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San Francisco Interfaith Council

**13<sup>th</sup>  
Annual  
Interfaith Thanksgiving  
Prayer Breakfast**

**Honoring the Unsung Healers:  
Hospital and Hospice Chaplains**



**Tuesday, November 23, 2010**

**7:00 - 9:00 AM**

**Hotel Kabuki**

**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**

**Michael G. Pappas , M.Div.**

Executive Director

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*Welcome* to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith  
**Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast!**

The San Francisco Interfaith Council welcomes you to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast. The Council exists to serve and give voice to the 800 congregations and faith-based social service agencies in the City and County of San Francisco. The Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast is the event of the year when representatives of the faith community and civic leaders come together to give thanks for the gifts bestowed upon our city and our nation, and to pray for their well-being.

Each year, at this breakfast, we shine the spotlight on one of the many contributions the religious community makes to the life of San Francisco. This year, we are shining the light on the work of our hospital and hospice chaplains. Whether we hold a religious belief or not, at some point in our lives each of us will come in contact with one of these ministers of spiritual care. We might be in the hospital as a patient or visiting a friend or family member. At the end of life, we can count on the support and care of a hospice chaplain, even if we hold no religious belief.

While it is not widely known to the public, in the hospital and hospice setting the medical staff considers the chaplain a part of the healing team, both for the patient and for their families. They are truly the unsung healers.

As you hear from them and read their stories, we hope you will have new insights and appreciation for the work of these healers. Like their fellow clergy and the members of our congregations, chaplains are here to serve people and accompany them in their journey through the good times and the difficult times in life.

We are grateful for your presence here today. We invite you to participate in the activities of the San Francisco Interfaith Council.

*The San Francisco Interfaith Council*



Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House

November 23, 2010

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast  
Hotel Kabuki  
San Francisco, California

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to send greetings as you gather for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast.

Our diverse community of faith in San Francisco is a critical part of our City's foundation. Your work bringing together people from all faith traditions builds bridges across communities and unifies our City.

I am proud to join you in honoring some of San Francisco's unsung heroes: our hospital and hospice chaplains. Their selfless work in support of our City's most needy has touched countless lives, and brings to mind the prayer of our patron saint, Saint Francis of Assisi: "Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; where there is darkness may we bring light, where there is hatred may we bring love, and where there is despair, may we bring hope."

Best wishes for a wonderful breakfast and celebration.

Warm Regards,

*Nancy Pelosi*  
NANCY PELOSI  
Speaker of the House

## CPMC Honors Chaplains



California Pacific  
Medical Center  
A Sutter Health Affiliate

November 2, 2010

Friends,

California Pacific Medical Center delights in joining the San Francisco Interfaith Council today in celebrating those "unsung healers" who provide compassionate support and spiritual care in the City's hospitals and hospices. CPMC has long recognized the contribution of chaplains to the distinctive quality of our care. To that end, CPMC offers one of San Francisco's Clinical Pastoral Education programs for the training of hospital and hospice chaplains.

Today, we take pride in hearing a member of our West Bay Region Board of Directors, Anthony Wagner, who has been a champion of chaplaincy services in every position during his distinguished career in health care administration.

During this upcoming holiday time, CPMC joins with you to acknowledge the blessings of spiritual care and compassionate support offered by all our chaplains.

Sincerely,

*Warren S. Browner*

Warren Browner, MD, MPH  
Chief Executive Officer

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7999, San Francisco, California 94120



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## Many Faiths, One Truth



By TENZIN GYATSO, The 14<sup>th</sup> DALAI LAMA

Published: May 24, 2010, NY Times

WHEN I was a boy in Tibet, I felt that my own Buddhist religion must be the best — and that other faiths were somehow inferior. Now I see how naïve I was, and how dangerous the extremes of religious intolerance can be today. Though intolerance may be as old as religion itself, we still see vigorous signs of its virulence. In Europe, there are intense debates about newcomers wearing veils or wanting to erect minarets and episodes of violence against Muslim immigrants. Radical atheists issue blanket condemnations of those who hold to religious beliefs. In the Middle East, the flames of war are fanned by hatred of those who adhere to a different faith.


Such tensions are likely to increase as the world becomes more interconnected and cultures, peoples and religions become ever more entwined. The pressure this creates tests more than our tolerance — it demands that we promote peaceful coexistence and understanding across boundaries.

Granted, every religion has a sense of exclusivity as part of its core identity. Even so, I believe there is genuine potential for mutual understanding. While preserving faith toward one's own tradition, one can respect, admire and appreciate other traditions.

An early eye-opener for me was my meeting with the Trappist monk Thomas Merton in India shortly before his untimely death in 1968. Merton told me he could be perfectly faithful to Christianity, yet learn in depth from other religions like Buddhism. The same is true for me as an ardent Buddhist learning from the world's other great religions.


A main point in my discussion with Merton was how central compassion was to the message of both Christianity and Buddhism. In my readings of the New Testament, I find myself inspired by Jesus' acts of compassion. His miracle of the loaves and fishes, his healing and his teaching are all motivated by the desire to relieve suffering.

I'm a firm believer in the power of personal contact to bridge differences, so I've long been drawn to dialogues with people of other religious outlooks. The focus on compassion that Merton and I observed



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in our two religions strikes me as a strong unifying thread among all the major faiths.



