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- Rev. John Talesfore  
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San Francisco Interfaith Council  
Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

**Honoring Congregations For  
Disaster Preparedness and Retrofitting  
Their Buildings**

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

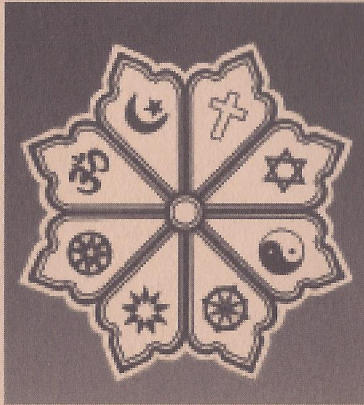
7:00 - 9:00 AM

Hotel Kabuki  
San Francisco



Sponsored by:  
The San Francisco Interfaith Council

**San Francisco  
INTERFAITH  
COUNCIL**



*Celebrating our diverse faiths  
And spiritual traditions,  
The San Francisco Interfaith Council  
brings people together  
to build understanding  
and serve our community.*

**San Francisco Interfaith Council**  
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*Welcome* to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith  
Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast!

Today we are celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the San Francisco Interfaith Council by honoring our founders. We will also be recognizing congregations for retrofitting their buildings and for disaster preparedness.

We will give special recognition to former Mayor Art Agnos whose initiatives with the faith community in 1988 to help the city address the homeless situation and again following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake led to the formation of the Interfaith Council.

Over the past twenty years, the San Francisco Interfaith Council has responded to both crises and celebrations in our city. We have developed into an organization that brings together the faith communities of San Francisco to work together on common goals and represent their interests before government and the public. Each year at this interfaith breakfast, we shine the spotlight on the efforts of the religious community to better the lives of the people of San Francisco and give thanks for all that has been given to us. Welcome!

*The San Francisco Interfaith Council*



**FOUNDERS OF  
THE SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL  
1988-1989**

Rev. James G. Emerson Jr., Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Rita Semel, Jewish Community Relations Council  
Rev. Amos Brown, Third Baptist Church  
Rev. Richard Schaper, St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Mary Culp, Old First Presbyterian Church  
Otis Cook, Hamilton United Methodist Church  
Iftekhhar Hai, United Muslims of America  
Rev. Vic Carpenter, First Unitarian Universalist Church  
Rev. James DeLange, St. Francis Lutheran Church  
Bishop Franzo King, African Orthodox Church  
Rev. Jack Eastwood, St. John's Episcopal Church  
Rabbi Malcom Sparer, No. California Board of Rabbis  
Rev. Robert Conover, Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Roy Nyren, First Congregational Church  
Rabbi Martin Weiner, Congregation Sherith Israel  
Rev. George Killingsworth, Lutheran Social Services  
Rev. John Keane, Archdiocese of San Francisco  
Rev. Bruce McSpadden, SF United Methodist Mission  
Rev. P.T. Mammen, SF Association of Evangelicals  
Alan Wong, Cumberland Presbyterian Church  
Will Lightbourne, Catholic Charities  
Rev. Charles Lee, United Methodist District Superintendent  
Bishop Melvin Talbert, United Methodist Church  
Rev. Larry Monroe, Lincoln Park Presbyterian  
Bob Nelson, Catholic Charities  
Holly McAlpen, Episcopal Diocese of CA  
Neil Housewright, Nat. Conference of Christians and Jews  
Rev. Ted Zimmerman, Zion Lutheran Church  
Rev. Glenda Hope, San Francisco Network Ministries  
Rev. John Hurley, CSP, Old St. Mary's Catholic Church



**The Quake that Brought Us Together**

Rev. James G. Emerson Jr.  
Thanksgiving 2009

To quote an old familiar line, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." I refer to the day the earth shook – not only for the San Francisco Bay Bridge, but for Calvary Presbyterian Church and for my wife and me. That moment changed our lives forever.

Seated that late afternoon at the desk, Dictaphone in hand, there came a tremor, then a shock.

To this native experienced with such moments, I knew we had more than a tremor. Experience had me up in an instant. Legs buckled as the tremor increased. Legs crashed to the floor but the adrenalin rush kept them moving out of the old building to the safety of the new building next door.

Out the door, down the short hallway, a quick left turn into the new building, and then I heard the crash. The fire door that had closed on cue missed me by a few feet. A look on the faces of staff members gave the message -- "this was real."

The old building that survived '06 had done it again. The new building, truly "quake proof," handled the moments with ease. At first, all seemed well.

The family jeep waited outside. The women who had gathered for the evening meeting wanted to get home. Margaret arrived at the church as we had planned should there ever be an emergency. I began driving people home and gathering family. All were shaken but safe. Only....



(continued)

Only the real earthquake was yet to come!

The trauma had different effects on different people. Some were terrorized. Others, in a pattern set by William James and his wife in '06, calmly observed, "This is a new experience." Still another woman felt moved to confess a sin of infidelity. Nothing unusual there except that she made the confession to me and the "other party" was a member of our church staff.

