

**Name of sponsoring Christian Science Organization: Cornell University**

**Type of event:** a two part event with movie screening of the movie *The Matrix* and a discussion/lecture the following day

**Name of lecturer (if applicable): John Tyler**

**How did you choose your lecturer: He is lecturing at the Ithaca Church the same weekend.**

**Title of lecture (if applicable): Defeat The Matrix: Breaking Out of Hell**

**Date/time of event: movie – Sat Nov 10 @7pm, lecture – Sun Nov 11@1:30pm**

**Location: Cornell University campus**

**Language: English**

**How will you advertise this event?** (If you are using flyers, could you send us a pdf of your flyer?) flyers and word of mouth invitations

**Name of CSO contact: Heather Carlsen**

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**What led you to organize this event?**

We like to host a lecture or discussion each semester. Four lecturers in the area provided an opportunity for us to take advantage of their presence. Lecturer John Tyler was invited to speak at the First Church, Christ Scientist, Ithaca. His topic, Defeat the Matrix: Breaking out of Hell interested us as it seemed applicable to the whole of our campus.

**What were your expectations from this event? How did you prepare for it?**

This event was expected to announce the presence of the Christian Science Organization on campus, to open our relations with the community, and to uplift and inspire the students, faculty, and staff on campus.

We prepared with prayer for openness to know the message would inspire all of campus (both Cornell and Ithaca College), to invite all, but let God judge who needed to attend. We advertised with flyers, quarter cards, an ad in the campus paper *The Daily Sun* (which was highly effective) and personal invitations.

**What was your overall response to this event? Did it meet your expectations? Were you surprised? Was it successful? How did your intended audience respond?**

We had an extremely positive response to the lecture part of the event. Those who attended enjoyed the film, but the emphasis was on the lecture/discussion. The room was a perfect size, with a very comfortable livingroom-esque atmosphere. The subject of the lecture was great. John was great – very personable. He led the session as a conversation. He was open to questions, of which there were many. The audience was positively responsive, and actively participated in the discussion as they were very comfortable with John and his open minded attitude toward the group and the talk's direction. John only got about halfway through his lecture, but the audience was satisfied and we were pleased with his flexibility.

It's cool how the theme of the movie *The Matrix* relates to Christian Science, and our lecturer, John, emphasized the movie as a demonstration or example of Christian Science, making Christian Science more tangible, easy to understand. We were pleased to see several new faces including a father, his son – a prospective student, and daughter, who were on their way to see something else and stopped in for the discussion and even participated with questions.

A former member who had stopped participating in Org activities for the last 3 or 4 years returned to hash out some questions about Christian Science. He gleaned a lot from John who was accommodating; he even stayed well after the allotted time for the lecture (almost 2 hours) to continue his discussion with our former member. This post-discussion was most inspiring for some of our members in attendance because it inspired deeper consideration of their belief in and following of Christian Science, reinforcing its value in their lives.

**Is there anything you would do differently?**

We should start advertising sooner. To have a set date and room is the first requirement to getting flyers out in advance, but we could also start talking about the event as soon as we have an idea for it.

We probably would not host the film as an advertised event in the future as it's expensive to have the license required to show the film. If the film were hosted privately the viewing license is not required. This may be a better approach as showing the film was not as important for the purpose of sharing Christian Science, but gave some added context to the lecture held the following day.