Take Judaism, for instance. I first visited a synagogue in Cochin, India, in 1965, and have met with many rabbis over the years. I remember vividly the rabbi in the Netherlands who told me about the Holocaust with such intensity that we were both in tears. And I've learned how the Talmud and the Bible repeat the theme of compassion, as in the passage in Leviticus that admonishes, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

In my many encounters with Hindu scholars in India, I've come to see the centrality of selfless compassion in Hinduism too — as expressed, for instance, in the Bhagavad Gita, which praises those who "delight in the welfare of all beings." I'm moved by the ways this value has been expressed in the life of great beings like Mahatma Gandhi, or the lesser-known Baba Amte, who founded a leper colony not far from a Tibetan settlement in Maharashtra State in India. There he fed and sheltered lepers who were otherwise shunned. When I received my Nobel Peace Prize, I made a donation to his colony.

Compassion is equally important in Islam — and recognizing that has become crucial in the years since Sept. 11, especially in answering those who paint Islam as a militant faith. On the first anniversary of 9/11, I spoke at the National Cathedral in Washington, pleading that we not blindly follow the lead of some in the news media and let the violent acts of a few individuals define an entire religion.

Let me tell you about the Islam I know. An imam in Ladakh once told me that a true Muslim should love and respect all of Allah's creatures. And in my understanding, Islam enshrines compassion as a core spiritual principle, reflected in the very name of God, the "Compassionate and Merciful," that appears at the beginning of virtually each chapter of the Koran.

Harmony among the major faiths has become an essential ingredient of peaceful coexistence in our world. From this perspective, mutual understanding among these traditions is not merely the business of religious believers — it matters for the welfare of humanity as a whole.

**THE UNSUNG HEALERS  
OUR HONORED CHAPLAINS**

Father Dr. Mathew Alakot  
Chaplain Blake W. Arnall  
Reverend Father Stephen Bartlett-Re'  
Reverend Jennifer Block  
Chaplain Willard Bolden  
Reverend Jan Cazden  
Rev. Peter Yuichi Clark  
Chaplain Annamarie Colapietro  
Reverend Bob Deel  
Reverend Dr. Juana Francis  
Father Lawrence Gould  
Chaplain Stephen Grafenstene, MTS  
Reverend Mary Tarbell- Green  
Reverend Will Hocker  
Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky  
Rabbi Daniel Isaacson  
Father Pablo Iwaszewicz  
Reverend Natalya A. Johnson  
Sister Elizabeth Johnson  
Reverend Dr. Yoo-Bai Kim

**OUR HONORED CHAPLAINS  
(continued)**

Reverend Michelle Kirby  
Father Methodius Kiwale  
Chaplain Connors McConville  
Reverend Father Martin R. Muruli  
Reverend Eric Nefstead  
Father Te Van Nguyen  
Sister Joan Marie O'Donnell, RSM  
Chaplain Linda Posner  
Reverend Douglas Roth  
Reverend Rod Seeger  
Reverend Elizabeth Welch  
Rabbi Eric Weiss  
Chaplain Marshall White  
Chaplain Jon M. Wright  
Father Paul Zirimenya





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## What Does a Chaplain Do?



Chaplains witness, walk, weep, wait and celebrate....not always in this order.

Much like firefighters, chaplains run *towards* the fire. Or in our case, we run toward reality. There are days this means the reality of suffering. Isolation compounds suffering. Suffering alone, holding onto agony without someone at your side to give **witness** to your pain deepens the agony. Chaplains are there to give witness, to agree with people that, "yes, this is a very difficult place, an awful place."

Chaplains **walk** into this space, stride alongside to help carry the load, if only for a few moments. When medicine can do no more, we journey and sometimes stagger with people into the chaos that disease and death bring. We walk and **weep**. Our tears give evidence that suffering can be shared, that it *needs* to be shared.

Chaplains **wait**. We wait for the moment when we can gently speak the truth that suffering is not abnormal, it is a space we all visit. We wait to tell again that the chaos of suffering does not have the final word, *life* does - a truth beautifully told in the book of Genesis. In the beginning there is chaos, "a soup of nothingness, a bottomless emptiness, an inky blackness." God breathed on the chaos and brought forth life, very good life. Chaos was not the end, it was only the beginning. Chaplains bear witness that suffering can be entered into, felt, grieved, shared and mourned, but suffering does not have the power to destroy us. We **celebrate** this truth.

Chaplains celebrate the reality of good news. We celebrate the successful surgery, the negative test result, the birth of a new life. Chaplains give witness to "Yes! This is great!" Good news shared tastes all the better. We cheer because good news deserves a party and people deserve to be celebrated.

Witness – walk – weep – wait – and celebrate. That's what chaplains do.

**Rev. Bob Deel, Spiritual Care Coordinator  
Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center  
and member of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Baptist Church**

## Sister Joan O'Donnell, RSM AlmaVia of San Francisco

I have served as Director of Spiritual Care Services at AlmaVia of San Francisco, a faith-based assisted living community, since its opening in November, 2003. We are co-sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy and the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Our community and staff represent the diversity of the San Francisco Bay Area. We are proud to serve not only our assisted living residents, but offer a Memory Care program as well.

The blessings of being a part of this ministry are numerous. The residents are the "heart of our mission," and daily teach me how to grow older with wisdom and grace, despite limitations.

Visitors are often struck by an "intangible something" they feel when meeting our residents and staff. They are struck by the friendliness and care that is interchanged among the community, and the love and happiness that are in such evidence.

