

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

**“The Soul of the City:  
Faith and Social Justice  
in San Francisco”**



**Tuesday, November 22, 2016**

**7:00 am – 9:00 am**

***Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco***



**C**elebrating our diverse faiths  
and spiritual traditions,  
the San Francisco Interfaith Council  
brings people together  
to build understanding  
and serve our community.

## **San Francisco Interfaith Council**

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*Welcome to the*

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

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The San Francisco Interfaith Council welcomes you to the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 residents come together to give thanks for the gifts bestowed on our City and to pray for the well being of all of our residents.

Each year at this breakfast, we shine the spotlight on the important contributions the religious community makes to the life of San Francisco. This year we focus on social justice. We honor Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer for their faith-based leadership in social justice, and San Francisco congregations for their critical efforts in realizing a more just society.

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

# Program

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## **Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell**

*Elaine Donlin Sensei, Minister's Assistant*  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco

## **Recitation of Adhan (Muslim Call to Prayer)**

*Fatih Ferdi Ates*  
Pacifica Institute & Turkish-American Cultural Center

## **Interfaith Statement** (page 6)

*Sr. Sukanya Belsare*  
Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center

## **Welcome by Prayer Breakfast Chair**

*Kaushik Roy, Vice Chair, San Francisco Interfaith Council and*  
Executive Director, The Shanti Project

## **Prayer of Thanks for the Meal**

*Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale, St. Mark's Lutheran Church*  
*Rabbi Beth Singer, Congregation Emanu-El*

~ *Breakfast is served at your table* ~

## **Introduction of Special Guests**

*G.L. Hodge, Chair, San Francisco Interfaith Council*

## **Remarks**

*Mayor Edwin M. Lee*

## **Song: "Hallelujah"** (see insert)

Words by Leonard Cohen  
*Cantor Marsha Attie, Congregation Emanu-El*

## **Remarks**

*Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director*  
San Francisco Interfaith Council

## **Introduction of Honorees Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer**

*The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, Bishop*  
Episcopal Diocese of California

## **Acceptance Remarks**

*Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer*

# *Program* (continued)

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## **Presentation to Honorees**

*Phil Ginsburg*, General Manager  
SF Parks & Recreation Department

## **Special Recognition of Senator Mark Leno**

*G.L. Hodge*, Chair and *Kaushik Roy*, Vice Chair  
San Francisco Interfaith Council

## **Song: “Henei Ma Tov” (How Good It Is)** - see insert

*Cantor Marsha Attie*, Congregation Emanu-El

## **Reading of Sacred Texts Related to Social Justice**

### **Recognition of Honoree Congregations** (page 10)

### **Happy 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Rita Semel!**

### **Introduction of The Honorable Nancy Pelosi**

*Rita R. Semel*, Past Chair  
San Francisco Interfaith Council

### **“The Prayer of St. Francis”** (page 7)

Read by all

Led by *The Honorable Nancy Pelosi* and *Rita Semel*  
Assisted by *Joseph Thomas Thermadom*, Pastoral Minister  
St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired

### **Remarks**

*The Honorable Nancy Pelosi*  
Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

### **Support for the San Francisco Interfaith Council**

*Kaushik Roy*, Vice Chair  
San Francisco Interfaith Council

### **Closing Remarks by Prayer Breakfast Chair**

### **Song: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”**

(sung by all - see insert)

Original Words and Music by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller  
Led by *Cantor Marsha Attie*, Congregation Emanu-El

### **Closing Prayer**

*Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown*, Pastor, Third Baptist Church

# *Interfaith Statement*

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**T**his is an interfaith community.

Whatever our individual belief, it can be freely expressed here with no apologies. If we are invited to offer a prayer in this setting, it should be offered according to the tradition with which we identify. If we are invited to speak on a subject from the perspective of our tradition, we are free to do so without fear of offending those who come from another tradition. We come together as people of faith to learn from each other that we might better understand the multiplicity of faith traditions in our city and in our world.

