

San Francisco Interfaith Council

16th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

**Honoring Veterans and the
Faith Communities
that Serve Them**



**Tuesday, November 26, 2013
7:00 - 9:00 AM
Hotel Kabuki**



*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

P.O. Box 29055, San Francisco, CA 94129

415-474-1321

Email: mgpappas.sfic@gmail.com

Website: www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org

Welcome to the
16th Annual Interfaith
Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

The San Francisco Interfaith Council welcomes you to the 16th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast. The Council exists to serve and give voice to our City's 800 congregations, their respective judicatories, and the faith-based social service agencies that provide the safety net for San Francisco's most vulnerable residents.

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast is our major event of the year when representatives of the faith community, civic leaders and citizens come together to give thanks for the gifts bestowed upon our City and 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 pleased to recognize the *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs—Veterans Health Administration, Swords to Plowshares*, and faith communities and organizations whose exemplary work with veterans is worthy of honor and recognition. While we salute all groups in San Francisco that serve the needs of veterans, we specially honor 21 faith communities and organizations who have shown an especially strong commitment to supporting veterans.

We also recognize the work of the late Walter S. Newman, a decorated World War II veteran who worked tirelessly for the welfare of this City and our veterans.

We are grateful for your presence here today and hope that this experience will inspire you to participate in the myriad other important activities undertaken by the San Francisco Interfaith Council.



OUR HONOREES

The late Walter S. Newman

Walter Simon Newman, who passed away last December, was a leading San Francisco businessman, philanthropist, and community leader. During World War II, Mr. Newman was a United States Army Captain and led his men of the 137th Infantry, Company C, as part of the Normandy invasion. He received a Purple Heart for serious injuries sustained during the European campaign following the invasion. In 2009, for his exemplary war service, he was inducted as a "Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur," the highest distinction bestowed by the nation of France.

Mr. Newman was dedicated to helping City College of San Francisco address the needs of student veterans. He was instrumental in creating the Veterans Resource Center there. He not only raised funds for this project but also oversaw the details of construction and even furnishings. The Veterans Resource Center—recently renamed in his honor as the "Walter S. Newman Veterans Resource Center" - provides critical study, recreational, and community space on campus for student veterans.

A valued advisor for many years of NCIRE—The Veterans Health Research Institute, Mr. Newman joined the board of directors of this private non-profit in 2010. NCIRE's mission is to advance veterans' health through research, and is the largest research institute associated with a Veterans Administration medical center in the United States.

Mr. Newman served as President of the Board of Directors of Congregation Emanu-El from 1985 to 1988. Mr. Newman made many other contributions to the public life of San Francisco. He was founding Board Chair of the National Brain Tumor Foundation, President of the San Francisco Planning Commission, President of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, and President of the Presidio Heights Association of Neighbors. He was a past trustee of Town School, a founding trustee of University High School, and remained active on many boards, including The San Francisco General Hospital Foundation.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration

Mission Statement

To fulfill President Lincoln's promise "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan" by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides benefits to veterans under three Administrative Divisions: Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration and National Cemetery Administration. The VA operates the nation's largest integrated health care system, with more than 1,700 hospitals, clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, readjustment counseling centers, and other facilities. The VA administers a variety of benefits and services that provide financial and other forms of assistance to service members, veterans, their dependents and survivors. The VA operates 131 national cemeteries in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Burial and memorial benefits are available for eligible service members, veterans, and family members.

VA Homeless Programs

In 2009, President Barack Obama and VA Secretary Erik K. Shinseki announced the goal of ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. Together with partners and supporters nationwide, the VA is determined to meet that challenge through the Homeless Veterans Outreach initiative, an unprecedented commitment to those who served our nation but lack safe, secure housing. Each VA medical center has a homeless coordinator on staff and specific programs that provide veterans the support they need to establish or maintain safe, stable housing. Comprehensive, individualized care including health care, housing assistance, job training, and education can help veterans

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration**
(cont'd)

obtain safe, stable housing and achieve self-sufficiency. The VA has also established the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans (877-4AID-VET, or 877-424-3838), a toll-free hotline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Trained responders, many of them veterans themselves, are available to provide support to veterans and their loved ones who lack safe, secure housing.

Swords to Plowshares

Founded in 1974, Swords to Plowshares is a community-based, not-for-profit veteran service organization that provides wrap-around care to more than 2,000 veterans in the San Francisco Bay Area each year. They are committed to helping veterans break through the cultural, educational, psychological and economic barriers they often face in their transition to the civilian world. Swords to Plowshares is a national model for veteran services and advocacy. With nearly 40 years of experience, they have established the most respected and comprehensive model of care for veterans in the country. Over the years, the name Swords to Plowshares has become synonymous with excellence in serving veterans in need, a highly visible yet dramatically underserved population. They have developed a model of coordinated care based on the philosophy that the many obstacles veterans face, including homelessness, unemployment and disability, are interrelated and require an integrated network of support. Their Mission: War causes wounds and suffering that last beyond the battlefield. Swords to Plowshares' mission is to heal the wounds, to restore dignity, hope, and self-sufficiency to all veterans in need, and to prevent and end homelessness and poverty among veterans.