To be a part of creating programs and experiences that continue to add meaning and purpose to the lives of our residents is a reward in itself.

To lend a "listening ear" and just to "be present," in joyful times as well as difficult times is a privilege.

As a Sister of Mercy, one of the most sacred things I do, is to walk side-by-side with those who are dying, to support their loved-ones, and to ritualize and celebrate their rich lives.

I learn each day from those I serve, how to be more merciful.

**Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky**  
**California Pacific Medical Center**

Rabbi Me'irah Iliinsky was ordained from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia in 2007. Before becoming a rabbi, she was a clinical social worker in Portland, Oregon, specializing in couples and family therapy and addiction recovery. She served three years as a congregational Rabbi in Williamsburg, Virginia, and has now returned "home" to the West Coast. She is currently working as a chaplain resident at the Pacific Campus of CPMC.

Rabbi Me'irah also does spiritual artwork in the form of "illuminations" of verses from sacred Jewish texts.

**Fr. Martin Muruli**  
**St. Anne's Home**

I am a priest from the Catholic Diocese of Eldoret, Kenya, a region that produces the great runners and currently assigned at St Anne's home as the Chaplain. Prior to this assignment, I did my year long CPE residence program at CPMC hospital. My specialization is around ministering to seniors especially around loss and grief. At St Anne's home I support both the residence, staff family members and friends of the home, in their spiritual and emotional needs, beside meeting their sacramental and other liturgical needs.

It is indeed an honor to work there and I enjoy every moment of it. Always grateful to the little sisters of the poor for their wonderful work in the home. I can only summarize it in the words of one of our residents: "This is like heaven."

Grateful to be invited to be part of this gathering.

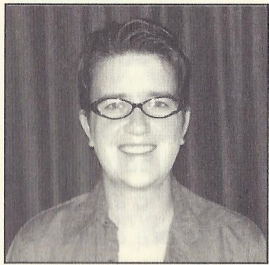
Blessings,  
 Fr Martin Muruli

**Sister Annamarie Colapietro**  
**Spiritual Care Counselor**  
**Pathways Home Health and Hospice**

I am Catholic, a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names, and I serve as a spiritual care counselor (chaplain) with Pathways Hospice. I visit people, in their own homes or in healthcare facilities, who are facing the end of life, a time when issues of meaning, relationship, purpose, healing and wholeness may surface. It is my privilege to accompany people who are dying, as well as members of their families, as they explore these issues and deal with the wide range of feelings that may arise. I may provide support to dying persons and family members of diverse spiritual or religious traditions; I may help to identify and resolve spiritual concerns affecting the dying person and the family; I may contact the clergy or spiritual leader of a specific faith community for the dying person. After someone has died, I may assist with a memorial service or provide support to family members in the grieving process.

I consider one of my most significant roles to be that of witness to the profound, mysterious rite of passage which dying is. My service of hospice spiritual care is a shared responsibility, a close collaboration with the other members of my interdisciplinary team – hospice nurses, social workers, aides, and volunteers – each of whom provides competent, compassionate care and sensitive presence to the dying person and the family members.

**Rev. Michelle “Kirby” Randall  
St. Mary’s Hospital**



Rev. Michelle “Kirby” Randall is the Manager of Spiritual Care at St. Mary’s and a certified Associate Supervisor with the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). She is an ordained minister of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC). She completed her

residency and supervisory training at Saint Francis Hospital, where she ran weekly spirituality groups for in- and outpatient behavioral health patients, coordinated Palliative care services, and served the following areas: critical care, emergency, skilled nursing, acute rehab, telemetry, and the burn unit.

Michelle, who also goes by “Kirby,” was born in Escondido, California. She moved to Northern California to study at the University of California, Davis, where she studied Evolution and Ecology and Religious Studies. She earned an M.Div. from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley in 2002. Both during and after seminary, Kirby worked as a minister in the United Methodist Church. Since 2004, she has served as a volunteer pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco. There, she has worked with the Congregational Care team, Children’s Place ministry, Women and BiSpirit communities, and the Worship and Praise team. Michelle also enjoys textile arts, such as quilting, cross-stitch, and crochet, exploring urban stairways, and a good cup of coffee. She lives in Oakland with her wife, Marcia Randall, and their cat Friday.

**Rev. Dr. Juana Francis  
Sutter VNA and Hospice**

As a hospice chaplain I am challenged, because I have to live up to the spiritual nature of hospice. What I mean is, I come with my own spiritual practice within my own faith tradition where I practice one faith, but I serve many whose practices differ.

So I have to be flexible and open to walk with patients and families where they need to go, by allowing them to guide me. I acknowledge and respect the patient’s and family’s beliefs, culture and values related to life’s meaning including suffering and loss and desired services /support.

As the chaplain for Sutter VNA and Hospice, I serve as a spiritual care giver to patients and family. I am responsible for coordinating the spiritual and religious care of all patients’ family members and caregivers.

I help the patient’s end- of life journey by bringing dignity, hope and love in the presence of suffering and death. I also bring healing to the spirit. I assess the spiritual status of the patient, family and caregiver; I document the spiritual goals for spiritual care and services provided and patient’s and family’s response to spiritual care.

I provide meditation, counseling, prayer, and rituals. I also practice active listening and supported presence. I assist in communion, and assist and officiate funerals and memorial services. I also communicate with and support the involvement of local clergy and /or spiritual counselors as possible and desired by patient, family, and caregivers.