## *Prayer of St. Francis*

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**L**ord, 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.

# *Honorees*

## *Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer*

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### **Kat Taylor, Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Beneficial State Bank**

Kat is intent on changing the food and banking systems for good through business models and philanthropy.



She believes that agriculture represents the dominant way we tend the planet. To find and de-risk animal agriculture management practices that optimize for greatest social value, Kat founded TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation (TKREF) on her family's cattle ranch. With science partners Point Blue and broader science-based collaborative experimentation, TKREF hosts a learning lab for strategies to re-squester carbon into soils, enhance water quality and retention, and restore biodiversity while producing healthy food.

TomKat Charitable Trust, the family charitable vehicle, funds a robust ecosystem for food system change to complement the working ranch activities. The Trust's priorities are big buyer strategies to shift supply chains beneficially (like California Food for California Kids), empowerment of eaters from basic agro-ecology research to protection of transparency in food markets, and food movement-building.

With a strong belief that banking is our original and most powerful form of crowdfunding, Kat and her husband, Tom Steyer, started Beneficial State Bank in 2007 to align banking with benefit to all and harm to none. Kat serves as Co-CEO and Co-Chair of the bank, which is owned in the public interest and reinvests profits into the low-resourced communities it serves.

Kat also supports all efforts to avert climate disaster and restore broad-based prosperity.

Kat graduated from Harvard College and earned a JD/MBA from Stanford University. Her husband and four grown children are all pursuing their one wild and precious lives and love gathering over food, playing sports and communing with the great outdoors.

## Tom Steyer, Founder and President, NextGen Climate



Tom Steyer is a business leader and philanthropist who believes we have a moral responsibility to give back and help ensure that every family shares the benefits of economic opportunity, education, and a healthy climate.

In 2010, Tom and his wife, Kat Taylor, pledged to contribute most of their wealth to charitable causes during their lifetime. That same year, Tom worked to defeat Proposition 23, an attempt by the oil industry to roll back California's historic plan to reduce pollution and address climate change.

In 2012, Tom led a campaign to invest hundreds of millions of dollars in California schools annually by closing a corporate tax loophole. To date, Proposition 39 has put nearly a billion dollars into California schools and clean energy projects, saving millions of dollars in annual energy costs.

Tom founded a successful California business, which he left to work full-time on non-profit and advocacy efforts. He now serves as President of NextGen Climate, an organization he founded in 2013 to prevent climate disaster and promote prosperity for all Americans. Tom also serves as co-chair of Save Lives California, the coalition to prevent teen smoking and fund cancer research.

Tom's dedication to public service is greatly inspired by his wife, Kat, the Co-CEO of Beneficial State Bank in Oakland. They founded this nonprofit community bank in 2007 to provide loans to people and small businesses shut out by the traditional banking system. Unlike most banks, by statute Beneficial State Bank invests any profits back into the community.

Tom and Kat live in San Francisco and have four children.

# *San Francisco Honoree Congregations*

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## **Archdiocese of San Francisco**

The Office of Human Life and Dignity collaborates with various organizations in the Bay Area to maintain human dignity by respecting all human life and striving to obtain justice for all.

The main function of this office is to educate, advocate and create awareness around the variety of social justice topics affecting our communities in an effort to raise the level of action and response. Each issue is addressed and supported through the lens of the main principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

## **Buddhist Church of San Francisco**

The Buddhist Church of San Francisco Ministerial Team is committed through active engagement in social justice areas to serve the economically poor and marginalized in our city. Ongoing community activities include: pastoral care within the SF County jails, LGBTQ+ visibility and support, AIDS education, Death Penalty Repeal education, and homeless support through meal preparation and serving.