Bayview Mission

Bayview Mission assists veterans in the Bayview/Hunters Point area of San Francisco with food, clothing, toiletries, podiatry and vision care. It is their goal to contact neighboring churches and temples to identify other veterans. They collaborated with Rose Home—Project F.I.N. in August 2013 to host an event at Bayview Mission, Program for Veterans.

Catholic Charities CYO

Catholic Charities CYO partners with the Veterans Administration and Swords to Plowshares to ensure that veterans are receiving the full range of services available to them. Last year, Catholic Charities served 178 veterans through their Homelessness Prevention Program, Assisted Housing and Health Program, Derek Silva Community, Treasure Island Supportive Housing, Leland House, OMI Senior Center, Behavioral Health Services, 10th & Mission Family Housing, SF Aging Case Management, Housing Star, San Carlos Adult Day Services, Peter Claver Community, SF Adult Day Support, and St. Joseph's Family Center. These programs provide a full range of services, including rent subsidies, permanent supportive housing, meals, food pantries, medication management, workforce development, transportation to medical appointments, referral to outside services, socialization activities, counseling, Alzheimer's support services, licensed residential care for the chronically ill, and emergency shelter.

City College of San Francisco

The mission of the City College of San Francisco Veterans Services Office is to serve student veterans with the highest level of support and dedication in order to enhance the successful transition from military life into a chosen field or career through education. Some of the services offered to student veterans include: academic counselors, certifying officials, VA psychologists, educational and career planning, referrals to local programs for more assistance, and help to obtain educational benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill.

City College of San Francisco (cont'd)

The Veterans Services Office, in collaboration with the Veterans Resource Center and the Veteran's Alliance Student Club, provides a comprehensive array of services and opportunities for veteran students to build their own community at CCSF and in the greater Bay Area.

The Walter S. Newman Veterans Resource Center, located next door to the Veterans Services Office in Cloud Hall 332, serves as a student lounge and study space for veterans on campus. The space has computers for students to work on class assignments, a television for watching movies during down time from class, and information for services offered to veterans. The Walter S. Newman Veterans Resource Center serves all veterans regardless of use of VA Benefits.

Coming Home Project

The Coming Home Project (CHP) is a non-profit, non-denominational organization committed to alleviating the unseen injuries of war faced by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, service members, their families and caregivers. Their programs provide wellbeing across the deployment cycle and provide support for successful reintegration into civilian life through a series of early intervention, prevention and treatment programs that address the *whole person* with an integrative, evidence-based, bio-psycho-social-spiritual approach. These help veterans and families experience a sense of safety and community which supports them in (1) rebuilding the connections among body and mind, heart and soul that can become unraveled during military service, (2) renewing relationships with family members, (3) creating and sustaining protective peer support networks, (4) eliminating the stigma that interferes with exploring further support, and (5) connecting with needed care. Their interdisciplinary team is composed of psychotherapists, chaplains, veterans and family members, and interfaith leaders. CHP builds a community where veterans come all the way home, reintegrating with their families, their peers, their communities—and within themselves.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav honored veterans in their community at a special Shabbat service on Friday, November 8, 2013.

Episcopal Community Services

Episcopal Community Services (ECS) serves more than 14,000 homeless and very low-income San Franciscans annually and estimates that 15% of its clients are veterans. ECS' Canon Kip Senior Center counts 33% of its program participants as veterans, many of them Filipino elders who served during World War II, including some who are survivors of the Bataan Death March. ECS contracts with the VA to provide 30 beds and meals for veterans at its Next Door Shelter, and the organization partners with the San Francisco Interfaith Council in the Interfaith Winter Shelter, where 18% of last year's guests were veterans. ECS' shelter behavioral health team, its senior center case management team, and its CHEFS program have close working relationships with the VA, the VA Clinic and Fort Miley.

Glide

Glide's Walk-In Center (WIC) focuses efforts on homeless veterans who are unconnected with VA services. Glide and the VA are partners in engaging homeless veterans in much needed services. WIC provides rental assistance for VA Downtown Clinic clients moving into new housing. WIC has added veteran status to intake so veterans can be identified and presented with opportunities and benefits. A script has been developed and WIC staff have been coached in engaging female veterans and veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). WIC has a strong partnership with Swords to Plowshares.

Honoring the Path of the Warrior

Honoring the Path of the Warrior (HPW) is a project fiscally sponsored by the San Francisco Zen Center. HPW assists post 9/11 and Persian Gulf veterans in making a positive transition from military to civilian life. They provide a pathway of meditation and mindfulness that welcomes, honors and integrates their service and leadership. Their secular, free-of-charge programs combine nature and engaging physical activities, meditation, Sensory Awareness and mindfulness practices. The intent is to provide veterans with connection, community and tools that support them in using their strengths and experiences to find a meaningful and productive path in civilian life.