In the autumn that followed, two staff members left the church and Margaret and I took a vacation to Asia for the purpose of renewal. The members of the congregation who had experienced the worst of the shock – those who lived in the Marina – showed emotions that went from "we will build again" to the words of Caruso after the '06 quake, "never again in San Francisco."

The City recovered. Houses of religion came together. In response to requests from the Mayor, interfaith activity began. Margaret and I ultimately left to preach and teach in the Asia that had called us. None of us was ever again the same. The quake of thirty-one seconds brought out the best of some, revealed the worst in others, and began a sequence of events that changed the city and each of us.

### **These Congregations Have Taken Disaster Preparedness Training Through San Francisco CARD\***

19th Avenue Baptist Church  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Congregation Beth Sholom  
Congregation Chevra T'hilim  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
First Chinese Baptist Church  
Glide Memorial Church  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral  
Pine United Methodist Church  
Providence Baptist Church  
Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church  
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
St. Francis Lutheran Church  
St. John of God Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
Zion Lutheran Church

**If your congregation or organization would like to explore disaster preparedness training contact  
Alessa Adamo at: [alessa@sfcad.org](mailto:alessa@sfcad.org).**

**\* Community Agencies Responding to Disaster**



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## PROGRAM



7:00 A.M. Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell  
*Rev. Jordan Thorn, San Francisco Zen Center*

Call to Prayer  
*Khaled Oliabah, Administrator at Islamic Society of SF*

Prayer of Thanks for the Meal  
*Rabbi Larry Raphael, Congregation Sherith Israel*

Breakfast is served at your table

Opening Prayer  
*Rev. Amos Brown, Third Baptist Church*

President Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation  
*Caroline Getz, Senior at University High School and Member of the Young Leaders Program of the San Francisco Interfaith Council*

Welcome from Co-Chairs  
*Betsy Dodd, Calvary Presbyterian Church*  
*Joan Rinde, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*

Our Buildings Serve People  
*Rev. James DeLange, SFIC Chair*

Film Trailer: "Congress Shall Make No Law"  
*Susan Scannon, Director*

Honoring Our Founders (page 4)  
*Rita Semel, SFIC Executive Vice-Chair*

Recognition of Our Past and Current Mayors  
*Frank Jordan, Willie L. Brown Jr, Gavin Newsom*  
Special recognition of former Mayor Art Agnos

Song: "Ubi Caritas"  
*San Francisco Forest Choir, Ruriko Miura, Director*

A Culture of Preparedness  
*Michael Pappas, SFIC Executive Director*



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## PROGRAM (continued)



Honoring Congregations That Have Retrofitted Their Buildings  
*Rev. John Talesfore, St. Mary's Cathedral*  
*Abby Michelson Porth, Jewish Community Relations Council*

Song: "Dona Nobis Pacem"  
*San Francisco Forest Choir, Ruriko Miura, Director*

Prayers for the Neighborhoods of San Francisco  
*The Rt. Rev. Peter Lee, Interim Dean, Grace Cathedral*  
(prayers on page 10)

A Message From the Speaker of the  
House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi  
*Rita R. Semel, SFIC Executive Vice-Chair*

Closing Prayer: The Prayer of St. Francis  
*The Most Rev. George H. Niederauer, Archbishop*  
*Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco*

(said by all)

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

Closing Remarks  
*Breakfast Co-Chairs: Joan M. Rinde and Betsy Dodd*

## Prayers for the Neighborhoods of Our City

*The Rt. Rev. Peter Lee, Interim Dean, Grace Cathedral*

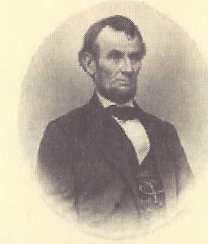
### Prayers are offered by:

The Rev. Israel I. Alvaran, United Methodist Church  
Rabbi Sydney Mintz, Congregation Emanu-El  
Iftekhhar Hai, United Muslims of America, SF Islamic Center  
Envoy Roger McCort, Salvation Army  
Mazie Price, Providence Baptist Church  
Sr. Kathleen O'Shea, CSJ, St. Vincent De Paul Society  
Supervisor David Chiu, Calvary Presbyterian

### Response by ALL:

#### **MAY THE PEOPLE OF OUR CITY LIVE IN SAFETY**

- Sunset, Parkside, Ingleside, Ocean View and Lake Merced neighborhoods;
- Presidio Heights, Pacific Heights, The Presidio, Laurel Heights, The Marina, and Seacliff neighborhoods;
- The Richmond, The Inner Sunset, Mira Loma Park, West Portal and Forest Hill neighborhoods;
- Eureka Valley/Castro, The Haight-Ashbury, Glen Park, Noe Valley and Diamond Heights neighborhoods;
- Visitacion Valley, Portola, Bay View-Hunters Point, and Potrero Hill neighborhoods;
- The Mission, Bernal Heights, South of Market, and The Excelsior neighborhoods;
- The Tenderloin, Civic Center, Hayes Valley, Japantown, and The Western Addition neighborhoods;
- The Financial District, North Beach, Chinatown, Telegraph Hill, and Russian Hill neighborhoods.



