

January Adventure 2017 Questionnaires Recap as Posted to Facebook

Dear Adventurers: March 17, 2017

Thank you for giving us a piece of your mind! Here is our recap of the JA 2017 Questionnaires.

Out of a total of 675 JA 2017 attendees, 310 filled out our Questionnaire and submitted it to be tallied. There were 56 first timers responding at one end of the spectrum, and five having attended all thirteen January Adventures at the other.

For the tally-task, Margie and Frank Lenox, two 13-timers and long-time JA volunteers, stepped up to the plate. They worked their way through the data — not an easy job! — and made all your circle-checks and comments come alive. Thank you, Margie and Frank!

Naturally we can't post all of the comments, but be assured that we have studied each one. We have selected a few comments from each category that we hope give the tone and tenor of the majority.

Seventy percent gave our program organization a rating of "5", with 26% giving a "4". Some of your words: "Very well-organized; well-oiled machine." "An excellent meeting in every respect!" "Love spending the weekend with 16 friends while having spiritual enhancement/expansion." "Almost too much scheduled...and we tried to do it all!" "Saturday was very full!"

JA 2017 continues the better-than-ever tradition: "Having been here for eleven of The Adventures, I have to say this was one of the very, very, best!" "Only place where I can find melding of religion/history/Bible to make sense." "The trajectory you are on makes the JA experience better each year!"

Our speakers, Rev. Robin Meyers, PhD, Senior Minister of the Mayflower Congressional United Church of Christ, Oklahoma City, and Dr. John Dominic Crossan, Professor Emeritus in DePaul's Department of Religious Studies, led the way as a classic JA blending of speakers: "Great combination. Both so helpful. Learned a great deal." "Like their clear and deep theological outlook." "Dynamic and thought-provoking." "Great combination of speakers. The Best Ever!" "As good as Borg & Crossan in the early days."

We stepped out of the January-Adventure box in 2017 by adding music...Owen and Moley o Súilleabháin: "The addition of music was GREAT!" "Owen and Moley were wonderful!" "We are in a holy place. Group singing like we had with Owen and Moley brings this out in a beautiful way." "Owen and Moley's music was a wonderful addition! Eight Stars for the concert!"

As a result of last year's (JA 2016) Questionnaires, we changed/added/reconfigured some things for 2017. Thank you for noticing! "Liked having no envelope at registration." "Less is more!" "Good improvements on name tags." "Liked agenda on the back of name tags." "Later start Sunday is good." "Thanks for the emphasis on recycling." "Blue aprons made volunteers easy to find."

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And we received good suggestions that we will think about carefully for next year: “Consider starting evening talks earlier.” “The schedule is packed!” “Maybe add another evening?” “We’re thinking about coming a day early next year!” “Breaks could be shorter.” “Thanks for the longer breaks!” “Need more breaks.” (ed.: Can’t please everyone!) “Update auditorium restrooms.”

FLASH!!! We interrupt this message with news from Epworth: Buzzy, Billie and Peter met with Epworth staff last week, and the following announcement was part of an email received the very next day: “Joel (Willis, President and Chief Executive Officer of Epworth) has approved the upgrade to the Strickland Auditorium stage-side restroom facilities. I (Tiffany Flavell, our conference coordinator) am excited to let you all know that this is already underway. We will complete one unit per month. Each unit will use less water and move more efficiently as well as have the desired ADA height.” Thank you Epworth by the Sea!

And now, back to more of your good suggestions for future January Adventures: “Longer Q&A” “Shorter Q&A” “More Q&A” (ed.: We try!) “Better advertising for when book signing takes place.” “Use credit card reader for book store.” “Consider a JA focused on anti-racist theology.” “Have camera take close-ups of speakers for projection.” “Fewer announcements.” “Make the program easier to find on website.” “Make the audio replays a separate category on website menu bar.”

Robin Meyers very generously offered to give an unscheduled presentation Saturday afternoon on his November 13th sermon “The Revenge of the Deplorables”. The questionnaire had already been printed so no data available, but attendance was high and enthusiastic. Thank you, Robin!

Have more thoughts for us? Post them on our Facebook page.

Because of a low response to January Adventure in August, we are compelled to cancel this venture. Those who signed up have been notified.