Islamic Society of San Francisco

The Islamic Society of San Francisco at 20 Jones Street regularly provides meals to approximately 200 individuals in the Tenderloin. This group includes a significant number of homeless and low-income veterans. The Islamic Society provides meals during the thirty days of Ramadan, and twice a month at other times. Both lunches and sandwich snacks are provided. The Society also has a clothing drive which benefits veterans.

Lutheran Social Services

Lutheran Social Services (LSS) provides services to veterans through various housing sites that they support. They also provide support to veterans through their Money Management Services program. LSS works closely with Swords to Plowshares to provide services to veterans.

Metropolitan Fresh Start House

Metropolitan Fresh Start House, also known as "Fresh Start," is a faith-based California State licensed and certified residential treatment program designed to specifically help clients with substance abuse and recovery, as well as re-socialization and basic living skills. Presently they house and serve up to 12 veterans at one time, but during

Metropolitan Fresh Start House (cont'd)

the course of a month they touch the lives of about 20 veterans. They are aggressively pursuing the means to house, treat and serve up to 55 veterans in the San Francisco community. A program coordinator and senior case manager provide "hands-on" treatment to veterans on a daily basis. They work with various community based organizations to provide services to their clients. Fresh Start has partnered with Swords to Plowshares, Third Street VA Clinic and Fort Miley SDGH Program to provide healing services to veterans. Fresh Start is designed to encourage clients to become productive, responsible members of society.

Providence Baptist Church of San Francisco

Providence Baptist Church serves 60 to 70 veterans on average per year. They provide case management services, including, help with housing, transportation tokens, hygiene kits, and connection to a day storage facility. Providence also partners with The Salvation Army, Swords to Plowshares, the Veterans Administration, and the United Council of Human Services to provide services to veterans.

St. Anthony Foundation

St. Anthony Foundation serves veterans of six wars at the St. Anthony Dining Room: Iraq, Afghanistan, the first Persian Gulf War, Grenada, Vietnam, and Korea and many peacetime veterans as well. One out of every five Dining Room guests are veterans who rely on the meals that St. Anthony's provides to sustain them. Half of the veterans in the Dining Room are homeless, 40% are unemployed and almost 35% are disabled. Some have a less visible, but no less debilitating wound called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). About 8% of the guests who come to the Tenderloin Lab for classes in basic computer

St. Anthony Foundation (cont'd)

and internet skills are veterans. Ten to 15% of the Social Work Center clients are veterans seeking housing/rental assistance. Veterans constitute about 7% of the intake interviews conducted by the Fr. Alfred Center, a drug and alcohol recovery center. St. Anthony's connects veterans with veteran-specific services and works with agencies that specialize in veterans' needs and services. The program connects veterans with Swords to Plowshares and the VA Hospital at Fort Miley so that they may receive assistance from case workers who specialize in veterans' benefits, medical services, and housing. For several years St. Anthony's has coordinated a Veteran's Day project with Swords to Plowshares and the Veteran's Health Administration to reach out to homeless veterans in need of assistance.

St. Dominic's Catholic Church

St. Dominic's provides services to homeless veterans through their Lima Center overseen by Sr. Anne Bertain. The center provides breakfast 4 days/week, lunch on Tuesdays, and offers showers and laundry. Visitors can watch movies, T.V., use computers, read, or sleep. Additionally, Col. (Ret) Deborah Dacumos, a congregant at St. Dominic's and a member of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission, visits incarcerated veterans at the San Bruno Pod and shares with them the work being done on their behalf by the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission on getting the Veterans Treatment Court approved. Col. Dacumos volunteers as medical team leader for the yearly International Military Lourdes Pilgrimage. She manages the care of the sick and wounded veterans and their families during the Lourdes pilgrimage.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Francisco's Wellness Center actively provides a welcoming environment of wellness, compassion, and one-on-one and group support for veterans that includes stress management and counseling. In September 2013 they started a Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) support group for veterans, facilitated by a veteran.

San Francisco SafeHouse

San Francisco SafeHouse is a nurturing and empowering living community for homeless, prostituted women who want to escape the violence, brutality and trauma of life on the street. Some of San Francisco SafeHouse's residents are veterans. They are treated the same as other women who come to SafeHouse, with special attention to trauma therapy and treatment for PTSD. They offer supportive housing and a full array of recovery services that enable residents to confront the trauma of the past in a healing environment while developing independent living skills.

San Francisco State University

San Francisco State University (SFSU) is committed to helping active duty members of the military and veterans of military service attain their educational goals. The Veteran's Center at SFSU serves over 500 veterans and over 400 dependents of disabled veterans. Services include advising prospective veteran students of the eligibility criteria and offering assistance during the admission process. Once a veteran is admitted, the Veteran's Center is a one-stop shop for all SFSU functions, including financial aid, cashier, Registrar's Office, academic advising, benefits advising, disabilities resources, counseling and psychological services, student organization advising, local and regional office referrals to the VA and other veterans organizations. The Veteran's Center oversees

San Francisco State University (cont'd)

VETS Corner, a veterans community center, where student veterans can create community and help each other with school work. A Speaker Series at VETS Corner has been instituted where speakers from the campus, the VA, alumni and veterans organizations in the area talk to students about opportunities and services. Veterans are also hired through the VA Work-Study program, giving veteran students an opportunity to work in a University environment. The Center works with employers to help place student veterans into paid internships for computer programming and project management. The student organization, V.E.T.S. stands for Veterans Education Transition & Support and is for veterans and their families and friends at SF State. The main goals of the club are to promote student life and create a non-partisan environment at SF State.