(Chaplain Stories continued on page 23)





## OUR BREAKFAST SPONSORS

### Lead Sponsor - \$10,000

California Pacific Medical Center

### Table Sponsors - \$500

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Calvary Presbyterian Church

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Congregation Sherith Israel

Jewish Community Relations Council and

Northern California Board of Rabbis

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The San Francisco Council of St. Vincent de Paul

United Way of the Bay Area



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Rev. Lana Sandahl

Rita Semel

San Francisco Bay Area Darfur Coalition

St. Ignatius Church

United Muslims of America

University of San Francisco - University Ministry

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Alma Via of San Francisco

Angela Alioto, Knights of St. Francis

Ernest and Adamantia Antonis

California Pacific Medical Center

Helen Ernst

Howard and Cathy Moreland

St. Anthony Foundation

Rev. Elizabeth Welch

Dr. David Werdegar, Institute on Aging

Troy Zaboukos



## 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.

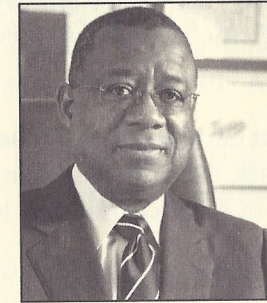
We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our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

## Keynote Speaker



**Anthony G. Wagner**

Anthony G. Wagner recently retired as Vice President of the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan. Previously, he held positions as Chief Executive Officer of Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center; Executive Administrator of the San Francisco Community Health Network; and Associate Director of the Medical Center at the University of California San Francisco. During his long tenure at UCSF, Mr. Wagner initiated the Clinical Pastoral Education Program and hired Chaplain Rod Seeger. He currently is Chairman of the Board at San Francisco's Institute on Aging, and serves on The Sutter West Bay Hospitals and Medical Foundation Board.

Since his retirement, Mr. Wagner has provided consultation services to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with Harvard Medical International, in the planning of a new teaching Hospital. He has also chaired the Compensation Committee of Longs Drug Stores Board of Directors.

Mr. Wagner is a member of the Third Baptist Church in San Francisco where he serves as a Deacon and chairs both the Worship Committee and the Sir Jules Haywood Concert Series Committee.



PROGRAM

*The entire program will be signed for the benefit  
of the deaf and hearing impaired  
by Brad Hatton, St. Benedict Catholic Parish.*

~ ~ ~

Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell  
The Rev. Ronald Kobata, Executive Assistant To the Bishop  
Buddhist Churches of America, National Headquarters

Muslim Call to Prayer  
Khaled Olaibah, Administrator  
Islamic Society of San Francisco

Prayer of Thanks for the Meal  
The Rev. Father Nicholas Borzghol, Pastor  
St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

*~ Breakfast is served at your table ~*

Welcome by Co-Chairs of the 2010 Interfaith Breakfast  
Betsy Dodd, Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Mary J. Zamboukos, St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church

President Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation  
Grant Kawahatsu, Konko-Kyo Church

"The Healing Work of the San Francisco Interfaith Council"  
Michael Pappas, Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council  
and member of Grace Episcopal Cathedral

"Honoring the Unsung Healers" the Rev. James DeLange  
Chair of the San Francisco Interfaith Council and member of  
St. Francis Lutheran Church

"My Chaplain Experience" Rita Semel, Executive Vice-Chair  
San Francisco Interfaith Council and congregant at  
Congregation Emanu-El



PROGRAM

"What Do Chaplains Do?" The Rev. Bob Deel  
Spiritual Care Coordinator, Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabili-  
tation Center and member of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Baptist Church

Youth Speaks: Queen Nefertiti Shabazz, Bryant Phan, and  
Sandra Huerta Baca

Introduction of the Keynote Speaker  
The Rev. Dr. Amos Brown, Third Baptist Church

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Anthony G. Wagner

"Honoring Our Chaplains" Introduced by Louise Renne,  
former City Attorney and Member of the Board of Supervisors  
for the City and County of San Francisco and current President  
of The Laguna Honda Foundation

Youth Speaks

Prayers for the People of The City (see on next page)

Closing Prayer: The Prayer of St. Francis  
(said by all - on page 23)

Led by Father Paul Zirimenya, Chaplain  
St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired  
Bradley J. Hatton, Interpreter

"Blessings Upon Blessings" Sr. Elizabeth Padilla  
The Brahma Kumaris Community

Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs



**Prayers for the People of the City will be offered by the following San Francisco religious leaders:**

Rev. Donna Wood, Pastor, Park Presidio United Methodist Church

.....for those hospitalized and their families

.....for the homebound and those in nursing homes

Sister Sukanya Belsare, Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center

.....for the lonely

.....for the dying

Rev. Maggi Henderson, Pastor, Old First Presbyterian Church

.....for the homeless

.....for those trapped by addiction

Mr. Iftexhar Hai, San Francisco Islamic Center

.....for the families of those who have been killed in violence

.....for those whose hearts and minds are consumed by hatred

Ms. Sandy Rechtschaffen, Congregation Emanu-El

.....for those who have suffered and are suffering injustice

.....for those seeking jobs

Fr. Xavier Lavagetto, O.P., St. Dominic's Catholic Church

.....for those scarred by violence

.....for the psychologically impaired

Rev. Lana Sandahl, Swedenborgian Church of San Francisco

.....for Army chaplain Capt. Dale Goetz, killed in Afghanistan last August and for his wife and three sons

.....for caregivers: physicians, nurses, aides, and chaplains

**PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS**

(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; 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.