## President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation

**October 3, 1863**

**I**t is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.



**OUR SPONSORS  
FOR TODAY'S BREAKFAST**

**Table Sponsor—\$500**

Archdiocese of San Francisco  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Catholic Charities CYO  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Providence Baptist Church of San Francisco  
San Francisco Philadelphian Seventh-Day Adventist Church  
San Francisco Foundation  
Taiwan Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation USA

**Sustaining Sponsor—\$250**

Congregation Beth Israel Judea  
Rev. & Mrs. James DeLange  
Ron Dudum  
Betsy Dodd & Jim Boddy  
Grace Cathedral, Episcopal  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
Lutheran Social Services  
Old First Presbyterian Church  
Old Saint Mary's Cathedral  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
The Salvation Army  
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance



**Breakfast Steering Committee**

Joan M. Rinde, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Co-chair  
Betsy Dodd, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Co-chair  
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Congregation Sherith Israel  
Mary Zamboukos, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Rita Semel, Congregation Emanu-El  
Rev. James DeLange, St. Francis Lutheran Church  
Sr. Elizabeth Padilla, Brahma Kumaris  
Michael G. Pappas, SFIC Executive Director

**Special Thanks**

Flowers

*Alma Angeles, Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center*

Decorations

*Accent On Flowers*

*Joan M. Rinde, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Mary Zamboukos, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*

Coffee

*Ben Corey Moran  
Thanksgiving Coffee Company*

Audio Visual Technician

*Mario Reyes, Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center*

## Loma Prieta Earthquake 1989



The Loma Prieta earthquake had a profound effect on the religious communities of San Francisco, especially on those who had older buildings, many of them historic landmarks. According to our research, 22 buildings have been retrofitted, including several that are in progress. These religious communities have invested over \$68 million to make their buildings safe for the thousands of people who go into them each week not only for worship, but also for twelve-step meetings, child care, senior programs, meals, counseling, and medical services. Here is a list of those we were able to track down, followed by a few of their stories.

## Congregations That Have Retrofitted Their Buildings

Bethany United Methodist Church  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith-Israel  
Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin  
First Chinese Baptist Church  
First Church of Christ, Scientist  
First Unitarian Universalist Church and Center  
Mission Dolores  
Notre Dame des Victoires Catholic Church  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church  
Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
St. Dominic's Catholic Church  
St. Francis Lutheran Church  
St. Ignatius Catholic Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
St. Paul's Catholic Church  
The Old Cathedral of Saint Mary  
of the Immaculate Conception  
The Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi





**Contractors, Architects and Engineers  
Used In Retrofitting Projects**

**Architectural Resources Group**

**Stephen J. Farneth, FAIA, LEED AP**

The Old Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception  
Calvary Presbyterian Church

**Campoamor Architects**

Notre Dame des Victoires Church

**Degenkolb Engineers**

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
St. Paul's Catholic Church  
St. Patrick's Catholic Church  
The Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi

**ELS Architecture and Urban Design**

Congregation Sherith Israel  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**Forell / Elsesser Engineers**

Old St. Mary's Cathedral

**Frank Portman & Co.**



**David Finn, Architect**

**Randy Thueme Landscape Design**

St. Francis Lutheran Church

**Goldman Architects**

Bethany United Methodist Church



**Goring and Straja Architects**  
Episcopal Church of St. Mary The Virgin

**Michael Stanton Architecture**

St. Paul's Catholic Church

**Mayta & Jensen, Contractors**

Notre Dame des Victoires Church

**T. Merovich & Associates, Inc.**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**Nibbi Bros., Contractors**

St. Paul's Catholic Church  
The Old Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception  
Shrine of Saint Francis of Assisi

**Plant Construction Company, L.P.**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Temple Emanu-El  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Episcopal Church of St. Mary The Virgin

**Rutherford & Chekene**

St. Dominic's Catholic Church  
Sacred Heart School

**West Coast Premier Construction, Inc.  
General & Earthquake Retrofit Contractors**

First Church of Christ, Scientist  
TBA of America, Buddhist Temple

**Wiss, Janney, Eistner Associates, Inc.**

Congregation Sherith Israel

## The San Francisco Interfaith Council and Unreinforced Masonry Buildings

By SFIC Co-Founder, Rev. John E. Hurley, C.S.P.  
Pastor of Old St. Mary's Cathedral, 1991-1997

On October 17, 1989 the Bay Area experienced the Loma Prieta Earthquake. It had a catastrophic impact on the area. Everyone was impacted in some way and immediate concerns turned to finding the injured, those killed and securing those buildings directly affected by the earthquake to secure the streets below. However, others turned their efforts to seeing that something like this would not happen again. Supervisor Tom Hsieh of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, an architect by profession, was one of those people. Seeing the damage to buildings in San Francisco, his overriding concern was: What can we do to prevent this kind of damage from happening again and how can we ensure that people could get out of buildings affected?