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has three residential programs in San Francisco that work closely with veterans: *Harbor House Re-Entry Program* (Single Parent with Children, 2-Year Transitional Residential Program), *Harbor Light Program* (Residential Drug & Alcohol Treatment/Detox) and *Railton Place Residential Program* (Permanent & Transitional). Additionally, The Salvation Army works with Swords to Plowshares, The Veterans Justice Community Court, HUD, and various VA departments that assist with medical/psychiatric care, the AA/NA community for sponsoring, and Pre-Trial diversion for veterans in custody. They also work with C.O.V.E.R. project with veterans incarcerated in the San Bruno jail. Two staff counselors provide veteran-specific treatment to their veteran clients. The Salvation Army also serves veterans through their Community Case-works with rental/utility assistance, clothing, furniture vouchers, showers, weekly food pantries, and other services. Their daily home-delivered meals program, *Meals That Heal*, provide food and case management to veteran clients.

University of San Francisco

The University of San Francisco (USF) is fully dedicated to making education more accessible for our nation's veterans and their dependents. USF participates in a program that provides tuition and fee benefits to qualified veterans who are accepted and enrolled at the University. The Registrar's Office acts as a liaison between the University, its students, and all the agencies involved with VA benefits. USF is proud to participate in the *Yellow Ribbon Program*. The *Yellow Ribbon Program* is intended to make participating private institutions more accessible to eligible veterans who are pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. The Department of Veteran Affairs supplements each direct contribution from USF with a matching benefit.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Joan M. Mooney

Assistant Secretary for Congressional & Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Joan M. Mooney was nominated by President Obama to serve as Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs (OCLA) at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on June 23, 2009, confirmed by the United States Senate on August 7, 2009, and sworn in by Secretary Eric K. Shinseki on August 10, 2009.

As Assistant Secretary, Ms. Mooney is the principal advisor to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the Department's legislative agenda. She creates and manages Department-wide policies, plans, and operations related to all congressional and legislative matters affecting the Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Mooney is also responsible for conducting VA's Congressional relations activities and representing VA programs, policies, and legislative agenda to Congress.

Ms. Mooney shared family caregiver responsibilities for her father, a retired Navy civilian and an atomic veteran stationed in the Marshall Islands during the nuclear tests, who suffered from a service-connected cancer.

In over two decades of leadership experience in working with Congress, Ms. Mooney headed up the Washington office of Congressman Terry Bruce of Illinois and worked as chief of staff to Congressman John Cox of Illinois. From 1997 to 2009, Ms. Mooney served as chief of staff to Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Ranking Member of its oversight and investigations panel, and the House Budget Committee. She has worked on health care legislation throughout her tenure on Capitol Hill. As a Washington representative of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Ms. Mooney has also developed policies affecting the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs on manpower, health care and research. Ms. Mooney has served as a Senior Advisor to Secretary Shinseki since February of 2009. Ms. Mooney graduated from George Mason University with a Bachelor's degree in government and politics in 1986.



SPONSORS FOR TODAY'S BREAKFAST

Major Sponsors

H.B. and Lucille Horn Foundation
HBO

Table Sponsor—\$500

Nick Andrade
Archdiocese of San Francisco
California Pacific Medical Center
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Catholic Charities CYO
Camilla Smith, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Congregation Emanu-El
Congregation Sherith Israel
Rev. James DeLange
Episcopal Community Services
First United Lutheran Church
Grace Cathedral
Jewish Community Relations Council
Mo'MAGIC
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
My Dutch Uncle
San Francisco District Attorney's Office
San Francisco State University
San Francisco Zen Center

**SPONSORS
FOR TODAY'S BREAKFAST**

Table Sponsor—\$500 (cont'd)

St. Vincent de Paul Church
The Salvation Army
United Religions Initiative
USF University Ministry

Sustaining Sponsor—\$250

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
Betsy Dodd and Jim Boddy
Glide
Lutheran Social Services
Old St. Mary's Cathedral
United Educators of San Francisco
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

Sponsoring Seats for Our Veterans

Catholic Charities CYO
Rev. James DeLange
Fran Finney
Rev. Ronald Kobata
USF University Ministry
Cynthia S. Zamboukos



**President Abraham Lincoln's
Thanksgiving Proclamation**

October 3, 1863

It 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.



