



1971 2021
Rothko Chapel
Celebrating 50 years

**50th Anniversary
Interfaith Service &
Community Celebration**

February 28, 2021

Celebrating 50 Years

This weekend, the Rothko Chapel celebrates 50 years as a landmark of modern sacred art and as a celebrated site for transformation and inspiration. Envisioned and commissioned by John and Dominique de Menil, the Rothko Chapel and Barnett Newman's *Broken Obelisk* were dedicated and opened to the public February 26-28, 1971.

We honor and celebrate the 50th Anniversary with a roster of exciting programs this weekend and throughout the year, spanning the breadth of offerings that the Chapel is known for—from performances and interfaith experiences to discussions and conversations on the critical issues of the day—reinvigorating the Chapel's renown as a space for inspiration and contemplation.

Our 50th Anniversary celebratory weekend culminates with today's interfaith service and community celebration, harkening back to the dedication ceremonies that commemorated the Chapel's opening in 1971. The service features prayers, blessings, songs and reflections from a wide array of community members, spiritual leaders, and human rights advocates locally, nationally, and internationally.

We hope you enjoy this celebration of the first 50 years of the Rothko Chapel, and continue to be part of the life of the Chapel as we begin the next 50 years.



Order of Service

Welcome & Introduction

David Leslie

Executive Director, Rothko Chapel

Opening Music & Reflection

Tiokasin Ghosthorse

Executive Producer, First Voices Radio

Member, Cheyenne River Lakota of South Dakota

Invocation

The Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza

Archbishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Norah by Jacob Spike Kraus & Blessing

Cantor Rollin Simmons

Congregation Emanu El

Rabbi David Segal

Texas Lead Organizer, Religious Action Center of

Reform Judaism

Reflection & Prayer

Imam Dr. Basem Hamid

Islamic Society of Greater Houston

Dona Nobis Pacem

International Voices Houston

Mark Vogel, *Artistic Director*

Reflection

Rev. Dr. James Forbes

Senior Minister Emeritus, Riverside Church

Reflection & Blessing

Rajwant Singh

President, EcoSikh

Executive Director, Guru Gobind Singh Foundation

“Litany for the Journey Ahead”

Read by Houston Interfaith Youth Leaders

Neville Kanga, *Zoroastrian Association of Houston*

Aasiyah Khalil, *Masjid Warithuddeen Mohammed*

Saachi Jain, *JVB Preksha Meditation Center*

Emma Hamedian, *Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is
of Houston*

Yuna O'Brien, *Christ Church Cathedral*

Soumil Goyal, *Arya Samaj Greater Houston*

We come together in the Light of God to celebrate the Rothko Chapel's 50-year journey: The people we have met, friendships made, music played, words spoken, laughter, silence, tears, smiles, and prayers shared....for this and so much more, we give thanks.

We give thanks for God's spirit of hospitality found at the Rothko Chapel: a place where art invites us into community, and all are welcomed. We are grateful for space to picnic on the Chapel grounds, gather with family in times of joy and sorrow, meditate in moments of silence, and honor our shared humanity.

We know that there are times when we fall short in living as a kind and compassionate community: a harsh word, a disparaging thought, an averted glance, a time we did not stop a classmate from being bullied, a time we did not fully listen to each other. We are grateful for the Sacred call of reconciliation and ask for the courage and wisdom to bring love to all our relationships and stand together in solidarity and unity.

We also join together asking for the strength to answer the call of our faith traditions, prophets and leaders to equitably serve those in need, feed the hungry, bring joy to those in sorrow, house those who are without shelter, comfort those who are sick and heal those who have been injured. In all our words, thoughts and actions, let us live in ways that help further peace throughout the world.

We affirm that peace, without justice, is not complete. Let this anniversary celebration be a time when we honor the call of the Holy to renew our commitment to lift up those who have been abused, killed, imprisoned or harmed because of the color of their skin, sexual orientation, religion, country of origin, economic standing or political affiliation. Let us find the courage to

further justice so that all may experience lives full of possibility.