In 1992, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance affecting unreinforced masonry buildings popularly known as the UMB Ordinance. After schools, UMB buildings that had general assembly spaces were next in line of priority. These general assembly spaces affected some thirty houses of worship, thirteen of which were owned by the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Compliance with the ordinance would have to be completed by 2011 and there would be benchmarks at three-year intervals to make sure that houses of worship were working towards compliance.

The UMB ordinance became a major focus for the newly formed San Francisco Interfaith Council. The Board of Directors set up a task force to oversee collaborative opportunities with the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the agencies overseeing compliance. As a member of the SFIC Board, I was asked to chair this committee and I did so until I left San Francisco in 1997.

Several issues emerged for the SFIC: 1) Clarity of implications of the UMB ordinance; 2) Time for congregations to determine their future direction and plans for compliance; and 3) Addressing fears that seeking landmark status by outside interests could prevent the sale or demolition of historic houses of worship.

**Clarity of implications of the UMB ordinance** – One thing was abundantly clear that the city was very serious about compliance. The concern was not only for the safety of those in buildings should another earthquake happen, but the city did not want buildings falling into the streets which would impact safety operations and people on the streets.

One of the greatest challenges for the SFIC was to get all the leaders of the affected congregations together. Smaller congregations felt that they were small and no one would bother them and did not take the UMB ordinance seriously. This decision was unfortunate, however we kept all congregations in the loop with communications. The heads of older and more historic places were very concerned and welcomed the SFIC leadership. All participants realized that we as a faith community needed to speak with one voice if there was to be any successful compliance for all of us. The Archdiocese of San Francisco and their building commission was very helpful to the SFIC in bringing clarity to the SFIC and the overall implications.

The first thing the city wanted UMB houses of worship to do was to put yellow plastic "police" ribbon around the buildings as a warning to those walking by or entering the building. As pastor of a tourist church this was the last thing that I wanted to do. The SFIC Board supported my efforts to get this changed and to have a more proportional response as a warning. The city agreed to our request and settled for signs up near the entrances of the buildings that said, "*This is an Unreinforced Masonry Building, enter at your own risk.*" Of course, "near" the entrance had varying responses from building to building, but at least it was better than tying a yellow ribbon around our churches.

Another major issue involved the definition of general assembly spaces. The city came up with a number based on seating capacity, not the number of congregants that normally assembled. Most of our buildings had far greater seating capacity than usage. We made an attempt to change the definition of the number to be participants rather than seating capacity. For instance, in my own case I suggested that if we closed off the balcony which seated several hundred, we could bring down the seating capacity. After tireless efforts in approaching the SF building commission our attempts to adjust usage of our places was unsuccessful. Meanwhile, the clock kept ticking.

**Second: Time to determine future congregational directions.** Congregations began to get bids on reinforcing their buildings to be in compliance. The dollar amounts were mind-boggling. Besides the funding issues, there were different approaches to retrofitting. Which method of retrofitting should we take? The more historic the building, the more challenges we faced. And there were no guarantees that any of the approaches would work. For instance, in another major earthquake the building would not collapse on the people inside or outside and the people could get out. However the building could be beyond repair and have to be torn down anyway. It was this thought that led many congregations to ask, is it good stewardship of funds to reinforce the building or just demolish it? Others simply did not have the money and no way to get it. Unlike historic houses of worship in other parts of the world, the First Amendment prohibited any government funds to be used for religious purposes. The Archdiocese of San Francisco, which owned over one-third of the UMB houses of worship, had to decide which buildings it would be able to retrofit and which ones would be abandoned or sold.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors heard the plea from the SFIC to come up with some way for congregations to get the millions of dollars to retrofit. The Board passed a \$350,000,000 Bond that would allow congregations and others to borrow money below market rate. A UMB Bond Loan Commission was set up to oversee development of policies for those who requested loans. Supervisor Tom Hsieh asked Fr. John Hurley to serve as the Chair of the commission which was a "hats off" to the SFIC and their work. With the approval of Archbishop John Quinn, Fr. Hurley assumed the task of overseeing the commission's work. One of the over riding concerns in developing policy was that money received by entities were loans and not grants. As grateful as the SFIC was for securing this possible funding, the major concern of the congregations was the ability to pay back the money. In the end, not many of the congregations took advantage of the funding.

**Third, addressing fears that seeking landmark status by citizen groups could prevent sale or demolition of historic houses of worship.** Congregations were making decisions with regard to stewardship of funds for their building vs. funds for ministry. Some congregations were being forced into mak-

ing decisions because they simply did not have the money needed and had no real avenues for funding. As some of these decisions were becoming public, people involved in historic preservation began to mobilize. Their mobilization efforts were for the sole purpose of prohibiting congregations from selling or demolishing their buildings. An effort was under way to landmark most of the religious buildings which would render many of them valueless since it would be impossible to sell a house of worship with a multi-million liability attached to it. Congregations would not even be able to get fair market value for the property. I already knew the challenges and limitations in being pastor of an historical landmark building and did not want anyone else to have to go through the hoops that I did in just performing general maintenance on the outside of the building.