CHAPLAIN STORIES  
CONTINUED

**The Rev. Peter Yuichi Clark,  
Ph.D., BCC, ACPE Supervisor  
Manager of Spiritual Care Services  
UCSF Medical Center**

Along with his colleagues at UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, Peter offers spiritual and emotional support to patients, their loved ones, physicians, nurses, social workers, other employees, and students. His primary duties involve assisting the Director of Spiritual Care Services and teaching in and managing the Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program, which provides training to clergy, laity, and seminarians who want to learn the art of spiritual care in a multifaith, multicultural, university-based research and teaching hospital.

Beyond his ministry at UCSF, Peter also serves as Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at the American Baptist Seminary of the West, a member school of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He is an ordained Baptist minister and endorsed by the American Baptist Churches USA.

### The Chaplain Service at the San Francisco VA Medical Center

Our staff presently consists of four full time and three part time chaplains. We provide daily spiritual support for the inpatients in the acute care units, the presurgical wards, and for the veterans living in and receiving skilled medical care in our nursing home, called the Community Living Center (CLC), and in the Hospice Unit in the CLC. We conduct worship services for the veterans, staff, and family members. Each week, the chaplains visit veterans receiving care at our four regional clinic sites, and conduct spirituality support groups at those locations and in the mental health and substance abuse recovery programs. Throughout the year we conduct funerals for veterans at the Bay Area VA National Cemeteries and memorial services at our Medical Center Chapel.

Other areas of involvement for our chaplain staff include interdisciplinary teamwork with the Palliative Care Outpatient Clinic, the Hospice Unit, the Community Living Center patient care teams, the Women's Clinic, the Integrated Ethics Council, and the Organ Donation Policy Review Board. The last two years we have participated in the outreach to Homeless Veterans, conducted jointly by the Homeless and Veteran Connect programs of the San Francisco and VA communities. Over the last year our chaplains have been asked to participate in a program emphasizing bereavement and grief support to family members of deceased veterans. In addition we are becoming involved in providing spiritual support to home bound veterans, to the senior veteran population who are identified as at risk for suicidality, to the Parkinson's Clinic, to the Psychiatric Rehabilitation and Recovery Center, and to the Mental Health outpatient clinics.

### Rev. Methodius S. Kiwale ( A.L.C.P ). UCSF Medical Center

I would like to share with you what I do at UCSF Medical Center as follows. As a Catholic Priest/Chaplain I celebrate/ administer sacraments to the Patients such as: The anointing of the sick (well known as the sacrament of healing/last rites) Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Reconciliation/penance.

Holy mass on Sundays and on days of obligation like Christmas.

I lead prayers with Patients as some ask for that, i.e, as Patient receives poor diagnosis or prognosis and some do ask for Blessings. I Pray with the family who need prayer support.

I do communion service to Patients and or with the family members as they ask for. I do counseling as Patients require additional emotional support and others need stress reduction; and while others have cultural or Religious concerns. I pray with Patients in danger of death ( commendation prayer ) or prayer after death. I give Spiritual support to the family members / comforting the family / relatives and friends.

I also pray with non catholic believers as they ask for my prayers. I can say I am there for everybody! Thank you for asking me to share with you what I do as Chaplain at UCSF Medical Center. I have been there since May 1st, 2009.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

## Spiritual Care Services at Jewish Family and Children's Services

Rabbi Daniel Isaacson is **Director of Spiritual Care Services at Jewish Family and Children's Services**. Guided by values and principles central to the Jewish tradition, and open to people of all backgrounds and faiths, JFCS' Spiritual Care Services Program provides comfort to individuals and families by addressing the emotional, psychological, and spiritual concerns that may arise during difficult life transitions.

Rabbi Isaacson provides one-on-one bereavement support and spiritual counseling to JFCS clients. He meets with clients in his office in San Francisco as well as at JFCS branches throughout the region. He also makes home visits to JFCS clients living throughout the region. In addition to providing individual counseling, Rabbi Isaacson's Spiritual Care Services Program offers eight-week bereavement support groups that give mourners the opportunity to seek solace and healing with others who have also experienced a significant loss.

Spiritual Care Services is fully integrated into the array of programs offered through JFCS — from Seniors At Home to Parents Place to Palliative and End-of-Life Care — thereby enhancing JFCS' direct services and offering an extra level of support and compassion to those in need. In addition, Rabbi Isaacson provides many additional services to staff, clients, and programs throughout all of our regions.

**Rabbi Isaacson** holds a bachelor's degree in religion from Dartmouth College. He received a master's degree and his rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York.

**Contact:** Rabbi Daniel Isaacson, Director of Spiritual Care Services; 415-449-3879; Daniell@jfcs.org

## Rev. Rod Seeger Director, Spiritual Care UCSF Medical Center

April 1, 1975 to September 5, 2005  
Current Status: Retired and enjoying it!

In 1975 I came to UCSF Medical Center to continue my education to become a CPE Supervisor. Rev. Elmer Laursen, my supervisor, had been at UCSF since September 1961. I was his last CPE supervisory student. He took a 3 month long sabbatical after I had been there for six months. During his sabbatical he was offered a new job and I continued as the interim chaplain for 16 months.

At about the same time that I arrived Tony Wagner also arrived as a new Assistant Administrator for UCSF Medical Center. The chaplains reported to him and soon after we met I began as the Interim Chaplain.

