miracle, comes

first: the biography comes later as a comment on it. Nothing could be more unhistorical than to pick out selected sayings of Christ from the gospels and to regard those as the datum and the rest of the New Testament as a construction upon it. The first fact in the history of Christendom is a number of people who say they have seen the Resurrection.

—C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*

ORIGINS



Just in time for Charles Darwin’s 200th birthday and the 150th anniversary of his *Origin of Species*, a new nationwide Zogby poll of likely voters indicates overwhelming public support for teaching the scientific evidence for and against Darwin’s theory. The poll shows similar overwhelming support for giving students and teachers the academic freedom to discuss the “strengths and weaknesses” of evolution.

According to the Discovery Institute’s Dr. John West, the poll results may shatter some preconceptions held by those in the media about who supports letting students hear a balanced presentation on Darwinian theory.

“Media reports insinuate that a right-wing conspiracy of know-nothings and religious extremists is afoot,” said West. “But the new Zogby poll reveals a broad-based and well-informed public consensus for academic freedom on evolution. That consensus includes Democrats, Republicans, liberals, moderates, independents, and every race, gender, and age group. The Darwin Lobby has isolated itself from public opinion.”

According to the poll, Democrats (82%) and liberals (86%) are even more likely than Republicans (73%) and conservatives (72%) to support the academic freedom of teachers and students to discuss the “strengths and weaknesses of evolution.”

The poll also shows a dramatic 9-point increase over 2006 in the percentage of likely voters who agree that “Biology teachers should teach Darwin’s theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it.” Support for that position has jumped to 78%, up from 69% in 2006. The percentage of likely voters who favor teaching only the evidence for evolution suffered a corresponding decline of 7 points, from 21% in 2006 to just over 14% this year.

“Clearly, the Darwin-only crowd is losing public support,” said West. “There seems to be a backlash against the strong-arm tactics that have been used in recent years to censor and intimidate scientists, teachers, and students who raise criticisms of Darwin.”

Zogby International conducted the survey of 1,053 likely voters from 1/29/09 through 1/31/09.

—Anika Smith, *Human Events*, Feb. 16, 2009, p. 5

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A LOOK AT OUR WORLD

highlights from around the globe

The Vatican gave the Creationist lobby a left right sign of the cross today, announcing it would stage a conference on Darwinism next month and declaring that it was one of the Fathers of the Church that thought up the idea in the first place.

At one point the conference at the Pontifical Gregorian University wasn't going to give Creationism or Intelligent Design a hearing at all. But apparently the organisers have relented, and will consider Intelligent Design as a "cultural phenomenon" rather than as a valid scientific theory, giving US-based IDers the chance to be smirked at by a room full of Monseigneurs, Cardinals, and Bishops.

Previewing the conference yesterday, Archbishop Gianfranco Ravasi, head of the Church's Pontifical Council for Culture, conceded the Church had been hostile to Darwin on occasion. But, he said, the Church had never formally condemned Darwin, and he noted that in the last 50 years a number of Popes had accepted evolution as a valid scientific approach to human development.

Indeed, he said, evolution could be traced back through Scholastics such as St Thomas Aquinas to St Augustine in the fourth century, who had noted that "big fish eat smaller fish."

Augustine is probably more famous for praying "God, make me good—but not yet." Which also has some evolutionary overtones if you think about it.

Marc Leclerc, a natural philosopher at the University went further, saying Creationists were mistaken in arguing that Darwinism was "totally incompatible with a religious vision of reality."

The conference, and the Church's endorsement of Darwin, represents another curve ball from the Holy See at other, arguably more fundamentalist, streams of Christianity. In December Pope Benedict tipped his hat to Galileo—who definitely was condemned by the Church—while simultaneously going all New Age by blethering on about the Solstice.

Last May, the Vatican astronomer really went out on a limb, claiming there was nothing incompatible between being a Catholic and believing in Aliens. He even suggested Aliens could be free of the stain of original sin, the stubborn blemish that has condemned humanity to a progressive decline from the Garden of Eden, through slavery, the dark ages, religious strife, atomic war, and now, the credit crunch and Simon Cowell.

But a wholesale worldview rejig this is not. Other branches of modern science get shorter shrift, with genetic manipulation fairly high on the Vatican's current don't-like list.

—Joe Fay, *TheRegister.co.uk*, Feb. 11, 2009

POLITICS



Just when liberals thought it was safe to start identifying themselves as such, an acclaimed, veteran psychiatrist is making the case that the

ideology motivating them is actually a mental disorder.

"Based on strikingly irrational beliefs and emotions, modern liberals relentlessly undermine the most important principles on which our freedoms were founded," says Dr. Lyle Rossiter, author of the new book, *The Liberal Mind: The Psychological Causes of Political Madness*. Like spoiled, angry children, they rebel against the normal responsibilities of adulthood and demand that a parental government meet their needs from cradle to grave."