## **Calvary Presbyterian Church**

Calvary's Faith in Action team coordinates the social justice and community outreach at Calvary. In 2014 Calvary decided to focus volunteer opportunities and church donations on "breaking cycles of poverty." A Poverty Task Force met for six months to assess the work of 25 nonprofits in San Francisco, ultimately selecting four that do exemplary work in education, housing, and job training – elements critical to breaking cycles of poverty. These are Boys and Girls Club, New Door Ventures, Raphael House, and San Francisco Achievers. Since then, Calvary has supported these organizations with hundreds of volunteer hours and about 50% of our Faith in Action budget each year.

Over the past couple years, Calvary has focused on race-related issues. We have hosted African American speakers during and after church services (youth, a mother, police, pastors, community organizer) whose lives have been affected by violence. We have partnered with Grace Tabernacle Community Church, a predominantly African American congregation, for pulpit exchanges, a candlelight vigil against gun violence in the Bayview, music exchanges, and other events. Calvary spearheaded a "Faith Communities for Justice and Peace" rally at City Hall after the shootings this summer. Our congregation has had robust conversations related to the Black Lives Matter movement, whose symbol now hangs outside our church. Currently, we are holding adult education seminars on race topics.

Calvary continues to work with other social justice programs, including St. Martin de Porres, the Interfaith Winter Shelter, the Interfaith Food Pantry, San Francisco SafeHouse, Salvation Army, Little Brothers/Friends of the Elderly, Ronald McDonald House, World Refugee Day, Living Waters for the World, and others. In addition, Calvary actively supports the social justice work of the SF Interfaith Council, including critical efforts to fight Islamophobia.

# *Honoree Congregations Cont'd*

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## **Congregation Emanu-El**

Nearly one year ago, Rabbi Beth Singer and Rabbi Ryan Bauer called upon congregants to stand up and take social justice action. "Tzedek" or "Justice" is part of the Jewish responsibility to repair the world ("tikkun olam"). The launch of our new Tzedek Council for Social Justice - with dedicated congregant, board, staff, and clergy - marked Congregation Emanu-El's increased effort to bring social justice to the forefront of our minds, deepen our positive impact in the community, and ensure social justice is infused throughout the Temple's programming and operations.

The Tzedek Council's five main areas of focus:

*Economic Justice* -- The Economic Justice group coordinates opportunities for congregants to work together to fight homelessness, hunger and poverty in our community. Our current volunteer opportunities include Larkin Street Youth Services (G-House), Meals on Wheels, Raphael House, and The Roosevelt Healthy Children Pantry. <https://www.emanuelf.org/community/volunteer/hunger/>.

*Education* -- The Education Group is working with key partners such as the Jewish Coalition for Literacy and Back on Track to raise literacy levels in the city's public schools. In addition, this group is promoting a much-needed school supply drive and co-hosted a conversation with the November San Francisco School Board candidates on September 7, 2016. <https://www.emanuelf.org/community/volunteer/literacy/>.

*Environment* -- The Environment Group works with the Temple's facilities team to make building operations carbon neutral, making all events and meetings nearly zero-waste and lowering our energy and water use through installing more efficient equipment. <https://www.emanuelf.org/community/volunteer/environment/>.

*Human Rights* -- The Human Rights group works on a variety of issues including Racial Justice, Refugee Resettlement, ending Gun Violence, and LGBTQ. This group hosted several events to support refugees and formed a Unity Group to increase partnership between the African American and Jewish communities with the goal of working together on projects that increase racial justice. <https://www.emanuelf.org/community/volunteer/human-rights/>.

*Wellness* -- The Wellness Group is focusing on reducing the stigma of mental health illness. Over the next year, they will plan educational events and explore opportunities for workshops and conversations to help ensure our community is one of understanding and support. <https://www.emanuelf.org/community/volunteer/well-being/>.

# Honoree Congregations Cont'd

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## **Congregation Or Shalom**

Tikkun Olam: Healing the World. Or Shalom has a strong contingent of members who express their Jewish heritage through a wide spectrum of social justice work—from vegetarianism and urban farming to environmental and climate action to prison reform work with Bay Area interfaith groups. To learn more about the reasons we believe so strongly in working for social change, please read our Statement of Tikkun Olam in Our Times and the Or Shalom Jewish Community Statement Against Racism.

