

**Special thanks
to all of our volunteers and co-sponsors**

ORGANIZERS



SPONSORS



**Annual San Francisco
Ramadan Interfaith Iftar Dinner**

Program Overview

Registration

Welcome Speeches

Rev. Victor Floyd

Calvary Presbyterian Church

Fatih Ferdi Ates

Pacifica Institute San Francisco

Video - Introduction to Ramadan

Interfaith Panel

Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr.

United Religions Initiative

Maha Elgenaidi

Islamic Networks Group

Jessica Trubowitch

Jewish Community Relations Council

Moderator - Michael Pappas

San Francisco Interfaith Council

Call to Prayer, Blessings for the food

Buffet Iftar (Fast Breaking) Dinner

Closing Remarks

"Oh you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn piety and righteousness." (Qur'an 2:183)

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Every day during this month, Muslims around the world spend the daylight hours in a complete fast. During the blessed month of Ramadan, Muslims all over the world abstain from food, drink, and other physical needs during the daylight hours. As a time to purify the soul, refocus attention on God, and practice self-sacrifice, Ramadan is much more than just not eating and drinking. Muslims are called upon to use this month to re-evaluate their lives in light of Islamic guidance. We are to make peace with those who have wronged us, strengthen ties with family and friends, stay away from bad habits — essentially to clean up our lives, our thoughts, and our feelings.

- Through fasting, a Muslim experiences hunger and thirst, and sympathizes with those in the world who have little to eat every day. Nowadays people in Africa need not only sympathy, but also actual food by those who experienced hunger.
- Through increased devotion, Muslims feel closer to their Creator, and recognize that everything we have in this life is a blessing from Him.
- Through increased charity, Muslims develop feelings of generosity and good-will toward others. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) once said, "A man's wealth is never diminished by charity."
- Through self-control, a Muslim practices good manners, good speech, and good habits.
- Through changing routines, Muslims have a chance to establish more healthy lifestyle habits

Awareness of the Heart
To remember intention and purpose

Awareness of the Mind
To stay alert and attentive to your actions

Awareness of the Body
To avoid rushing and perfecting each moment

"Eat and drink (freely), but do not waste: verily, He does not love the waste-ful!" (Qur'an 7:31)

We should make extra efforts this Ramadan as a part of Bay Area Hunger Project to:

- Avoid any waste of food, whether at the masjid or at home.
- Donate any leftovers to a homeless shelter, soup kitchen, or other charity.
- Conserve and preserve the environment by limiting our use of unrecyclable materials.

May the blessings of this holy month make it truly a time for giving, sharing, and making our communities and this world a better place.

The following are select charities which provide food for those in need:

1. Rahma Foundation, www.rahma.org/
2. Alameda Food Bank, www.alamedafoodbank.org/
3. Berkeley Food Pantry, www.berkeleyfoodpantry.org/
4. Second Harvest Food Bank, www.sfb.org/
5. St. Anthony Foundation, www.stanthonyssf.org/

Prayer

O God, we thank you for the countless blessings that you have bestowed upon us. Especially, for friends whom we are sharing our food today.

O God, you have prescribed fasting to us so that we should realize the value of your blessings, to teach us patience, to accept our weakness and need to you, to discipline our evil soul with hunger, to experience hunger to understand hunger. Now, we have better understanding of those who are suffering with hunger all over the world. Do not test us with hunger. Help us to become your embodiment of your mercy to those who need it.

Dear God, bless those who are in need of your blessing as we are blessed today.

God of mercy, we have fasted to seek your pleasure, we believe in you, we have entrusted ourselves to you, and now we are breaking our fast with your food.

Forgive our past and future sins.

Show us the real blessings in afterlife that you let us taste the samples today.

Please do not let us go astray in this life and afterlife.

Amen