On behalf of the SFIC, I along with a few other SFIC Board members, went to Sacramento to meet with Speaker Willie Brown. I had some conversations with his office prior to our visit and it seemed that he was sympathetic to our cause. A bill was proposed by him to the State Assembly and later the Senate which prohibited granting landmark status to a building without the owner's consent. The bill passed both houses of the legislature and Governor Wilson signed it. Obviously this bill had implications throughout the state, however it was the SFIC that first brought the issue to the State Capitol.

Throughout this crisis, the San Francisco Interfaith Council maintained a determined yet collaborative relationship with the City and County of San Francisco as well as in many of the faith communities throughout San Francisco. Out of the potential rubble of our buildings a stronger interfaith community emerged and serving it was the San Francisco Interfaith Council. Walls which divided some of our congregational leaders and communities were torn down. We were united in our efforts to foster good stewardship and at the same time make the difficult decisions about the future of our houses of worship. Some of our historical houses of worship withstood the earthquake of 1906 and again in 1989 and, God willing, will prevail in future earthquakes. It is essential that we preserve not only our City's architectural heritage but also to provide spaces to meet the needs of the current generation who search for God in their lives.

## Sherith Israel's Seismic Retrofit

Webster and California Streets

Congregation Sherith Israel has taken on our greatest challenge since our founding in 1851 – a \$15 million campaign to renovate our historic sanctuary and comply with City-mandated seismic safety requirements. This project's importance goes beyond the congregation itself; it involves everyone who recognizes the role Sherith Israel plays in the San Francisco community or treasures the historic, artistic and architectural significance of our sanctuary.

### Sherith Israel's sanctuary

Founded in the heady days of the Gold Rush, Sherith Israel is part of San Francisco history. We built our third sanctuary at California and Webster Streets in 1904-05. It survived the 1906 quake with minimal damage, and for a time housed San Francisco's Superior Courts. Beyond its spiritual and historic significance, our sanctuary is a treasure trove of irreplaceable architectural and artistic features, from its Classical and Romanesque design, to its unique stained glass windows and lavishly frescoed walls, to the magnificence of our Murray Harris organ. Sherith Israel is one of the most beautiful spiritual spaces in the Western United States.

### The City's mandate

Following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, all unreinforced masonry buildings used for public assembly were required to meet more stringent seismic safety standards. Although Sherith Israel suffered no damage in 1989 – and survived the stronger 1906 quake with minimal damage – we must comply with the new standards.

### Our innovative design solution

Using state-of-the-art, computer-aided design technology, our engineering team at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, working with the architects at ELS Architecture and Urban Design, has achieved the nearly impossible. Their design combines a variety of elements – including the innovative use of cutting-edge materials – to comply with the City's safety standards, while preserving the integrity of the sanctuary's magnificent interior.

For more information, please contact our development director, Abigail Herman, 415.346.1720, x20, or [aherman@sherithisrael.org](mailto:aherman@sherithisrael.org).

## St. Francis Lutheran Church

Church and Market Streets

(Survived the 1906 earthquake and served as a feeding station and hospital)

At 5:04 p.m. on October 18, 1989 I had just parked my car in front of the church, feeling lucky I had found a parking place. Suddenly my car began bouncing up and down and red dust emerged through the side gate to the church. The entire south wall had fallen into the courtyard. Had I arrived a few seconds earlier, I would have been under a wall of falling bricks. The bricks lay there for months while we tried to get a brick mason to put the wall back up. They were all busy. The stained glass windows in the sanctuary were twisted and were removed for repair. The building itself, constructed of wood with a brick façade, passed the structural engineer's inspection. We could use the building, but the plastic covering on the south side of the sanctuary was distracting during worship services, especially when the wind was blowing.

Finding bricks to match those that were installed in 1906 was a challenge, both as to size as well as color. We found a manufacturer in North Carolina. The cost of the repairs to the stained glass windows and to reinstall the wall was over \$100,000. It was paid for with special gifts from the congregation and a loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration that became available, thanks to the efforts of the then-forming San Francisco Interfaith Council. This phase of the work was not completed until 18 months after the earthquake.

In the years following, the people of St. Francis invested another \$1.1 million in their historic landmark, with a restoration of the sanctuary to its 1906 décor, the installation of fire safety and sprinkler systems and the development of the former courtyard into a Memorial Terrace for the internment of cremated remains and memorial stones.

The architects for the project were David Finn, A.I.A. and Randy Thueme Landscape Design. The contractor was Frank Portman and Co. of Burlingame.

Rev. James DeLange, the pastor at the time

## St. Mark's Lutheran Church

O'Farrell and Franklin Streets

**There were voices of doubt: "It can't be done." "Where would we get the money?" "Let's tear down this old church and build a modern one." "Let's just give up and move out of San Francisco."** Pushing doubt aside and listening to their hearts, the members voted to stay and retrofit, restore, and preserve their historic 1895 church. The 15 year story that followed included dreams, starts and stops, disappointments, and finally, gratifying accomplishment.