OS Justice is Or Shalom's social justice committee, a passionate and progressive group of Or Shalom members who seek to improve our society as well as ourselves. Confronted with myriad urgent problems in our world, we find inspiration from the words of Rabbi Tarfon in *Pirkei Avot*: "It is not up to you to finish the work, yet neither are you free to desist from it." We don't have to do it all, but we must find a way to do something!

In many of our tikkun olam projects we join with the other three congregations of the Southside Jewish Collaborative: Beth Israel Judea, B'nai Emunah, and Ner Tamid. In our Tikkun Olam Hunger Relief Project, volunteers from the four congregations prepare simple sandwich bag lunches for distribution by the San Francisco Department of Public Health's Homeless Outreach Program. These activities usually take place on the third Thursday of every month following our monthly Lunch & Learn program. San Francisco Food Bank volunteer shifts are also available periodically.

## **Congregation Sherith Israel**

Our commitment to repair the world guides our social-action outreach. As Jews, we believe Torah obligates us to help repair the world in ways large and small.

*Jewish Coalition for Literacy* – Our volunteers have been involved in teaching and encouraging children to read since 1999. Donating one hour a week, volunteers share the wonder of books and the joy of reading with at-risk children from disadvantaged neighborhoods. This program, supported by the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, is part of the Bay Area Jewish Coalition for Literacy and an affiliate of the National Jewish Coalition for Literacy.

*Reform CA* - Reform CA seeks to create a more just and compassionate California, working with other Reform congregations across California. Reform CA gives a Jewish voice to statewide issues, such as the recent bill to end racial profiling. With Reform CA, we build relationships with non-Jewish congregations, are "on-call" to contact representatives regarding social-justice issues, and join with others for reading projects, such as *The New Jim Crow*.

*Mitzvah Day* - Teaching tikkun olam (repairing the world) is the essence of Mitzvah Day, held twice each year, when Religious School students and parents perform service projects around San Francisco. Mitzvah Day teaches the values essential to our heritage and puts classroom learning into action.

# *Honoree Congregations Cont'd*

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*Caring for Aging Loved Ones* - CSI works with an interfaith group to improve conditions for San Francisco's seniors and to support each other in caring for loved ones.

*Social justice learning* - We recently held an event on listening respectfully to diverse opinions about Israel. We hosted speakers from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Shabbat guests often speak about various social justice topics. New initiatives include working with HIAS on refugee resettlement.

*Feeding the Hungry* - Our award-winning HaMotzi and Chicken Soupers program feeds people in need every Sunday. *HaMotzi* - Since 1993 we have prepared over 150,000 meals for people looking for a fresh start. Volunteers meet every Sunday morning in our kitchen and prepare 100 meals that are delivered to two San Francisco shelters. *Chicken Soupers* - In 1988, Chicken Soupers began preparing meals for Jewish individuals with AIDS. The program now feeds homebound seniors and the chronically ill. Once each month, volunteers prepare several days' worth of meals for each individual. Additionally, volunteers bake cookies for the homeless for distribution at St. Mary's Cathedral over the Christmas holidays.

## **Episcopal Diocese of California**

The Episcopal Diocese of California understands the mission of social justice as guided by our Baptismal Covenant "to strive for justice and peace among all people." By utilizing the concept of embedded justice — which is the awareness of how our decisions impact others — we intentionally work against discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or age; stand in solidarity with the poor and marginalized; and care for God's creation with reverence. We live this through the work of our people: The Rev. Richard Smith at St. John the Evangelist, who organizes the neighborhood for peace and justice in the Mission District, or Bayview Mission which provide important community resources of food justice and family support in Bayview Hunters Point. Members of the diocese participate in Immigrant Vigils in Contra Costa County, prison ministry at San Quentin by Marin churches, food pantries, afterschool enrichment centers, and ministry to seniors. The work of the Diocese includes organizations such as: Episcopal Community Services who provides treatments, training, and housing to formerly homeless citizens in San Francisco; Episcopal Charities who provides funding for nonprofits working directly on issues of climate justice, ending poverty, supporting education, and economic justice. These are some of the examples of the work 26,000 Episcopalians in 83 congregations are doing to create a just and peaceable world in the Bay Area.