PROGRAM



Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell
Rev. Ronald Kobata
Buddhist Church of San Francisco

Reading from the Koran
Imam Abu Qadir Al-Amin
SF Muslim Community Center

Opening Prayer
Cantor David Frommer, Congregation Shomrei Torah
(U.S. Army Chaplain—served in Kuwait
and Afghanistan)

Prayer of Thanks for the Meal
The Rev. Nina Pickerrell
Grace Cathedral and Bayview Mission
(U.S. Army veteran—served in the Presidio of
San Francisco and SHAPE Headquarters in Belgium)

~ Breakfast is served at your table ~

Welcome by Breakfast Co-Chairs
Marilyn Saner, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
Fr. Kenneth Westray, St. Vincent de Paul Church
(U.S. Merchant Marine veteran)



PROGRAM (continued)



President Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation
(page 19)
Joseph Rocha
Student at University of San Francisco School of Law
(U.S. Navy veteran—served in Bahrain)

Introduction of Public Officials
G.L. Hodge, Vice-Chair
San Francisco Interfaith Council and
Member of Providence Baptist Church

Remarks
Mayor Edwin Lee

Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Michael G. Pappas, M. Div.,
Executive Director, San Francisco Interfaith Council
and Member of Grace Cathedral

Keynote Speaker: *Joan M. Mooney,*
Assistant Secretary of Congressional &
Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Musical selection by the "Pride of Providence"
Providence Baptist Church Quartet



PROGRAM
(continued)

Introduction of Dr. Kathleen Sullivan Alioto
*Rita R. Semel, Past Chair, SFIC and
Member of Congregation Emanu-El*

Honoring the late Walter S. Newman
Dr. Kathleen Sullivan Alioto

Remarks

*Roberta Rosenthal, LCSW
VISN 21 Network Homeless Coordinator
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration*

Remarks

*Michael Blecker, Executive Director
Swords to Plowshares
(U.S. Army veteran—served in Vietnam)*

Presentation to Honorees

*Marilyn Saner, Fr. Kenneth Westray, Co-Chairs
and G.L. Hodge, Vice-Chair, SFIC*

Blessing of Honorees, Veterans and their Families

*Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto
Glide Memorial Church*



PROGRAM
(continued)

Moment of Silence
*Marilyn Saner, Co-Chair
(Continuing Peace Vigil)*

Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund
*Rev. James DeLange, Past Chair, SFIC and
Member of St. Francis Lutheran Church
(U.S. Navy veteran)*

“Building Bridges to Reduce Gun Violence”
(page 24)
Christine Pelosi

Closing Prayer: The Prayer of St. Francis
(said by all – page 24)

*Led by Father Paul Zirimenya,
St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired
Neva Turoff, Interpreter
Read by Fr. Steve Maekawa
St. Dominic’s Catholic Church
(U.S. Navy Chaplain—served in Afghanistan)*

Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs

Song: “Blessings Upon Blessings”
*Sister Elizabeth Padilla
Accompanied by Brother Mario Reyes
The Brahma Kumaris Community*



**“BUILDING BRIDGES
TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE”**

San Franciscans are coming together and building bridges to reduce gun violence.

With the San Francisco Interfaith Council, Futures Without Violence, and other community partners, *Building Bridges* will create an interactive website and exhibit of people and communities who have been impacted by gun violence. Through this effort and your participation, we will send a message of hope for others.

For more information, please visit:

<https://rally.org/reducegunviolence/c/bnWjinQZ1E6>

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.



**ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PLANS OF THE SFIC
2013-2014**

History teaches us that many of the world's conflicts are rooted in religious strife. Here in San Francisco, the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) seeks to "*Celebrate our diverse faiths and spiritual traditions, bring people together to build understanding and serve our community,*" and thus, counter that historical trend.

We count as our constituents the 800 congregations in the City and County of San Francisco, their respective judicatories, sectarian educational and healthcare institutions, as well as the faith-based social service agencies that provide the social safety net for our most vulnerable residents.

The SFIC is increasingly seen by civic leaders and the public as the "go-to" organization to contact to mobilize the religious communities of our City. Further, congregations and faith-based agencies look to the SFIC for resources, referral, and representation. Building on our 2012-2013 accomplishments, we have strengthened our relationships with key civic agencies and non-governmental organizations, enabling us to enhance our core missions of responding to homelessness and disasters. Most importantly, we bring the religious community together to address areas of need and observance they cannot do alone.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- On the second Thursday of each month the SFIC hosts an Interfaith Breakfast that brings together nearly 100 religious leaders to network, share a meal, hear a speaker and an individual's faith journey. Speakers from a variety of City Departments, civic agencies, NGOs, and philanthropic programs are invited to share their important work, engage faith communities to help spread the word as well as offer volunteer opportunities for congregants and congregation programs.

