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**Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast 2006**

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St. Francis Lutheran Church  
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The Compassionate Listening Project  
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's Interfaith Thanksgiving  
Prayer Breakfast**

**“Honoring Models of Hope:  
Creating a Peaceful City”**



**Tuesday, November 21, 2006, 7:00 a.m.**

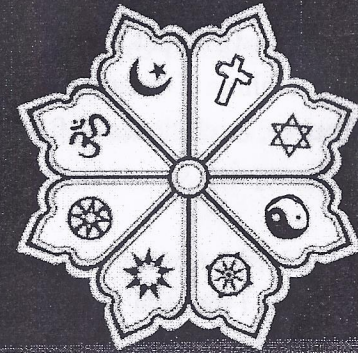
Cathedral Hill Hotel, San Francisco

**Sponsored by:  
San Francisco Interfaith Council**

**Prayers from Faith Communities in The City**



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.*

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Interfaith Prayer Book compiled and assembled by,  
The San Francisco Interfaith Council

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## Program

### Opening Remarks

Abby Michelson-Porth, Jewish Community Relations Council,  
Event Co-Chair

### Opening Prayer and Blessing Over the Meal

Cantor Roslyn Barak, Congregation Emanu-El

### Prayers for Peace in San Francisco

Reverend James DeLange, Chair, SFIC

**Prayer:** Souleiman Ghali, SF Islamic Society

**Prayer:** Sister Chandru Chandru Desai

### Keynote Address

Harris, District Attorney, City and County Of San Francisco

### Making a Difference Awards

Presented by San Francisco Supervisors

### San Francisco Interfaith Council:

#### How Do We Serve?

Rita Semel, Executive Vice Chair, SFIC

### Prayer for Peace

Most Reverend George Niederauer, Archbishop of San Francisco

### Song

Cantor Roslyn Barak, Congregation Emanu-El  
Rodney Gehreke, Congregation Emanu-El and  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

### Closing Remarks

Nancy Nielsen, Lutheran Social Services, Event Co-Chair



## Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Oh, Heavenly Father, We thank Thee, the Giver of every good and perfect gift from above, for gathering us together for this fellowship in Thy Holy Name!

As we thank Thee for the food we will partake, we likewise entreat Thee to feed the hungry.

As we thank Thee for health we enjoy, we likewise entreat Thee to heal the sick.

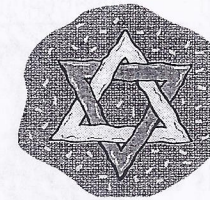
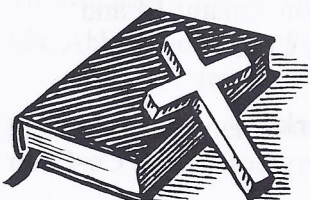
As we thank Thee for family & friends who join us, we likewise entreat Thee to comfort those who are alone.

As we thank Thee for the gift of freedom, we likewise entreat Thee to remember those who have perished in the defense of freedom, to protect those who continue serve abroad in our armed forces, and to comfort their families, at whose Thanksgiving tables there will be empty place settings this year.

May these remembrances stir us to service, to Thy Glory and to the benefit of those in the greatest of need.

May the spirit of Thanksgiving be shared by one and all and may God Bless you this Thanksgiving day and always.

Fr. Michael Pappas, Pastor  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church



## *Elohai Notzir*

O God,

Guard my tongue from evil and my lips from speaking guile,

And to those who slander me, let me give no heed.

May my soul be humble and forgiving to all.

Open my heart, oh God, to Your sacred Law,

That It's statutes I may know and It's truths pursue.

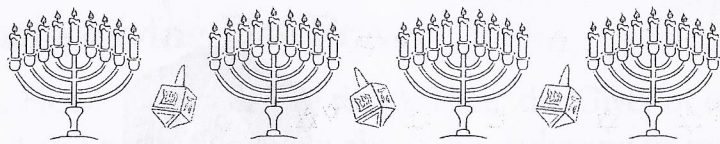
Save me with Your power; in times of trouble be my answer,

That those who love You may rejoice.