## **First Unitarian Universalist Society**

First Unitarian Universalist launched the Faithful Fools Street Ministry and the Up on Top Afterschool program for low-income children. Its Society for Community Work gives away over \$100,000 each year in scholarships and small grants. The UUSF Guardian Group has resettled some 15 vulnerable LGBTQ refugees and asylum seekers. Its Environmental Justice Working Group has done award-winning work to make UUSF a Green Sanctuary congregation and to take action on climate change. Its Economic Justice Working Group actively advocates for affordable housing and labor rights, while its Human Rights Working Group tackles immigrant rights, systemic

# Honoree Congregations Cont'd

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racism and bias. The congregation sponsors a weekly social issues forum and a monthly documentary film series, Sensible Cinema. UUSF is active with Faith in Action Bay Area, a congregationally-based community organizing entity affiliated with PICO. The UUSF Social Justice Council is made up of twelve members who coordinate the social justice life of the congregation.

## GLIDE

GLIDE's mission is to create a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization. At the ground level, our social justice work ensures that the city's poorest residents have access to shelter, nutritious food, healthcare, job skills, and education, all in an environment of radical acceptance and unconditional love. The newly-launched Center for Social Justice at GLIDE focuses on advocacy and community education on issues that must be addressed beyond the level of individual outcomes: local policies and laws around housing and homelessness, the criminalization of poverty, and race and class socialization that influences institutions like police departments and schools. From the over 700,000 meals we serve every year to our mobilization of homeless and Tenderloin voters, our work holds a shared social justice vision: a city of love where people matter, material abundance is shared, and everyone has a voice.

## Grace Cathedral

Grace Cathedral has a long history of active engagement in social justice issues. From civil rights to homelessness, the AIDS crisis, marriage equality, and many more, it has long been an inclusive community to all, without exception, and worked for equality for all.

The *Community Preschool* is an innovative full day school that intentionally enrolls students from different socio-economic backgrounds and welcomes diversity in its many forms. Scholarships are provided for 2/3 of the students. *Bayview Mission* is a special mission of the diocese, serving the people of the Bayview community with a variety of services from food and clothing distribution to garden programs, educational programs, and special events. *Dinner with Grace* is a program where dinner is prepared and served to the formerly homeless living in SROs in the Tenderloin, building community and feeding bodies and souls. Dinners are also prepared and served at the *Interfaith Winter Shelter*. Through the *Jail Ministry*, we provide opportunities for worship in the County jail system, as well as ways for inmates to connect with their children through the Stories from Mom/Dad program. *Grace Gives* is a series of volunteer service days that build community and do good work around San Francisco. Throughout the year, we have smaller programs serving specific needs, from backpacks for children in need starting the school year, clothing and blankets for homeless newborns, socks and warm coats for people who are homeless, or gathering (and wrapping!) up to 600 gifts at Christmas for those in need.

Given that Grace Cathedral is a place where people gather not only to worship, but to learn and grow in community, it has focused many *Forum* programs on social justice issues. Thus far in 2016, the cathedral has held over a dozen events in the form of Forums and book discussions on race in America to grow the community's understanding of this critical issue in our country. The cathedral hosted Anna Deavere Smith's play, *Notes from*

# *Honoree Congregations Cont'd*

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*the Field: Doing Time in Education*", and partnered with a variety of other cultural, social and religious institutions on matters of social justice.