- For a quarter of a century the SFIC has hosted and coordinated the City's Interfaith Winter Shelter. This effort provides dinner, breakfast, and a safe, warm, overnight rest for up to 100 homeless men each night. Four host congregations, 40 meal-providing congregations, staff provided by Episcopal Community Services and the Night Ministry, along with help from the City's Human Services Agency, enable the shelter to operate from the Sunday before Thanksgiving through the end of February.
- Each year the SFIC hosts a walk for hunger around Lake Merced. This year the SFIC Board decided that proceeds from the walk would be used to defray the rising cost of operating the Interfaith Winter Shelter. This year's Winter-Faith Shelter Walk was held on April 21, 2013, and raised over \$16,000 for the shelter. Picture perfect weather, 18 teams, 120 walkers, and over 25 volunteers contributed to the success of the day!
- Our major event of the year is the SFIC Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast attended by 400 people on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving Day. Each year we shine the spotlight on a contribution of the faith community to the life of San Francisco. Last year we were pleased to recognize and honor congregations and California Interfaith Power and Light for their exemplary work in environmental preservation and "greening." As well, we honored Congregation Emanu-El's retiring Rabbi Stephen Pearce for his pioneering work on the environment and Democratic Leader of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi for her 25 years representing our district in the United States Congress. This year we will shine a spotlight on congregations and organizations assisting current and returning veterans and their families in the challenges they face transitioning to life in our City.

- Each year, the SFIC sponsors San Francisco's only Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service, bringing together faith leaders and congregants from the rich diversity of our City for prayer and thanksgiving. The 8th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was hosted last year at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Pacific Heights. This year's host will be the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. At this service an offering is collected to offset the rising cost of the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter.
- For the third year in a row, in what is quickly becoming a San Francisco tradition, the SFIC assumed primary responsibility for organizing the City's annual Martin Luther King Day observance. Our role is to coordinate the annual march over the Lefty O'Doul Bridge, which brings together "freedom riders" from the South Bay as well as those who gather from the City at the Caltrain Terminal. This march to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at Yerba Buena Gardens (YBG) pays tribute to and is symbolic of the crossing made by Dr. King over the "Edmund Pettis Bridge." There is a brief prayer service at the bridge. Upon arrival at YBG, the estimated 10,000 attendees are led by the SFIC in a moving Interfaith Service. Key civic and noted dignitaries are in attendance. This year's dual observance paid tribute to the 2nd Inauguration of President Barack Obama and four living Bay Area civil rights activists.
- Interfaith harmony begins with mutual understanding and respect among faiths. Each year the SFIC produces a calendar that lists religious holidays of the major world religions. The calendar is useful in scheduling being done by the San Francisco Unified School District, the Schools of the SF Archdiocese, various agencies of City government, and the Consular Corps. This invaluable resource has sensitized these agencies and organizations to important religious observances and helped them avoid potential conflicts when scheduling events.

- For the past three years the SFIC has assumed the role of “convener” of the CEOs of the City’s ten major faith-based social service agencies to address issues of common concern. The SFIC has not only provided these important leaders an arena for professional collaboration, but also, in this era of major budget cuts, facilitated a united voice to call attention to the impact such cuts will have on their clients.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- When the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency proposed metered parking on Sundays, the SFIC was called upon to rally the interfaith community in opposition to the measure. Speaking out at SFMTA hearings, in direct conversations with its director, to the print, radio, television and online media and through consultations with public officials, the SFIC sought and seeks to sensitize those in decision-making authority to the adverse impact such a measure will have upon congregations who are not only struggling to exist, but also giving back so much to the City.
- In August 2012 the American Freedom Defense Initiative (AFDI) began running inflammatory anti-Muslim ads on SFMTA buses. The SFMTA and SF Human Rights Commission invited the SFIC to deliberations on how the agency should respond to the ads as well as to give input on the greater issues of First Amendment Rights and hate speech.
- For almost a year the SFIC has been working with the Mayor’s Office of Violence Prevention Services to engage key faith leaders in vulnerable neighborhoods to participate in the City’s Crisis Response Network. Entitled “Faith Based Responders Call to Organize,” this effort is part of the City’s “Interrupt, Predict and Organize (IPO) for a Safer San Francisco.” Our work thus far has been focused on the Bayview Hunters Point, Western Addition, and Mission

neighborhoods. In addition to providing a key pastoral presence at the time of a homicide for both the victim’s family and affected neighborhood residents, this effort has significantly enabled the SFIC to broaden its constituency in those vulnerable neighborhoods.

- In the aftermath of the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, the SFIC has collaborated with Christine Pelosi of Democracy Partners and others on an art project entitled “*Building Bridges to Reduce Gun Violence.*” The project will use a multimedia as well as physical exhibit, containing photos as well as stories of those whose lives have been impacted by gun violence, to channel personal tragedy into public action. The exhibit is scheduled to be displayed online and in public space from Thanksgiving through Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- On April 23, 2013, partnering with the United Way of the Bay Area, the Jewish Community Relations Council, and Providence Baptist Church, the SFIC co-sponsored a highly successful “Interfaith Poverty Summit.” Attended by key stakeholders, the program attracted panelists whose presentations sought to engage interfaith attendees to complement their existing work to sustain those living in poverty with a broader serious plan of action to engage political leaders to reduce the homeless and working poor population in our City and region.
- Partnering with the Mayor’s Office of Housing, Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE), on May 16, 2013, the SFIC hosted a well attended and highly successful training for congregation leaders entitled “*Responding to the Homeless on our Doorsteps.*” At the convening, which took place at St. Mary’s Cathedral, the audience heard from key leaders of City homeless programs and received important resource and referral material. The SF Chronicle covered the event and featured an article the following morning in the *City Insider* column. Numerous attendees subsequently favorably commented

on how the materials were helpful in coming to immediate aid of those in need.