The eighteenth of the traditional standing prayers, the *Sh'monah Esrai*, that are part of daily Jewish worship this prayer reminds us of the power of our words and our responsibility to use them for good and not for bad.

Congregation Sherith Israel





**For** this land so richly blessed, we raise our voice in joyous thanks. To these shores your children have come from many lands to seek liberty and new hope. All have been pilgrims to this western world. Though they did not always practice the justice they sought, here they found renewed purpose, increased strength, and the opportunity to outgrow old fears and superstitions. For our country, for its freedom promised and attained, the richness of its natural blessing, and the growing harmony of its citizens, we give humble thanks.

**O God** of justice and right, inspire all who dwell in our beloved land with loyalty to the ideals of its founders. Give us wisdom and strength to labor for its well-being, on the firm foundation of justice and truth. Fill us with the spirit of kindness, generosity, and peace, that this land may be a beacon-light to many peoples.

Rabbi Douglas Kahn  
The Jewish Community Relations Council



“It is my deepest prayer that our community continue to learn how to choose peace over violence: in our hearts, among ourselves in our larger world.

Blessings to the Interfaith Community  
and to  
the City of San Francisco”

From  
The Compassionate Listening Project.



## Infinite Gratitude

Dear Tenchi Kane no Kami, the Principle Parent of the Universe.  
We would like to express our infinite gratitude to you for the limitless blessings we receive for all the functions of the earth and universe.

We acknowledge the ways of nature and realize  
your unconditional love and compassion.

We thank you for the bright sun that provides us warmth and light.  
We thank you for Mother Earth's unity within our universe  
that allows and sustains all life equally, as one family under the sun.

With the great support from our parents and ancestors,  
we are allowed to partake in the miracle of life itself.

We express our infinite gratitude for all our physical functions.

☞ We especially appreciate the great workings of our heart,  
which continues to beat even when we are unaware and deeply asleep.  
We also appreciate our arms and legs, which allow us to move freely,  
while working together with all the other parts of our body.

Yet, even though we have received so many blessing and favors  
From the great universe, we may still be taking things for granted.

In the past, and present, we may have caused troubles  
for other unknowingly.

Pleas forgive us and purify our body mind and spirit so that we can embrace  
a life of new hope and have good dreams for our future world.

We respect all spiritual leaders, faith traditions  
and different cultures in the world.

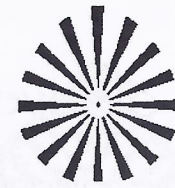
Let us draw on their great wisdom, and universal understanding,  
so that we may build a truly peaceful world.

Let us go beyond our borders with a heart of patience,  
humbleness and deep compassion

so that we can accomplish our important tasks for our future generations.

With a grateful heart, let us express "thank you, Ariga to gozaimasu" a  
thousand times a day. To the blessings we have received, to all people and  
to our own mind, spirit and body now and always

*By Rev. Masato Kawahatsu  
Konko Church of San Francisco*



## A Prayer for Peace

Whichever religion you belong to  
Whichever tradition you follow  
A sense of obedience, trust and honesty  
Is all that is needed in task of the Almighty

The most Beloved One of all  
Says with arms wide open  
'Break down the barriers...build bridges'  
Come together with a vision of unity  
and co-operation

Touching the stillness and virtues lying  
at the core of my being  
Guided by His pure love and benevolence  
I care for the honor of all  
For a true heart is what pleases the Lord