The Romanesque and Gothic style red brick church survived the 1906 earthquake and narrowly escaped subsequent fires that swept the city, stopping only a block away. The church served as a refuge for victims, sheltering families made homeless. In 1971, in recognition of its historical and architectural significance, St. Mark's was designated San Francisco Registered Landmark #41.

The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake caused minor damage to the church and none to our spirit. We soon set eyes on meeting San Francisco's seismic safety requirements for unreinforced masonry buildings. With a course of action in place, we held our first major fund-raiser in 1995, a benefit performance by a visitor from Lake Wobegon, Garrison Keillor.

The church was closed from June 2005 to December 2006 for the \$11 million extensive seismic strengthening and restoration, lovingly carried out by a team of experts led by Merovich & Associates, Inc., ELS Architecture, and Plant Construction. A stunningly beautiful church greeted us at the "Fling Wide the Doors" reopening celebration on December 10, 2006. It was immediately apparent that, while strengthened to face earthquakes and with modernized systems and a magnificent new Taylor & Boody tracker organ, great care had been taken to restore the building as it appeared when dedicated 111 years prior. In honor of the effort, Plant Construction and St. Mark's were awarded a 2007 Preservation Design Award by the California Preservation Foundation.

**The voices of doubt are silent.** For renovation details, history, photos, visit [www.stmarks-sf.org](http://www.stmarks-sf.org)

## Islamic Society of San Francisco

20 Jones Street

The Islamic Society of SF (ISSF) was founded in June, 1991. We started renting the building at 20 Jones Street from David Levy who represented the investors in the property.

The ISSF consists of three floors. The basement is yet to be developed. Gensler Architects have already made the plan but due to lack of funding the work has not started. The first floor is also under construction and hopefully the work will be done in phases due to shortage of funding. The second floor is used as a mosque and so far many of the donations have gone for improving the mosque area.

Much of the improvement was done during the times when Souleiman Ghali was the President of the society and Marwan Harera was the Vice President. The society acquired 501(c) 3 status in 1993.

Seismic retrofitting or modification of the existing structures to make the building seismically safe was not much of a problem because we became owners of the property in October 1993. All the necessary work had been done by the previous owners. For this we thank David Levy and his investors group.

The mosque is located in an area where we get many people from downtown. Approximately 1,300 people come to pray every Friday. Normally, the worshippers consist of workers who make hourly wages. Prayers are conducted five times daily. Each time of the day there is an average of 50 worshippers.

The people who support the mosque donate monthly. These are people from all over the Muslim world. A sizeable majority come from Yemen, Pakistan, India, Indonesia, Burma, Malaysia, Nigeria, Egypt, China, Turkey and local American converts.

### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

290 Dolores Street

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav was renovating a building that it had just purchased for the present synagogue when the Loma Prieta struck. The building was not damaged. The renovation was done by Goldman Architects and Mayta Jensen General Contractors.

We are preparing for the next earthquake by working with SF CARD and being part of the Inter-Congregational Emergency Preparedness.

We are training our staff, organizing emergency supplies and making sure we have procedures in place. The next step we are pursuing is to get together with our neighbors in the Mission Dolores neighborhood and plan for cooperation in case of an emergency.

### The Old Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception

660 California Street

Yes, indeed we did seismically retrofit our buildings. We did this in two stages: the great majority was done between November 2002 and January 2003. A second phase, which primarily included the retrofit of the bell tower, was from May 2009 to October 2009. It is just finished!

The cost, including hard and soft costs, engineering, fund raising, etc., was approximately \$11.5 million. Wow!

The Architectural firm was ARG: Architechtural Resources Group. The first lead Architect was Gui Hecksher. He worked on this project for nearly 15 years. When he retired he was followed by Andrew Blyholder.

The contractor for both phases was Nibbi Brothers General Contractors.

### Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church

1329 Seventh Avenue

During the Loma Prieta earthquake Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church suffered some structural as well as a lot of cosmetic damage. The congregation was out of the building for over a year worshipping in the chapel of Lakeside Presbyterian Church. This was due primarily to broken pipes in some of the building as well as roof damage causing asbestos to be released into the sanctuary. Parts of the tower fell into the roof that had recently been replaced which then required further repair/replacement work.

The oldest part of our campus (in the back of the property) was not anchored to the foundation, but thankfully this part of the building suffered no damage in 1989. It was clear to us, however, that we needed to retrofit this part of the building which we did, albeit 15 years later.

The retrofit work consisted of putting on shear wall around the perimeter of the basement along with replacing rotten beams and securing the existing ones with stronger supports.

The work was completed in 2004-2005 and was done by Am One Construction under the guidance of our Structural Engineer at a cost of \$8,670. We also did structural support on the tower and front wall at a cost of \$15,000.