- Recipient of a generous grant from the One Nation Bay Area Fund (a collaboration of The San Francisco Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Silicon Valley Foundation, Asia Pacific Foundation, and Russell Foundation), the SFIC has hosted and continues to host a series of dinners at various faith based venues to sensitize non-Muslims to the challenges faced by American Muslims. The first series examined the issues of education, racial profiling, gender equality, and immigration as they impact Muslims. The upcoming series will examine observant vs. nominal adherents, media influence on public perception of religion, and the relevance of religion in secular society.
- In 2010, the SFIC and United Religions Initiative (URI), standing in solidarity with our Muslim neighbors, partnered to disseminate a toolkit developed for faith communities to speak out against the rising tide of Islamophobia. Today, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-immigrant bias and bullying have significantly increased. They are becoming institutionalized through aggressively hostile talk radio, bus ads, billboards, cyber bullying, and acts of violence. To follow up, the SFIC and URI are offering a new and improved resource for the "Talking Back to Hate" campaign, called, "*URI Toolkit: Positive Actions in Response to Hate Speech.*"
- For the past several years SFIC Executive Director, Michael Pappas, has attended a quarterly convening of a select group of faith leaders who meet with regional officials of the US Department of Homeland Security's Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agency. The purpose of these meetings is to sensitize ICE officials to the adverse conditions and oftentimes abuses faced by detained immigrants. In addition, those officials inform faith attendees of changes in policy and enforcement practices.

- Following up on the highly successful collaboration of the SFIC and SF Opera on the 10th anniversary observance of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States, the SF Opera invited the SFIC to gather theologians of different faiths to discuss a specially commissioned opera, "*The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*," which premiered in San Francisco on June 19, 2013. The purpose of the conversation was two-fold: to exchange thoughts with the opera's composer, Mark Adamo, and SF Opera General Director, David Gockley, about potential reactions to the work of art as well as to generate a conversation in the City about the person of Mary Magdalene.

Because of the important stakeholder role the SFIC plays in these many arenas, the SFIC has been invited to take a place at many tables. SFIC Executive Director, Michael Pappas, currently brings the SFIC's voice and presence to those tables through his membership on the SF Human Rights Commission, the SF Disaster Council, American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter Board of Directors, URI Global Council Trustees, URI North America Region Leadership Council, and The San Francisco Foundation FAITHS Program Advisory Board.

This narrative represents only a part of our work. We have been able to do all this with just two full time staff persons (our Executive Director, Michael Pappas and Program/Administrative Associate, Cynthia Zamboukos, who recently joined our staff), an intern from the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, the tireless volunteer efforts of our Past Chair, Rita R. Semel, and others.

The funding provided by congregations, judicatories, agencies, individuals, and foundations has made these important achievements possible.

**WE THANK THOSE WHO HAVE
SUPPORTED THE SAN FRANCISCO
INTERFAITH COUNCIL IN 2013**

CONGREGATIONS

Bethany United Methodist Church
Buddhist Church of San Francisco
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Christ Church Lutheran
Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples
Congregation Beth Shalom
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF
Golden Gate Spiritualist Church of SF
Holy Name of Jesus Church
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Old First Presbyterian Church
St. Boniface Church
St. Brendan Roman Catholic Church
St. Francis Lutheran Church
St. Ignatius Church
St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church
St. Paulus Lutheran Church, ELCA
St. Vincent de Paul Church
San Francisco Friends Meeting
Swedenborgian Church
Unity Church of San Francisco
Zion Lutheran Church

CORPORATIONS

HBO

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Calvary Foundation
The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation
H.B. and Lucille Horn Foundation
One Nation Bay Area Fund
The San Francisco Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (SF Chapter)
Walter and Elise Haas Fund

AGENCIES

Catholic Charities CYO
Episcopal Community Services
Jewish Vocational & Career Counseling Service
Lutheran Social Services
St. Anthony Foundation
St. Vincent de Paul Society
The Salvation Army
United Way

INDIVIDUALS

Imam Abu Qadir Al-Amin
Nick Andrade
Lynette and Curtis Atkisson
Sr. Sukanya Belsare
The Rev. Sally G. Bingham

INDIVIDUALS (cont'd)

Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown
Kay Bush
Dayna Carlson
Candace and David Chiu
Jacqueline Guibert Cimento
Rev. James DeLange
John T. Dellar
Betsy Dodd and Jim Boddy
Ron Dudum
Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale
Farah El Abed
Joseph Fong
Father Paul Gawlowski
Jennifer Gee
Rev. Maggi Henderson
Marilyn N. Herand
G.L. Hodge
Fran and Bud Johns
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony Kakis and Family
Hene and Dennis Kelly
Rev. Ronald Kobata
Linda Lee and Harry Chuck
Therese N. Leonard-Young
The Rev. Andy Lobban and Mrs. Lobban
Rebecca and Sergio Maggi
Diane Marcus
Hydra Mendoza and Eric McDonnell
M.J. Myers