Om Shanti

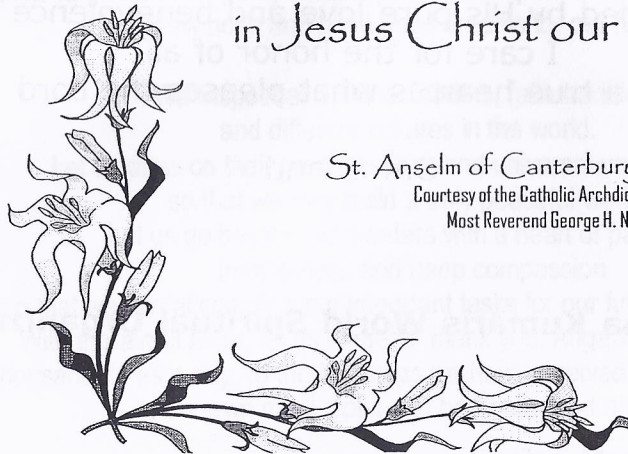
**Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization**



God of love,

whose compassion never fails,  
we bring you the sufferings  
of the world;  
the needs of the homeless,  
the cries of prisoners,  
the pains of the sick and injured,  
the sorrow of the bereaved,  
the helplessness of the  
elderly and weak.

According to their needs  
and your great mercy,  
strengthen and relieve them  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.



St. Anselm of Canterbury, 1033-1109  
Courtesy of the Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco  
Most Reverend George H. Niederauer, Archbishop



## Thanksgiving Prayer

We return thanks to our mother, the earth, which  
sustains us.

We return thanks to the rivers and streams, which  
supply us with water.

We return thanks to all herbs, which furnish  
medicines for the cure of our diseases.

We return thanks to the moon and stars, which  
have given to us their light when the sun was  
gone.

We return thanks to the sun, that has looked  
upon the earth with a beneficent eye.

Lastly, we return thanks to the Great Spirit, in  
Whom is embodied all goodness, and Who  
directs all things for the good of Her children.

## Native American Iroquois Prayer



## Ideal City

Chapter 90- The Quran

(This verse revealed when Prophet Mohammed, once a refugee  
Returns to liberate Mecca, the City of his birth)

*"I call upon you to be a witness over this city, now that  
You have freedom. Your relationship with this city shall  
Be that of a Parent and a Child. We have created you  
To work hard and rebuild this city.*

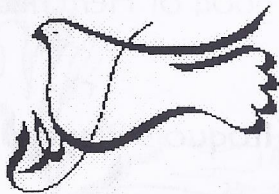
*The oppressors thought they were the most powerful.  
They used their wealth and power and bragged  
About their influence.*

*Did you forget that We gave you life and further  
We gifted you with intelligence and other faculties.  
We showed you the Criteria of Right and Wrong.*

*Nevertheless, you take the easy way and refuse to be righteous  
How can we explain to you what are your duties*

*It is to free people held in captivity  
To feed and care for the hungry and sick ones  
To adopt Orphans  
And to help those in needs*

*If you work on these tasks then you will be counted  
As Believers and will be people of the Right Order  
As for those who reject Our Signs  
They will be of the Wrong Order  
And they will be held accountable on the Judgment Day*



*Allah you are peace,  
through you flows Peace.  
Give All of us Peace  
Not only in this life  
but also in the hereafter.  
Amen.*

By Iftikhar A. Hai  
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance



God of all goodness,  
We give you thanks for all the ways  
You show us Your Beauty through Creation:

For shapes and forms and lines,  
For colors and hues and shades,  
For textures and feels and touches,  
For sounds and notes and melodies,  
For scents and aromas and bouquets,  
For tastes and flavors and savors.

For all Your goodness,  
Lord, we give you Thanks.  
AMEN.

peace, Rev. Charles Kullmann, CSP  
Old Saint Mary's Cathedral, San Francisco







### Hindu Prayer for Peace

Oh God, lead us from the  
unreal to the Real.

Oh God, lead us from darkness to light.

Oh God, lead us from death to immortality.

Shanti, Shanti, Shanti unto all.

Oh Lord God almighty, may there be peace in  
celestial regions.

May there be peace on Earth.

May the waters be appeasing.

May herbs be wholesome, and may trees  
plants bring peace to all.

May all beneficent beings bring peace to us.

