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**A MODEL OF INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING EXPLORING THE CURRENT STATE OF RELIGION AND POLITICS**

**Bestselling Author James Carroll lectures at First Congregational Church of Wilmette/Congregation Sukkat Shalom**

*The First Congregational Church of Wilmette, Congregation Sukkat Shalom and the Raven Foundation sponsor a lecture by James Carroll, award winning author of Constantine's Sword, examining "The Current State of Religion and Politics in the Country" on Sunday, November 9 at 7 p.m. in Wilmette, IL.*

GLENVIEW, IL, October 11, 2008 **/24-7PressRelease/** -- The First Congregational Church of Wilmette (United Church of Christ), Congregation Sukkat Shalom and the Raven Foundation sponsor a lecture by James Carroll, award winning author of Constantine's Sword and House of War, on Sunday, November 9 at 7 p.m. at 1125 Wilmette Avenue in Wilmette. Carroll's topic will be a post-election examination of "The Current State of Religion and Politics in the Country." Carroll, a former Catholic priest and lifelong peace activist, will lecture in a sanctuary that hosts both religious congregations, the First Congregational Church of Wilmette and Congregation Sukkat Shalom. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Ticket reservations can be made by contacting Sukkat Shalom at 847-251-2675 or [sukkatshalom@att.net](mailto:sukkatshalom@att.net).

"Through our sacred and mutually supportive partnership, we hope to be a living example that those of different faiths may dwell in harmony. Let us 'Go forth and be a blessing---Lech L'cha,'" explains First Congregational Church's Senior Pastor Stephanie Perdew. This timely lecture is a part of an ongoing series of programs of worship, education and social justice offered jointly by the two congregations since 2000. Their partnership of faith began as a space sharing arrangement in 1997 and has grown to a spiritual partnership that continues to promote religious understanding and enhance religious literacy. Their shared use of a house of worship was honored in 2000 with a Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Faith in Community Award.

James Carroll is a noted author, playwright and columnist for the Boston Globe who writes on politics and religion. His work has received the Melcher Book Award, the James Parks Morton Interfaith Award, and National Jewish Book Award in History, and has been frequently named among the Notable Books of the Year by the New York Times. Carroll's bestselling Constantine's Sword is now the subject of an acclaimed documentary, directed by Oren Jacoby.

First Congregational Church of Wilmette is a congregation open and affirming of all people who seek to follow the God revealed in Jesus Christ. The congregation welcomes people of all ages to gather with their faith and their doubts, bringing their questions, creativity and energy for spiritual growth and service. The church is committed to ecumenical cooperation and interfaith dialogue.

Congregation Sukkat Shalom of Wilmette, Illinois is a unique and innovative Jewish congregation founded by Rabbi Sam Gordon that celebrates diversity - welcoming the intermarried, the unaffiliated, and those searching for a meaningful Jewish life. A progressive synagogue in which to explore Jewish thought and search for personal meaning offering a full program of innovative family education, meaningful and creative worship, adult discussion and study, interfaith couple support groups, and holiday observances.

The Raven Foundation is a not-for-profit educational organization fostering an understanding of social influences and positive ways of addressing conflict by advancing the awareness of Ren Girard's insights into mimetic theory. Based in Glenview, the foundation works to make religion reasonable, violence unthinkable and peace a possibility.

**About The Raven Foundation**

The Raven Foundation is a not-for-profit educational organization fostering an understanding of social influences and positive ways of addressing conflict by advancing the awareness of Ren Girard's insights into mimetic theory. For further information, contact Maura Junius at 224-521-2491.