Essentially from the first day I arrived at UCSF until I retired in 2005 I conducted clinical pastoral education (CPE) and was the director of the department. I conducted four units of CPE every year, so during my tenure at UCSF I conducted 122 CPE units. During that time I also supervised several staff chaplains and did one night per week overnight call in rotation with the CPE students! I believed in serving as a chaplain while supervising the program, so I routinely provided spiritual care to patients, family and staff.

During my time at UCSF I served on the Medical Ethics Committee from its inception. I was part of the inaugural Heart/Lung Transplant program. In 1996 I began working with a team of people to create the Palliative Care Program. I loved to be involved in JCAHO, twice annual disaster preparedness drills, the annual holiday Toy Drive, and be adjunct faculty for the Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy, to name a few.

**Fr. Stephen Bartlett-Re'  
Laguna Honda Hospital**

I have been a volunteer chaplain at Laguna Honda Hospital for 18 years. I started in the AIDS unit, which consisted primarily of young and middle-aged men, because I had previously volunteered with Open Hand and had visited people with AIDS at various hospitals. However, I soon began to visit people of all ages in many units because I met them in the hallways, and then met their neighbors in their unit. After retiring from my day job four years ago, I work two days a week at hospital, spending from 7 to 9 hours each day.

Most of the time I am visiting, meeting the patients where they are in their medical situation and in their spiritual journey. I anoint approximately 30-35 patients for healing and give 22-27 patients communion each day. On the second Saturday of each month, I celebrate Mass for about 17-20 patients. I hand out Bibles (from our hospital supply) and also rosaries and prayer cards; and I provide a weekly reading list of Scripture to encourage methodical reading and growth. Because I try to meet everyone in each unit that I visit, I also interact with the nurses and staff and other volunteers who may seek my support because of personal issues or because of job stress. Sometimes staff ask me to talk with a patient concerning refusal to take needed medications or other issues that have come to their attention. In that way, as a volunteer, I am part of the team in a unit.

**Connors McConville, MDiv., MA, LMFT  
Pathways Home Health and Hospice**

Connors is a Spiritual Care Counselor for Pathways Home Health and Hospice. Connors works with patients and families, adults and children, as they face the challenges of the dying process. Connors also has a private practice in the Haight Ashbury district offering psychotherapy and spiritual counseling for individuals and couples, children, teens and adults.

Connors received his Masters in Divinity at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley and his MA degree in Counseling Psychology from the California Institute of Integral Studies. Connors was a Jesuit for

(McConville continued)

14 years and began studying Vipassana Meditation when he was a Jesuit missionary in Thailand in the mid 70's. Connors studied with Somdet Phra Niyanasamvara at Wat Bovoraniwes in the heart of old Bangkok.

Connors does not belong to any one religion but feels at home in a number of spiritual and communal spaces, be it St. Agnes Church, Abhayagiri Buddhist Monastery, or on a Vision Quest in the hills of Northern California.

**Linda Posner, M.A.  
AlmaVia of San Francisco**

I am serving as Chaplain and Spiritual Activities Facilitator at Alma Via of San Francisco, a faith-based assisted living community.

It is both a blessing and honor to serve residents and staff at Alma Via. Each day is filled with learning, supporting, collaborating, and loving in this culturally and spiritually diverse family.

What I love most about my work as a chaplain here at Alma Via is how I am encouraged and supported in using my specific gifts and strengths as I minister, teach, create and collaborate with residents and staff.

Before coming to Alma Via I worked for five years at the Jewish Home as a volunteer chaplain with Rabbi Shelly Marder and as consultant and facilitator for Residents Activities.

During thirty years volunteering and working as chaplain in hospitals, hospice, and community living communities, I have been moved and shaped by relationships with persons and their families as we walk together through the challenges of trauma, illness, and death.

At seventy, I continue to learn that we are here to express and share our lives with each other and that we are deeply connected through our faith and our love for God, ourselves, and others.

The words of my Jewish faith express my feelings beautifully:

When I do this work I feel it is truly "al ha'makom." It is the Place. It is the Meeting Place. It is God.

**Rev. Mary Tarbell-Green, M.A.  
Kaiser Permanente**

Mary was certified alcohol/drug specialist and eating disorders counselor for twenty-five years. She co-founded the (EAP) Employee Assistance Program for the American Airlines Central Reservations office in Cincinnati, Ohio. She worked in residential and out patient clinical settings both in Ohio and California. Her work in death and dying has included study with Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, work for Fernside Center for Grieving Children in Cincinnati, and, the "Grief and Growing" program, part of Bay Area Jewish Healing Center.

She holds Masters in Culture and Spirituality from The Sophia Center/Holy Names University in Oakland, California, an interfaith view of the New Cosmology.

She completed her CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) Residency at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Berkeley focused on end-of-life.

Her living of and calling to interfaith are grounded in being raised Catholic, her father a practicing Methodist, and a loving twenty-five year marriage to her Jewish husband. As well, she had a practice of meditation for a number of years with Guru Maharaj Ji (Prem Negar, India and Malibu, California). She continues a practice of Angeles Arrien Four Fold Way principles, daily contemplative Centering Prayer, and the 12 Step program of Alanon.

Mary is an ordained Interfaith Minister from The Chaplaincy Institute of Interfaith Studies in Berkeley, CA. She is a clinical facilitator for Critical Incident De-Briefings (CISD) through Claremont Behavioral Services. She served as group facilitator for the Salesian Catholic religious communities in Berkeley and Richmond, CA.