May thy Vedic Law propogate peace all  
through the world.

May all things be a source of peace to us.

And may thy peace itself, bestow peace on all  
and may that peace come to me also.



### Gratitude & Hope

#### Traditional Blessing and Healing Chant

Just as the soft rains fill the streams,  
pour into the rivers, and join together in the oceans,  
so may the power of every moment of your goodness  
flow forth to awaken and heal all beings—  
those here now, those gone before, those yet to come.

By the power of every moment of your goodness,  
may your heart's wishes be soon fulfilled  
as completely shining as the bright full moon,  
as magically as by a wish-fulfilling gem.

By the power of every moment of your goodness,  
may all dangers be averted and all disease be gone.  
May no obstacle come across your way.  
May you enjoy fulfillment and long life.

For all in whose heart dwells respect,  
who follow the wisdom and compassion, of the Way,  
may your life prosper in the four blessings  
of old age, beauty, happiness and strength.

~ BUDDHIST



## MAKING A DIFFERENCE AWARD

### “Honoring Models of Hope: Creating a Peaceful City”

#### **Jewish Community High School of the Bay**

“Interfaith Teen Council”

**Recipients:** Eugenia Kirovskaya, Student and Founder  
Danielle Frandina, Teacher and Adult Coordinator  
Rabbi Mark Goodman, Director of Community Outreach

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, District 5

**Program:** The Interfaith Teen Council creates alliances between the various religious and ethnic communities in the Western Edition and responds to the diverse community’s needs through student-driven activities and projects. Programs on the horizon include interfaith holiday celebrations and cross-cultural educational programs between Stuart Hall, Jewish Community High School of the Bay, & Convent of the Sacred Heart.

#### **Sunset Youth Services**

**Recipients:** Dawn Stueckle, Executive Director  
Reverend Ron Stueckle, Co-Founder  
Reverend Delvin Mack, Co-Founder

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Fiona Ma’s office, District 4

**Program:** Sunset Youth Services is a faith-based organization that facilitates positive transformation in the lives of low-income and high-risk youth and families in San Francisco. Through comprehensive services, such as case management, after-school groups for boys and girls, literacy and homework help, art, computer, and recreation classes, and family support, Sunset Youth Services provides support.

#### **Rhema Word Church**

“Reducing the Violence – Raising the Standard”

**Recipient:** Leontine Collins, Founder and Organizer

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, District 5

**Program:** Tina Collins decided that the youth in her community deserved to be loved and given self worth. Tina’s turning point came when she was selling and using drugs and her Pastor came looking for her and told her she was missed and loved. Tina says that moment changed her life and led to recovery, and that she learned then she was important. This program is Tina’s way of offering that same validation to her community. With support from Rhema Word Church and also from Schools of the Sacred Heart, Tina reaches into the community to offer after-school programs, community meetings, a book club, and support groups for the women of Plaza East.

#### **St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference,**

#### **Saints Peter and Paul Church**

“Bringing Two Worlds Together, Dinner at Bocce”

**Recipients:** Marc Bruno, Founder  
Welat Yuksel, Owner, Bocce Restaurant

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin, District 3

**Program:** Since 2001, this program has integrated diverse elements of the North Beach Chinatown community, and encouraged fellowship and understanding between the homeless and those who seek to help them through sharing in a delicious dinner at Bocce Restaurant. Once a month, Bocce Restaurant contributes the space, staff and food for 50 – 200 guests who share in a warm and inclusive meal. Marc Bruno is Catholic, and his family is of Sephardic Jewish extraction, having survived the Inquisition through conversion. Welat Yuksel is Kurdish and Muslim, and very involved in the Kurdish community.