While political activists on the other side of the spectrum have made similar observations, Rossiter boasts professional credentials and a life virtually free of activism and links to "the vast right-wing conspiracy."

For more than 35 years he has diagnosed and treated more than 1,500 patients as a board-certified clinical psychiatrist and examined more than 2,700 civil and criminal cases as a board-certified forensic psychiatrist. He received his medical and psychiatric training at the University of Chicago.

Rositer says the kind of liberalism being displayed by both Barack Obama and his Democratic primary opponent Hillary Clinton can only be understood as a psychological disorder.

"A social scientist who understands human nature will not dismiss the vital roles of free choice, voluntary cooperation and moral integrity—as liberals do," he says. "A political leader who understands human nature will not ignore individual differences in talent, drive, personal appeal, and work ethic, and then try to impose economic and social equality on the population—as liberals do. And a legislator who understands human nature will not create an environment of rules which over-regulates and over-taxes the nation's citizens, corrupts their character and reduces them to wards of the state—as liberals do.

Dr. Rossiter says the liberal agenda preys on weakness and feelings of inferiority in the population by:

- Creating and reinforcing perceptions of victimization;
- Satisfying infantile claims to entitlement, indulgence, and compensation;
- Augmenting primitive feelings of envy;
- Rejecting the sovereignty of the individual, subordinating him to the will of the government.

"The roots of liberalism—and its associated madness—can be clearly identified by understanding how children develop from infancy to adulthood and how distorted development produces the irrational beliefs of the liberal mind," he says. "When the modern liberal mind whines about imaginary victims, rages against imaginary villains, and seeks above all else to run the lives of persons competent to run their own lives, the neurosis of the liberal mind becomes painfully obvious."

—John deVries, *WorldNetDaily.com*, Nov. 12, 2008



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"I just want to thank you all! This truly has changed my life! This info is so critical and important—it must get out!!"

—Vicki L.,

Understandably, the Left doesn't like it much when you say that too often politics is their religion, or environmentalism is their religion, or something other than religion is their religion. But Susan Sarandon doesn't help when she says of Obama: "He is a community organizer like Jesus was, and now we're a community and he can organize us." Actually, we're a free society. But perhaps Sarandon would be more comfortable in a system more... organized?

—*National Review*, Feb 23, 2009, p. 12

ISLAM



The other night at dinner, I found myself sitting next to a Middle Eastern Muslim lady of a certain age. And the conversation went as it often does when you're with Muslim women who were at college in the sixties, seventies, or eighties. In this case, my dining companion had just been at a conference on "women's issues," of which there are many in the Muslim world, and she was struck by the phrase used by the "moderate Muslim" chair of the meeting: "authentic women"—by which she meant women wearing hijabs. And my friend pointed out that when she and her unveiled pals had been in their 20s they were the "authentic women": the covering routine was for old village biddies, the Islamic equivalent of gnarled Russian babushkas. It would never have occurred to her that the assumptions of her generation would prove to be off by 180 degrees—that in middle age she would see young Muslim women wearing a garb largely alien to their tradition not just in the Middle East but in Brussels and London and Montreal. If you had said to her in 1968 that Westernized Muslim women working in British hospitals in the early 21st century would reject modern hygiene because it required them to bare their arms, she would have scoffed with the certainty of one who assumes that history moves in only one direction.

In another of those non-alarmist nothing-to-see-here stories, a British government minister tentatively raised the matter of severe birth defects among the children of Pakistani Muslims. Some 57 percent of Pakistani Britons are married to their first cousins, and this places their progeny at increased risk of certain health problems. This is the only way a culturally relativist West can even raise some of these topics: nothing against cousin marriage, old boy, but it places a bit of a strain on the old health care budget. It's not the polygamy, it's the four welfare cheques you're collecting for it.

But this is being penny-wise and pound-blasé. What does

it mean when 57 percent of Pakistani Britons are married to first cousins and 70 percent are married to relatives? At the very least, it tells you that this community is strongly resistant to traditional immigrant assimilation patterns. Of course, in any society, certain groups are self-segregating: the Amish, the Mennonites, and whatnot. But when that group is not merely a curiosity on the fringe of the map but the principal source of population growth in all your major cities, the challenge posed by the self-segregation is of a different order. There are now towns in northern England where cousin marriage is the norm: Pakistanis aren't assimilating with "the host community"; the host community has assimilated with Pakistan. Again, if you had told a Yorkshireman in 1970 that by the early 21st century it would be entirely normal for half the kindergarten class to be the children of first cousins, he would have found it preposterous.