We know today that the health of the planet and the future of all who depend on its elements for life is uncertain. God of all Creation, let us be mindful of the health of all species, the plants and trees, the land, the water and the air that provide a planetary home of abundance, this blue dot in the cosmos. Let us affirm our connections to one another and all living beings so that we can live with certainty that this place we call home will sustain life for future generations.

Today, we celebrate the first 50 years of the Rothko Chapel and give blessings for the journey ahead:

Let us remember the power of radical hospitality so that all are welcomed and all voices heard.

Let us protect and nurture places where people can find rest and renewal amidst the noise and busyness of the day.

Let us honor the sacred in each of us, affirming our diverse spiritual traditions, supporting one another and coming to each other's aid.

Let us be a healing presence sharing love, hope and resources so that we may all live a life of dignity with the ability to realize our dreams.

Let us find the courage and solidarity to stand against injustice, righting wrongs and creating equity for all.

Let us honor the Creator by living humbly and sustaining the Earth that we call home for today and tomorrow's generations.

And as the Rothko Chapel prepares for the next 50 years, may our space and community be guided by the words of Saint Óscar Romero:

*Peace is the generous,
tranquil contribution of all
to the good of all.
Peace is dynamism.
Peace is generosity.
It is right and it is duty.*

Peace be upon you for the journey ahead.

*Written by David Leslie on the occasion of the
Rothko Chapel's 50th Anniversary*

Reflection & Blessing

Bishop Myokei Caine-Barrett, Shonin
Resident Priest, Myoken-ji Temple

Sufi Sema Whirling Ceremony & Reflection by Fariha Friedrich

Nur Ashki Jerrahi Community
Mexico City & New York City

Wade in the Water

Rutha Mae Harris
*Original Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
Freedom Singer*

Remarks

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner

Remarks

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo

Reflection

Dolores Huerta
*President, Dolores Huerta Foundation &
Community Organizer*

Special Messages from His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama & Former President Jimmy Carter

Read by David Leslie

Thanks & Acknowledgements

Michael Piana
Board Chair, Rothko Chapel

Closing Words & Benediction

Rev. William A. Lawson
Pastor Emeritus, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church

Closing Music

I Woke Up This Morning

Rutha Mae Harris

Presenters & Contributors



Bishop Myokei Caine-Barrett, Shonin
Resident Priest,
Myoken-ji Temple



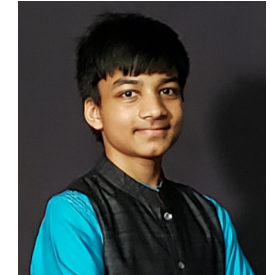
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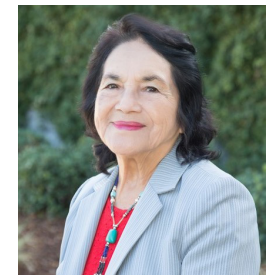
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Gobind Singh Foundation*



Houston Mayor
Sylvester Turner



International Voices Houston
Artistic Director, Mark Vogel



Nur Ashki Jerrahi Community
Mexico City & New York City

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International Voices Houston

Artistic Director, Mark Vogel

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About the Rothko Chapel

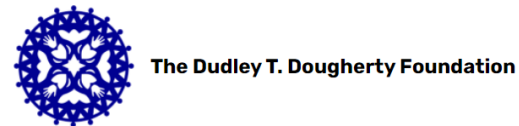
The Rothko Chapel is a contemplative space that successfully interconnects art, spirituality and compassionate action through a broad array of public programs and community initiatives. It is open to the public every day of the year at no charge. Founded by Houston philanthropists Dominique and John de Menil, the Chapel was dedicated in 1971 as an interfaith, nonsectarian sanctuary, and invites visitors from around the world to experience the power and sanctity of Mark Rothko's monumental paintings.

The Rothko Chapel's mission is to create opportunities for spiritual growth and dialogue that illuminate our shared humanity and inspire action leading to a world in which all are treated with dignity and respect.

The Rothko Chapel is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your tax-deductible donation enables the Chapel to welcome people from all over the world every day of the year to experience the transformative power of art, to engage in courageous conversations, and to connect with their innermost thoughts.

To learn more and donate, visit:
rothkochapel.org/give/donate

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HOUSTON ENDOWMENT

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