## **Jewish Family & Children's Services**

"Dream House"

**Recipients:** Dr. Anita Friedman, Executive Director  
Maya Cullbertson-Lane, Dream House Coordinator

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, District 5

**Program:** The Dream House is a unique interfaith community for women and children who are Muslim, Christian, and Jewish. It provides a safe haven for victims of family violence. The families learn to solve problems peacefully, heal, build successful and independent new lives, and appreciate each others' cultures and traditions. Special emphasis is placed on teaching children to solve personal problems non-violently so that the cycle of violent behavior, especially among boys, can be broken. The Dream House is home to 5 families at a time, and includes a lovely playground for the children. Families receive a complete range of social and spiritual support services including individual and group counseling, financial aid, vocational services, parent education, day care and tutoring for children.

## **St. Aidan's Episcopal Church**

**Recipients:** Father Tommy Dillon  
Betsy Eddy, Volunteer

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty, District 8

**Program:** St. Aidan's is a valued resource and partner in efforts to lead a community-building process to address gun violence and gang activity in Diamond Heights. Through after-school, recreation, addiction recovery, mental health, supportive services and other programs, the Church creates an inclusive and welcoming environment. St. Aidan's has been instrumental in working with Supervisor Dufty to address violence in the community through these programs and by hosting community resource fairs and meetings. It is vital in the effort to reduce violence, strengthen families, and create a unified Diamond Heights community.

## **Rainbow Seventh-Day Adventist Church**

"Reachout for the Rainbow After-School Program"

**Recipients:** Virgie Newman, Volunteer Program Director  
Pastor David Hudgens

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, District 10

**Program:** For more than 15 years, Reachout for the Rainbow After School has been a faith based and family focused program serving the Bayview Hunters Point community. This program provides a safe and educationally enriching environment in a neighborhood that is plagued by violence, drugs, and gangs. More than 200 students are reached every year through weekly tutoring, summer program, annual science festival and annual snow adventure. And, the students enjoy a hot nutritious meal every week. The Program engages parents, grandparents, and collaborative partnerships with community organizations to strengthen services to the students and maximize resources, thereby, building a healthier and safer community for families.

## **Operation Save a Life/SF Peacemakers**

**Recipient:** Pamela Gaddies  
Barbara Mason

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, District 10

**Program:** Operation Save a Life has made a difference in the Sunnydale neighborhood plagued by poverty, drugs, and violence. They have put their bodies on the line by being present on street corners that are dangerous, drumming, praying, listening, modeling and creating a positive social interaction. These interactions provide opportunities for counseling, education, and outreach to combat drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, safe sex, HIV prevention, testing, and treatment. Operation Save a Life hosts community gatherings and social interactions in the neighborhood, providing normal social interactions that enhance the fabric of the community and help it thrive. Many of the people formerly helped by the program have become leaders of it.



## San Francisco State University

"Community Leadership Academy Emergency Response"

**Recipient:** Sharen Hewitt, Director

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, District 10

**Program:** Community Leadership Academy Emergency Response is a university-community partnership. It is a direct service program that empowers local leaders in the effort to break the cycle of violence in San Francisco's neighborhoods. Engaging leadership within Visitacion Valley, Sunnyside, and the Southeastern neighborhoods of the City, the program provides a neighbor-to-neighbor model for outreach and support to those who have been affected by violent crime. Leaders build leadership and civic engagement skills, and learn about public policy that relates to the issue of violence and the social change they hope to create. They then provide home visits to families isolated by fear or distress, provide case management and referral services, and help validate the outrage, hopelessness and despair of marginalized communities.

## True Hope Church of God in Christ

"Caring And Restoration Homes Inc."

**Recipient:** Jeremy Green

**Presenter:** San Francisco Supervisor Sophie Maxwell, District 10

**Program:** For 18 years, this rehabilitative program has created a warm and inclusive housing transitional opportunity for men who are substance abuse users, and in many instances, homeless. The program supports as many as 12 clients at one time. Its participants receive General Assistance and SSI, and through this program, spend 12-18 months rehabilitating their lives. Much of the success of the program is due to its spiritual and religious qualities. Graduates return to school and transition to permanent housing, and many stay actively involved as leaders in the Church. Many former clients find they successfully return to the workforce, the community, and family life, and stay spiritually connected to the world.

