

Dr. Jeffery Long Delivers Message

Know Thy Neighbor: Cultivating a Community of Respect

He said, "If you gather 20 people together from one congregation, you'll get 20 different views of the same religion." He explained that religious labels are an insufficient representation of how someone feels and we should not generalize. He said that we must interact and ask questions to understand other's beliefs. He added, "Remember, what people tell us, we have to accept it, and don't try to prove them wrong."

He discussed various religions and his experiences in the local Hindu community and talked about how many religions are closely related. He said that it's not enough to tolerate others. Being tolerated does not make other feel good and does not foster healthy interactions. He advised us to have acceptance, to welcome others, and to create a happy community understanding one another. "Extend a hand of love."

Dr. Long received his doctoral degree from the University of Chicago and became a Professor of Religion and Asian Studies at Elizabethtown College in 2000. He is the author of *A Vision for Hinduism*, *Jainism: An Introduction*, and *The Historical Dictionary of Hinduism*. His department at Elizabethtown College has recently pioneered the nation's first major in Interfaith Leadership Studies. He is a scholar of religion and has traveled extensively to India, Japan, and Europe.

The final community diversity session for this season will be held on May 21, 2018 at The Hershey Story. A diverse panel of local individuals will discuss their experiences living in our community. Registration is free; seating is limited. Please visit the township's website, www.derrytownship.org, for more information.