INDIVIDUALS (cont'd)

Dr. Raquel Newman
Raymond O'Connor
Milo Ott
Michael G. Pappas
The Rev. Nina Pickerrell
Janet and Clinton Reilly
Sally and Daniel Rosen
Terrence Ryan
Sylvia Sabel and Joel Rubinstein
Marilyn J. Saner
Norman Schlossberg
Rita R. Semel
Rumena and Alex Senchak
F. Michael Simons
Susan Solomon
Dr. Sally Wei
Father Kenneth Westray
Cynthia S. Zamboukos
Mary James Zamboukos

Belated thanks: The San Francisco Interfaith Council
apologizes for inadvertently failing to acknowledge in last
year's program book the very generous gift
by Rita R. Semel.

JUDICATORIES

Archdiocese of San Francisco
 The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of CA
 Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
 Japanese American Religious Federation of SF
 Jewish Community Relations Council
 The Northern California Board of Rabbis
 United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

SCHOOLS

Archbishop Riordan High School
 Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary
 Student Association

**RITA R. SEMEL ENDOWMENT FUND
 FOR INTERFAITH WORK
 2013 SUPPORTERS**

Judy and Jordan Bloom Philanthropic Fund
 Betsy Dodd and Jim Boddy
 Ruthellen Harris
 G.L. Hodge
 Howard B. Kleckner, M.D.
 Rev. & Mrs. Ronald Kobata
 Dr. Charles B. Wilson and Frances S. Petrocelli
 Cynthia S. Zamboukos

You may contribute to the Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund using the envelope in your program or fill out and return the Fund's postcard at your table. For more information about making a gift to the Fund, including estate and tax advantaged gifts, please contact:

Betsy Dodd at 415-563-9891 betsydodd@mac.com or
 Judy Bloom at 415-828-1513 jgoldbl@yahoo.com


**San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter
 2012-2013**

Site Providers

Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
 First Unitarian Universalist Society
 St. Boniface Church
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Meal Providers

Bethany United Methodist Church	Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Brahma Kumaris	Noe Valley Ministry
Calvary Presbyterian Church	Presbyterian Church in Chinatown
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Bay/Golden Gate/Sunset Wards)	St. Aidan's Episcopal Church
Congregation Emanu-El	St. Ignatius Church
Congregation Sherith Israel	St. James Episcopal Church
Corpus Christi Church	St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Orinda
Forest Hill Christian Church	St. Vincent de Paul Church
Grace Cathedral	San Francisco Zen Center
John Gwynn and Friends	Swedenborgian Church
Knights of St. Francis	Trinity†St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Mission Dolores	



**PLANNING COMMITTEE
INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING
PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Betsy Dodd, Calvary Presbyterian Church

Fran Finney, Calvary Presbyterian Church

Abby Michelson Porth, Jewish Community Relations Council

Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director, SFIC

Joan Rinde, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Lloyd Rinde, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

Marilyn Saner, Co-Chair
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Rita R. Semel, Past Chair, SFIC
Congregation Emanu-El

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Congregation Sherith Israel

Fr. Kenneth Westray, Co-Chair
St. Vincent de Paul Church

Cynthia S. Zamboukos
Program/Administrative Associate, SFIC
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Mary James Zamboukos, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church



SPECIAL THANKS

Sr. Elizabeth Padilla

Br. Mario Reyes

Brahma Kumaris Center

Catering Department and Staff
Hotel Kabuki

"Pride of Providence"
Providence Baptist Church Quartet

Thanksgiving Coffee Company

Neva Turoff, Sign Interpreter

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

A Taste of Peace



The organic, fair trade 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



SFIC Board of Directors 2013-2014

Rev. Maggi Henderson, Chair
Old First Presbyterian Church
G.L. Hodge, Vice Chair
Providence Baptist Church
Nick Andrade, Chief Financial Officer
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Abby Michelson Porth, Secretary
Jewish Community Relations Council
Sr. Sukanya Belsare
Brahma Kumaris
Major Robert H. Birks
The Salvation Army
Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown
Third Baptist Church
Betsy Dodd
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Farah El Abed
Muslim
Fr. Paul Gawlowski
St. Paul of the Shipwreck Church
Iftekhhar Hai
United Muslims of America
Richard H. Harris, Jr.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Rev. Ronald Kobata
Buddhist Church of San Francisco
The Rev. Andy Lobban
Grace Cathedral
Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto
Glide Memorial Church
Fr. Luke Palumbis, Ecumenical Officer
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco
Rabbi Lawrence Raphael
Congregation Sherith Israel
Rita R. Semel, Past Chair
Congregation Emanu-El
Dr. Sally Wei
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
Fr. Kenneth Westray
St. Vincent de Paul Church