## Catholic Charities CYO

"When I Call For Help:

Pastoral Responses to Domestic Violence Against Women"

**Recipient:** Rory Desmond, Response Director

Mary Schembri, Parish Services Director

Christopher Martinez, Senior Program Director

**Presenter:**

**Program:** "When I Call For Help: Pastoral Responses to Domestic Violence Against Women" is an effort to raise consciousness about the Catholic Church's supportive and caring approach to domestic violence. It is providing education and resources, and increasing services for victims within the Catholic community. By engaging priests and parishes, who represent the first responders in dealing with this community issue, the program is enhancing how the Catholic community provides care. The effort is coordinated with service providers throughout the community. It has been launched with a large seminar that focuses on the cycle of violence, services available to victims, and immigration benefits to those affected by violence. In addition, a resource guide has been created for pastors to utilize in serving parishioners seeking care. The guide and the seminar have been particularly focused on care in the Latino and Filipino immigrant communities. In the coming year, this campaign will be increasingly inter-faith, and will move on to support parishes in their ministry to serve all other domestic violence victims



## WHAT DOES THE SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL DO?

The impetus for the creation of the Council in 1989 came because:

1. Mayor Art Agnos asked the faith community for help with the homeless of the City;
2. When the Loma Prieta earthquake struck, international relief organizations wanted to help by giving funds to a local interfaith organization.

With nearly 1000 congregations and religiously based organizations in the City, it was important to give a voice to this community. Dr. James Emerson, then Pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Rita Semel, then the Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, Father Gerry O'Rourke of the San Francisco Archdiocese with others created the San Francisco Interfaith Council which became a registered non-profit in 1990.

Today, the SFIC - thanks to its member congregations and funding from several local foundations - represents the diverse faith community of the City. So what do we do?

- Sponsor the Annual Thanksgiving Day Interfaith Service. The 2006 service will be at 10:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day at Grace Cathedral, California and Taylor Streets.
- Convene a monthly gathering - the second Thursday of each month from 8:00-9:30 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Franklin and O'Farrell - where all are welcome. Each month we share a light breakfast and showcase a program which serves the community. Each month, a member of the clergy or a lay person shares their faith journey.
- Convene a forum for congregations - in collaboration with the American Red Cross, the Office of Emergency Services and San Francisco CARD (Community Agencies Responding to Disaster) - to be prepared to respond to a natural or man-made disaster. More than 100 congregations attended a May, 2006 conference. Follow-up opportunities for training and

technical help are available and additional forums are being planned.

- Gather the interfaith community for prayer at times of civic or national disasters and also at times of celebration. Such a time was the April 18 centennial observance of the 1906 earthquake and fire; our response to 9/11; to the 101 California shooting and also for the 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the United Nations.
- Represent the interfaith community on behalf of the people of San Francisco. In March of this year, an official interfaith delegation represented the city in Rome at the elevation ceremonies of former Catholic Archbishop William Levada to Cardinal.
- Help plan and publicize events that demonstrate interfaith co-operation in San Francisco. One example is the twice-a-year gathering of "Children of Abraham", where Jews, Christians and Muslims gather to discuss a topic of common spiritual concern.
- Sponsor and coordinate and raise funds for a Habitat for Humanity Build project in San Francisco that involved 9 congregations.
- Help sponsor the annual Church World Service CROP Hunger Walk. This year the walk raised \$13,000, half of which went to local food projects.
- Publish a monthly on-line newsletter that informs religious and community leaders of interfaith events and highlighting the needs of the community.
- Today we launch the coffee project. Congregations can buy coffee from a cooperative in Uganda owned by Muslim, Jewish and Christian farmers. This fair trade coffee will provide a decent profit for these farmers and lift up support for interfaith co-operation throughout the world. St. Ignatius Church will store the coffee and Catholic Charities CYO buses make deliveries to congregations and agencies once a month.



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