But it happened. By "alarmist," *The Economist* and Co. really mean "raising the subject." Last year, the British novelist Martin Amis raised the subject of my book with Tony Blair and asked him if, when he got together with his fellow prime minister, the Continental demographic picture was part of the "European conversation." Mr. Blair replied, with disarming honesty, "It's a subterranean conversation." "We know what that means," wrote Amis. "The ethos of relativism finds the demographic question so saturated in revulsions that it is rendered undiscussable." The "multiculturalist ideologue," he added, "cannot engage with the fact that a) the indigenous populations of Spain and Italy are due to halve every 35 years, and b) this entails certain consequences."

—Mark Steyn, Feb. 14, 2008

With all the elegance of a bull in a china shop, Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, made a foray into the difficult subject of how Muslims fit into Western societies. The ensuing crashing and banging is still going on in Britain and can be heard across the pond.

We might possibly thank the venerable gentleman for bringing the subject out into the open. How Muslims fit into Western societies is certainly one subject that deserves intensive reflection and debate, as Muslim populations continue to grow—particularly in Europe, but also in the United States, Canada, and Russia.

However, the conclusions the arch-bishop drew in an interview on the BBC were startling—to wit that Britain had to "face up to the fact" that some citizens do not relate to the UK legal system and that the introduction of Shariah law seems "unavoidable." Shariah law is the legal system that governs social and cultural aspects of Muslim lives. It is often controversial because of the severity of its punishments and its lack of rights for women. Introducing it, the archbishop said, could help social cohesion in Britain

A LOOK AT OUR WORLD

highlights from around the globe

because Muslims could choose, for instance, to have marital disputes of financial matters dealt with in a Shariah court.

Interestingly enough, social cohesion is exactly what the Rev. Williams' remarks have produced as the British started contemplating the demise of their legal system. Sometimes, appreciation for your own institutions and values does not come until you find them under threat. In this case, the threat is not Muslims living in British society as much as it is those who advocate their presence as a reason to abandon the cultural, legal and political structures that have made Britain what it is over the centuries.

The same can be said for other Western societies under strain from growing Muslim populations. These societies may not be perfect. In fact, sometimes they veer toward decadence, excessive tolerance verging on spinelessness and a mass culture that caters to the absolutely lowest denominator. Yet they have also produced the bedrock universal liberal (in the original sense of the word) principles of democracy: equality before the law, respect for human dignity, political rights, and religious liberty.

Meanwhile, in Britain, the archbishop is said to have been taken aback by the fierceness of the response to his cogitations. From the back benches of the Tory Party to the spokesmen for Prime Minister Gordon Brown, from gay activists to staunch conservatives to Muslim women advocates, the outcry has been vociferous and loud. Labor Culture Secretary Andy Burnham said that introducing Shariah would create "social chaos." Shaista Gohir, director of Muslim Voice UK and an advisor to the British government, said, "The majority of Muslims do not want it," citing the statistic that 60 percent of Muslims are actually against the idea. "He is not fit to be the Archbishop of Canterbury, he doesn't know what his business is," charged Gerard Batten, member of the European Parliament from the UK Independence Party.

—Helle Dale, *The Washington Times*, Feb. 13, 2008, p. A19

President Obama's proposed economic stimulus plan makes a deliberate—and unconstitutional—attempt to censor religious speech and worship on school campuses across the nation, according to a lawyer who argued related cases before the U.S. Supreme Court 20 years ago and won them all.

"This isn't like a convenient oversight. This is intentional. This legislation pokes its finger in the eyes of people who hold religious beliefs," Jay Sekulow, chief of the American Center for Law and Justice, told WND today.

His was the organization that decades ago argued on behalf of speech freedom on school campuses, winning repeatedly at the U.S. Supreme Court. Since then, the 2001 *Good News Club v. Milford Central School District* decision was added, clarifying that restricting religious speech within the context of public shared-use facilities is unconstitutional.

The problem in the proposed stimulus bill comes from a provision that states: "PROHIBITED USES OF FUNDS. No funds awarded under this section may be used for—(C) modernization, renovation, or repair of facilities—(i) used for sectarian instruction, religious worship, or a school or department of divinity; or (ii) in which a substantial portion of the functions of the facilities are subsumed in a religious mission.

The wording that specifically targets religious speech already has been approved by the majority Democrats in the U.S. House—all GOP members opposed it. In the Senate, Jim DeMint, R-S.C., proposed an amendment to eliminate it, but again majority Democrats decided to keep the provision targeting religious instruction and activities.

—Bob Unruh, *WorldNetDaily.com*, Feb. 6, 2009

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MANITOU SPRINGS, CO

- Session 1:** May 17 – May 29
- Session 2:** May 31 – June 12
- Session 3:** June 14 – June 26
- Session 4:** June 28 – July 10

- Session 5:** July 19 – July 31
- Session 6:** August 02 – August 14
- Session 7:** August 16 – August 28

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY, VA

- Session:** June 21 – July 03

BRYAN COLLEGE, TN

- Session 1:** July 05 – July 17
- Session 2:** July 19 – July 31

To register, visit our website or call us at 719.685.9103.

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