Currently, we are working with SF CARD who has helped us write our Disaster Preparedness Mission Statement along with practice drills. We have participated in several community-wide Earthquakes Preparedness meetings as well as attending two City-wide events on Community Preparedness as well as one sponsored by SFCARD at SF's Command Center. We've had a number of our members complete NERT Training.

### First Church of Christ, Scientist

1700 Franklin Street

First Church of Christ, Scientist was impacted by the Loma Prieta earthquake in that, although little or no damage had been sustained, our building was unreinforced masonry and we were required by City ordinance to retrofit. After a great deal of collective soul searching as to whether we could afford to retrofit or should demolish the building, we realized that the 100-year-old church building is an architecturally historic treasure and we agreed to retrofit. We were fortunate that we owned adjacent property that we used for parking, and were able to sell it for approximately the cost of the retrofit.

The retrofit took just over a year to complete. The contractor, West Coast Premier Construction, was able to work in such a manner that we were able to hold services in the building during the entire time.

In the process we found problems we had not been aware of, such as water leaking into the foundation over many years with resulting mildew, and electrical issues, which had to be addressed. We also took the opportunity to restore the interior to near-original condition, repainting and installing new carpeting throughout.

Our contractor was West Coast Premier Construction. We are most grateful for all their hard work and meeting deadlines.

First Church will be celebrating with a Rededication Event on Thursday evening, 7-9pm, December 3 – ALL ARE WELCOME – please come and celebrate with us.

### Accomplishments of the San Francisco Interfaith Council in 2009

The Council:

- Convenes a monthly interfaith breakfast (on the second Thursday 8:00-9:30 am) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Franklin and O'Farrell. We learn about a program that serves the community, and someone shares his or her faith journey. About 50 people attend. A great opportunity to network. All are welcome.
- Publishes a monthly on-line newsletter that informs religious and community leaders of interfaith events and highlights the needs of the community. For example, an H1N1 Flu Guide for congregations is available on our website.
- Held an Interfaith Prayer Service on the eve of the inauguration of Barack Obama as President of the United States at Grace Cathedral. Over 700 people attended.
- Convened a workshop for congregations to respond to the unemployment crisis. With support from the Walter and Elise Haas Fund and Jewish Vocational Services, 45 people learned how some congregations have organized support groups for the unemployed and how to start a group in their congregation. More follow up is planned.
- Coordinates the Interfaith Winter Shelter Program, providing shelter beds for 80-100 homeless men in the churches on Cathedral Hill and in the Tenderloin with meals provided by 37 congregations from throughout the city.
- Helps plan and publicize events that demonstrate interfaith cooperation in San Francisco. For example, every four months we organize a "Children of Abraham" dinner gathering, where Jews, Christians and Muslims discuss a topic of common spiritual concern.
- Sponsored the annual Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk. This year the walk moved to Brotherhood Way. Working with the Brotherhood Way Association and Park Merced, we raised \$15,000, 25% of which will go to local food projects.
- Coordinates the Fair Trade Coffee Project. Through the Thanksgiving Coffee Company, congregations can buy coffee from a cooperative in Uganda owned by Muslim, Jewish and Christian farmers.
- Developed the Young Leaders Program. An intern from the University of San Francisco and her colleagues have begun working with students from high schools. The three areas of focus will be the Hunger Walk, Millennium Development Goal Advocacy, and Interfaith Fair Trade Coffee Project.

- Continues to provide resources for congregations on Disaster Preparedness, and to represent the faith community at government and civic meetings as we prepare for the next earthquake or other disaster. A third workshop for congregations is planned for 2010.
- Sponsors the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.
- Coordinates the annual Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Day.
- With a 20% increase in demand for food in the first six months of this past year, the San Francisco Food Bank called upon the SFIC to assist in identifying four congregations/volunteers along heavily used transit corridors to establish emergency pantries.
- Helps plan for the 2010 census. Michael Pappas, our Executive Director, was appointed by Mayor Newsom to be part of the 25 member San Francisco Complete Count Committee. His participation in this committee will enable the SFIC to give important input and engage constituent congregations to ensure a complete, accurate and comprehensive count. Critical funding for City/County programs is dependent upon this endeavor.
- Works closely with the Interfaith Coalition on Millennium Development Goals. Activity has ranged from legislative advocacy, a leadership luncheon and planning for a National Conference in April 2010.
- At the request of Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the SFIC assisted in gathering clergy from diverse faith traditions to participate in a Round Table on Health Care Reform. SFIC Chair Rev. James DeLange moderated the event that took place at St. James Episcopal Church on August 20, 2009.
- Issued a statement regarding the recent atrocities at Fort Hood, Texas, which expressed, among other things, our support for our Muslim brothers and sisters who might suffer discrimination as a result of this incident. The statement was read at the United Muslims of America anniversary dinner symposium, and was signed by a diverse group of religious leaders.
- Strengthened and streamlined our internet communications with the interfaith community. High-level civic officials and non-governmental agencies have recognized the importance of the SFIC's growing communication network. Our "e-blasts" are an effective and efficient way to communicate on important issues such as hate crimes, free tax services for the poor, the H1N1 virus, and the opening of emergency food pantries.