Mary currently serves as the Hospice Chaplain for Kaiser Permanente San Francisco and South San Francisco.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SFIC'S  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2010**

**DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP FOR CONGREGATIONS:** On May 5, 2010 the third bi-annual workshop was held for San Francisco congregations. 175 people attended representing 68 congregations and 25 agencies. The workshop opened with a Memorial for the millions of people who have died in disasters since 2004. Planning and implementation of the workshop was done in collaboration with our cooperating organizations: SF CARD, American Red Cross of the Bay Area, United Way of the Bay Area and the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management. Hands-on exercises were conducted to assist congregations in developing a plan for coping and delivering services when the next disaster comes. The keynote speaker was Ruth W. Messenger, President, American Jewish World Service. The Walter and Elise Haas Fund and the San Francisco Foundation provided funding. Additional communication support was provided by the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management.

On the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina the SFIC, in cooperation with the Jewish Community Center, hosted a showing and panel discussion of the documentary, "A Village Called Versailles." The film underscored the role congregations play in disaster preparedness and recovery.

**HUNGER WALK:** On Sunday, October 24, 2010, the SFIC organized the annual CROP Hunger Walk to benefit the Interfaith Winter Shelter Program, Church World Service and other international relief organizations. This year's walk around Lake Merced was carried out in the first rain of the season, but included participation of students from six schools as well as many congregations. A component of the Young Leaders program, the Hunger Walk is a natural bridge with our important work of heightening awareness of the Millennium Development goals to fight poverty around the world. This year's walk raised over \$16,000.

**STRENGTHENING INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS:** Our monthly breakfast meetings on the second Thursday from 8:00-9:30 a.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church attract 75-90 clergy and laity. We have had many interesting speakers, including Police Chief George Gascon and City Treasurer Jose Cisneros. These programs are selected to provide resources to congregations to further their work and engage one another.



We also strengthen relationships with an annual luncheon for new clergy in San Francisco, so that they can meet colleagues and become involved in the work of the Council. We also sponsor a Women's Clergy group that has been meeting monthly under the leadership of Rev. Rachel Rivers.

**INITIATIVE WITH FAITH BASED SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES:** This year, the SFIC took on the role of convener for the CEOs of the ten faith-based social service agencies in the City. At meetings arranged by the SFIC, they convene three times a year to share information, ideas and challenges. At their recent meeting, State Senator Mark Leno shared the inside story of the budget negotiations in Sacramento and the ongoing struggles to fund social services.

Also, thanks to grants from the San Francisco Foundation and the Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropy Fund, the SFIC has raised and allocated funds for a project by noted photojournalist Peter Lemieux to show how collectively the faith based agencies are responding to poverty in our city. The agencies can then use the images for their promotional use and display the exhibit in public venues and congregations.

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER BREAKFAST:** This annual event, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, has been growing each year. In 2010 we are honoring the chaplains at San Francisco hospitals, hospices and long-term care facilities.

**THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE:** We will sponsor the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 a.m. The 2010 service will be at Third Baptist Church on McAllister and Pierce. The 2011 service will be at the San Francisco Islamic Center.

**WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM:** On November 21<sup>st</sup>, we began the 21st year of providing the Interfaith Winter Shelter Program for homeless men. The shelter runs from November through February and is housed in rotation in four congregations: St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, First Unitarian Universalist Church and St. Boniface Catholic Church. Some 35 congregations throughout the city provide the shelter's evening meal. The shelter is staffed by Episcopal Community Services and funded in part by the City and County of San Francisco.

**PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT:** In addition to the shelter, we collaborated with Project Homeless Connect on June 11 in the Bayview. The SFIC staffed the spiritual area and provided volunteers for the entire program, using our communications network.

**EDUCATION:** This year we distributed 1,000 calendars delineating major holidays of the world's religions to public and private schools, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, the Consular corps, the major social services agencies and NGOs. We plan to repeat this for 2011. We are exploring ways to bring interfaith education into the public and private schools, possibly through a Speakers Bureau using speakers of different faiths.

**IN 2011 WE WILL CONTINUE MANY OF THE PROGRAMS OF 2010 AND WE WILL ALSO TAKE ON THESE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

**REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMEMORATION:** Following the long-time leadership of Rev. Cecil Williams, the SFIC has been asked to assume the leadership role in planning and executing the City's commemoration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's contribution to our nation's civil rights. Our leadership in this endeavor has been welcomed by the NAACP and provides another opportunity to strengthen relationships. A march from the Third Street Bridge next to AT&T Park to the MLK Memorial in Yerba Buena Gardens and a city-wide pulpit exchange will be part of the 2011 observance. This event will provide an opportunity to remind those of us who lived through those days of what has been accomplished, but more importantly it is a chance to educate young people and students of the historic changes that have taken place in the United States because of the work and legacy of Dr. King and his colleagues.

**9/11 TENTH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION:** Conversations have begun with the City administration about holding a memorial service to commemorate the lives of those who died on 9/11/01. Because of our relationship with all faiths, we can help the City bring everyone together for this observance.

**YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM:** Continuing our work with the University of San Francisco, the SFIC has engaged an intern to work on the Hunger Walk, the Interfaith Fair Trade Coffee Project and the Millennium Development Goals.