Looking ahead, a *Racial Reconciliation Initiative* is in formation that will include a collaborative "Community Conversations" program and educational program on race that is open to all. The cathedral is working with the SF Interfaith Council and others to bring this to fruition.

## **Grace Tabernacle Community Church**

Because the ministry of social justice is so large and multi-faceted, Grace Tabernacle realizes that it cannot tackle this behemoth task alone. For this reason we have crossed ecumenical and denominational lines to work with our brothers and sisters with like minds and passions to fight against racism, inequality, xenophobia, and social, environmental, and economic injustices.

Grace Tabernacle recently joined Rabbi Jonathan Singer of Congregation Emanu-El and an ecumenical college of clergy to support Prop 62 declaring that we must stop state executions that are immoral, waste taxpayer dollars, are racially biased, and target the poor. Grace and Calvary Presbyterian Church have created a fellowship where we come together to worship and to respond to injustices in Bayview Hunters Point. On December 5, 2015, the same night Mario Woods was killed by police officers, Grace was participating with Calvary in a march and peace and justice prayer vigil to protest gun violence in the Bayview. On July 10, 2016, Grace participated with Calvary in an ecumenical prayer vigil on the steps of SF City Hall. On July 16, 2016, at the request of Bishop Marc Andrus, Grace Tabernacle participated in the Interfaith Vigil at Grace Cathedral - a time of contemplation and prayer for peace, justice, healing, and reconciliation. In 2014, Grace Tabernacle and other clergy from *Faith in Action Bay Area* joined the rally in Ferguson to protest the police killing of Michael Brown. In 2006, Grace helped the community address concerns about a developer's excavating toxic soil as it planned to build homes at the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard.

In June 2015, Grace actively participated in the international Convocation on Peacebuilding, Policing, and Transforming Historical Harms/Community Trauma, representing Bayview Hunters Point.

Influenced by the Prophet Malachi, Jesus Christ, and Martin Luther King, Jr., Grace Tabernacle cannot remain silent while injustice is happening everywhere. In the words of Dr. King:

"It may well be that we will have to repent in this generation—not merely for the vitriolic words of the bad people and the violent actions of the bad people, but—for the appalling silence and indifference of the good people who sit around and say, 'wait on time.' ... social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and the persistence work of dedicated individuals; ... We must realize that the time is always ripe to do right."

# *Honoree Congregations Cont'd*

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## **St. Dominic's Catholic Church**

Created in 2014, St. Dominic's Social Justice Committee seeks to answer Pope Francis' call to advocate and promote Catholic Social Teaching in our community.

After a brief hiatus, a group of St. Dominic's parishioners interested in social justice issues reconstituted the St. Dominic's Social Justice (SDSJ) commission in February 2014. Since then we have hosted a variety of talks spotlighting social justice topics with the expectation that attendees would connect with the speaker and the topic, and start taking concrete steps to address social justice issues in the community. As interest in specific topics grows, SDSJ hopes to facilitate and coordinate interested parishioners in taking real action to affect change at the institutional and societal level.

## **St. Ignatius Parish**

Last year the advocacy committee at St. Ignatius Parish sponsored a year of discernment on five social justice issues: immigration, economic justice, human trafficking, restorative justice, and ecological justice. After a period of prayer and reflection, parishioners voted to act on human trafficking. The advocacy committee is in the process of putting together a multi-year plan of action in partnership with local advocacy groups.

## **St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church**

As a member congregation of the San Francisco Organizing Project, we join other Bay Area faith communities in working for justice.

- To end the tearing apart of immigrant families, we work for immigration reform.
- To provide greater security and dignity for San Francisco elders, including those who are LGBT, we join a city-wide campaign to strengthen access to healthcare.
- To reduce violence in our neighborhood, we join other faith communities in night walks through some of the most violent corners in the Mission District, stopping to light candles and pray for those killed by gun violence.