**Supporters of the  
San Francisco Interfaith Council  
2009**

**CONGREGATIONS**

Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Christ Church Lutheran  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Shaar Za'hav  
First Unitarian Universalist Church  
First United Lutheran Church  
Golden Gate Spiritual Church  
Grace Cathedral, Episcopal  
Holy Names Catholic Church  
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
New Providence Baptist Church  
Old First Presbyterian Church  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral / Paulist Fathers  
Providence Baptist Church  
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory  
San Francisco Friends Meeting - Quakers  
San Francisco Islamic Center  
St. Dominic's Catholic Church  
St. Francis Lutheran Endowment Fund  
St. Gabriel's Catholic Church  
St. Ignatius Catholic Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
St. Paulus Lutheran Church  
Third Baptist Church  
Zion Lutheran Church



**FOUNDATION GRANTS**

Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Foundation  
 San Francisco Foundation  
 Calvary Presbyterian Church Foundation  
 Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund  
 Walter and Elise Haas Foundation  
 The Vesper Society

**JUDICATORIES**

Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco  
 Episcopal Diocese of California  
 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco  
 San Francisco Stake of the  
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
 United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

**AGENCIES**

Catholic Charities CYO  
 Church World Service  
 Episcopal Community Services  
 Jewish Community Relations Council  
 Jewish Family & Children's Services  
 Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory  
 San Francisco Night Ministry  
 The Pacifica Institute (Turkish-American organization)  
 University of San Francisco

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Mary Culp	Michael Pappas
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Greg Egertson	Kirk Alan Pessner
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Amy T. Eliot	Nancy Record
Mary Moore Gaines	Mary Redick
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Ellen Gersh Widess	Joyce Ridley
Paul Groth	Clint and Janet Reilly
Iftekhar Hai	Dan Rosen
Stella Hasapas	Anita R. Roberts
Nancy A. Hardies	Marilyn J. Saner
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Michael Howard	Rita R. Semel
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Mark Lieu	Cynthia Zamboukos
George and Judy Marcus	Mary Zamboukos
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**In-Kind Donors To The Programs  
Of The Interfaith Council**

Alma Via/Brotherhood Way Association  
 Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center  
 Episcopal Community Services  
 First Unitarian-Universalist Church  
 Jewish Vocational Services  
 San Francisco CARD  
 St. Dominic's Catholic Church  
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
 St. Mary's Cathedral  
 Trinity Episcopal Church  
 The Interfaith Center at The Presidio

**Congregations  
That Donated And Served Meals At  
The Winter Shelter Sites 2008-2009**

Bethany United Methodist Church  
 Brahma Kumaris Spiritual Center  
 Calvary Presbyterian Church  
 Congregation Emanu-El  
 Congregation Sherith Israel  
 Corpus Christi Catholic Church  
 Epiphany Catholic Church  
 Episcopal Church of the Advent  
 Episcopal Community Services  
 First Unitarian Universalist Church  
 Forest Hill Christian Church  
 Grace Cathedral (Episcopal)  
 Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church  
 Mission Dolores  
 Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
 Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church  
 Old St. Mary's Cathedral  
 Park Presidio United Methodist Church  
 Pe'ah Garden  
 St. Emydius Catholic Church  
 St. Francis Lutheran Church  
 St. Ignatius Catholic Church  
 St. James Episcopal Church  
 St. Kevin's Catholic Church  
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
 St. Mary's Cathedral  
 St. Stephen's Catholic Parish  
 St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church  
 St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
 St. Vincent DePaul Society  
 Swedenborgian Church  
 Trinity Episcopal Church  
 Tzu Chi Foundation  
 Wave Makers  
 Zion Lutheran Church

**Interfaith Call For Unity  
In Response To Fort Hood Atrocity**

The atrocity that took place on November 5 at Fort Hood, Texas, is a tragedy that has undoubtedly brought sadness, anger and grief to many of our brothers and sisters. We mourn along with the families, friends, military personnel and other loved ones who have been deeply hurt by the loss of so many innocent lives. We offer our prayers and support for the victims of this violent act and their families.

We fully support our Muslim brothers and sisters in our community who fear that these actions will make them vulnerable to discrimination and prejudice as the details of this incident unfold. We acknowledge with appreciation the public statements of many Muslim organizations condemning the atrocity at Fort Hood. This is a time when our faith communities need to come together so that all can be treated with respect without discrimination. Our faith traditions remind us to lovingly reach out to those most in need, and we want to make sure no one is excluded in the much needed embrace of communal prayer at this time. Please join us in offering our prayers and good thoughts for all those affected by the recent killings in Fort Hood.

San Francisco Interfaith Council

Rev. James DeLange	Rita R. Semel	Michael G. Pappas, M.Div.
Chair	Exec. Vice Chair	Executive Director

Most Rev. George Niederauer  
 Archbishop of San Francisco

Right Reverend Marc Handley Andrus  
 Episcopal Bishop of California

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco  
 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

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