**ENHANCING TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:** In the last two years we have developed a website, doubled our email contact list and professionalized our monthly newsletter/ blast capacity. In order to better communicate with and serve our constituents, we will work on making our electronic communication more efficient. Early next year, we plan to hire a full time assistant to our Executive Director, Michael Pappas.

**WE THANK THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED  
THE SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL IN 2010**

**CONGREGATIONS**

Calvary Presbyterian Church  
 Congregation Emanu-El  
 Congregation Sherith Israel  
 First Unitarian Universalist Church  
 First United Lutheran Church  
 Friends Meeting (The Quakers)  
 Golden Gate Spiritual Church  
 Grace Episcopal Cathedral  
 Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
 Old First Presbyterian Church  
 Old St. Mary's/Paulist Fathers  
 Providence Baptist Church  
 St. Dominic's Catholic Church  
 St. Francis Lutheran Church Endowment Fund  
 St. Mary's Cathedral  
 St. Paulus Lutheran Church  
 Sunday Afternoon Fellowship  
 Swedenborgian Church  
 Unity Church of San Francisco  
 Zion Lutheran Church

**INDIVIDUALS**

Alessa Adamo  
 Mark and Lynne Benioff  
 Alfred and Ardis Breslauer  
 Jay Cahill  
 Paul and Jan Chaffee  
 Linda Crawford  
 Mary Culp  
 Rev. James DeLange  
 Ron Dudum

**INDIVIDUALS (continued)**

Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale  
 Mary Moore Gaines  
 Javiera Garcia & Shaun Arceneaux  
 Rabbi Marvin Goodman  
 Carl & Gay Grunfeld in memory of Betty Dreifuss  
 Iftekhar Hai  
 Stella and Acrevoula Hasapas  
 Rev. Maggi Henderson  
 G.L. Hodge  
 Fran Johns  
 Susan Leal  
 George and Judy Marcus  
 Envoy Roger McCort  
 Fred Merrick  
 Howard and Cathy Moreland  
 Michael G. Pappas  
 Mr. and Mrs. George Pappas  
 Nancy Record  
 Anita Roberts  
 Leigh & Ivy Robinson  
 Dan Rosen  
 Rita R. Semel  
 Marilyn Taubman in memory of Betty Dreifuss  
 Robinson Family Trust  
 Cynthia S. Zamboukos  
 Mary J. Zamboukos

**FOUNDATION GRANTS**

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

**JUDICATORIES**

Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
Northern California Board of Rabbis  
The San Francisco Stake -  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
United Muslims of America/SF Islamic Center

**AGENCIES**

Catholic Charities/CYO  
Church World Service (Share of 2009 Hunger Walk)  
Community Initiatives  
Episcopal Community Services  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
Jewish Family & Children's Services  
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory  
Salvation Army  
San Francisco Night Ministry  
University of San Francisco

**IN KIND DONORS**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
First Unitarian Universalist Church  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
St. Mary's Cathedral



**Congregations That Donated & Served Meals  
At The Winter Shelter Sites 2009-2010**

**Winter Shelter Site Providers**

First Unitarian Universalist Church  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
St. Mary's Cathedral

**Winter Shelter Meal Providers**

Bethany United Methodist Church  
Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Corpus Christi Church  
Epiphany Episcopal Church  
First Unitarian Universalist Church  
Forest Hill Christian Church  
Girl Scout Troup 31243  
Grace Cathedral  
Jewish, Arab, Muslim Women's Group  
John Robert Gweyn & Friends  
Ladies Auxiliary St. Peter Claver  
Mission Dolores Catholic Church  
Nativity Catholic Church  
Noe Valley Ministry  
Park Presidio United Methodist Church  
Presbyterian Church in Chinatown  
San Francisco Stake Latter-Day Saints  
St. Emedius Catholic Church  
St. Francis Lutheran Church  
St. Ignatius Catholic Church  
St. James Episcopal Church  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
St. Stephen Catholic Church  
St. Teresa of Avila  
Swedenborgian Church  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
Tzu Chi Foundation  
Zen Center  
Zion Lutheran Church

**INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING PRAYER BREAKFAST  
2010 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Betsy Dodd, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Co-chair

Mary J. Zamboukos, St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church,  
Co-chair

Rev. Bob Deel, Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center

Rev. James DeLange, St. Francis Lutheran Church

Michael Pappas, Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council

Joan Rinde, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Rita Semel, Congregation Emanu-El

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Congregation Sherith Israel

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Brad Hatton, Sign Interpreter

Sr. Elizabeth Padilla, Brahma Kumaris Center,  
soloist, program layout and flowers

Bro. Mario Reyes, Brahma Kumaris Center,  
accompanist and program layout

St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired

Cynthia S. Zamboukos, St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church,  
Registrar

SPECIAL THANKS

*A Taste of Peace:*



*The coffee you are enjoying this morning is  
Mirembe Kawomera Delicious Peace, grown  
by the Peace Kawomera Cooperative in  
Uganda composed of Jewish, Christian, and  
Muslim coffee farmers, working together  
under an initiative for peace.*

*This coffee is roasted by Thanksgiving Coffee  
Company and was generously donated for  
this event.*

*The San Francisco Interfaith Council has  
been a supporter of the Delicious Peace  
coffee project since 2006.*

*To find out more about how you can bring  
this coffee into your community please visit:  
[www.deliciouspeace.com](http://www.deliciouspeace.com)  
or call to speak to us at 707-964-0118*

**Thanksgiving  
Coffee Company**  
Not Just A Cup, But A Just Cup