# *Honoree Congregations Cont'd*

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## **St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

Our Social Ministry is active in San Francisco:

- St. Mark's regularly staffs the Interfaith Food Pantry at Old First Presbyterian where healthy food from San Francisco Food Bank is shared with 300 families every week.
- We host 60 homeless men in our Interfaith Winter Homeless Shelter several weeks in January and February each year.
- We are engaged and supportive of the wonderful work done by Lutheran Social Services (LSS) in San Francisco, especially at the money management site in the Tenderloin, and we support a Christmas party at the Bernal Gateway housing facility every year.

St. Mark's is active in our region of the world:

- As part of the Sierra Pacific Synod (SPS) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), we support and participate in the SPS Hunger Network and the SPS Antiracism team.
- St. Mark's is a Bread for the World Covenant Church. We support Bread's advocacy work to legislators, communicating issues of the poor in our local area as well as the world. Congregants advocate by writing letters to our government leaders about the needs of the hungry poor.
- We support the work of ELCA Hunger and Disaster Response with our gifts and with advocacy to our legislators.
- We will be a Welcoming Congregation with the AMMPARO Initiative (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Resources and Opportunities) of the ELCA. As a Welcoming Congregation, we hope to work with Central American migrants by accompanying children and families as they engage in their communities and seek asylum in San Francisco's federal immigration court.

St. Mark's engages internationally with the work of Lutherans and other partners. We partner with a congregation, Cordero de Dios, outside San Salvador, El Salvador. We partner with groups in Palestine and the Holy Land, working with ELCA Peace Not Walls, the Dar Al Kalima College in Bethlehem, and Bright Stars of Bethlehem.

We support ELCA Missionary Pastor Kate Warn who works with young college graduates who donate a year to the Lutheran Church of Rwanda (LCR). We support secondary education and community organizing in Rwanda. We were a leading contributor to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, which raised \$15 million for malaria programming in 13 African countries.

St. Mark's Endowment has begun to share funding with local and global projects, including Lutheran Volunteer Corps, El Salvador Lutheran Pastors' Salary Endowment Fund, the LCR Kigali Parish Kindergarten, and others.

# *Honoree Congregations Cont'd*

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## **University of San Francisco**

*University Ministry in Action* - In accordance with the mission of the University of San Francisco, University Ministry's Social Justice Program invites students to step outside of their familiar university lives, walk with people at the margins of society, and in doing so, open their minds and hearts to personal transformation.

*Arrupe Immersion Programs* – These programs provide opportunities to live and work in economically marginalized communities around the world. Programs are offered during intercession, spring break, and summer.

*Justice, Advocacy, and Solidarity in Action Programs* - Ongoing programs include the Dream Act advocacy campaign, Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, and environmental social justice. Collaborations with Bay Area nonprofit agencies provide USF students with opportunities to serve in local communities as men and women for others.

*Volunteer Programs* - University Ministry's Solidarity-In-Action program collaborates with a variety of Bay Area nonprofits to provide USF students with opportunities to serve in their local community. Through these programs, our students honor the Jesuit ideals of being men and women for others, and contemplatives in action. Students witness the daily struggle of people living on the margins of society and are encouraged to ask questions about the systems which perpetuate this suffering.

*Justice and Advocacy Programs* - Centered on Ignatian Spirituality, the University Ministry advocacy program provides the opportunity for students to engage in various justice advocacies on issues affecting their local, national, and global community. University Ministry creates space for students to name (putting language to the experience), voice (speaking out), and build allies in their advocacy efforts. Our students are encouraged to participate in The Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, one of the largest national gatherings of people inspired by the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. More than 1,600 people convene in Washington, DC each year to learn, network, reflect, pray, and develop skills to advocate for social justice.

*Solidarity In Action Volunteer Opportunities* - University Ministry Resident Ministers organize a Solidarity-In-Action program each semester that provides students with opportunities to volunteer at various organizations throughout San Francisco.

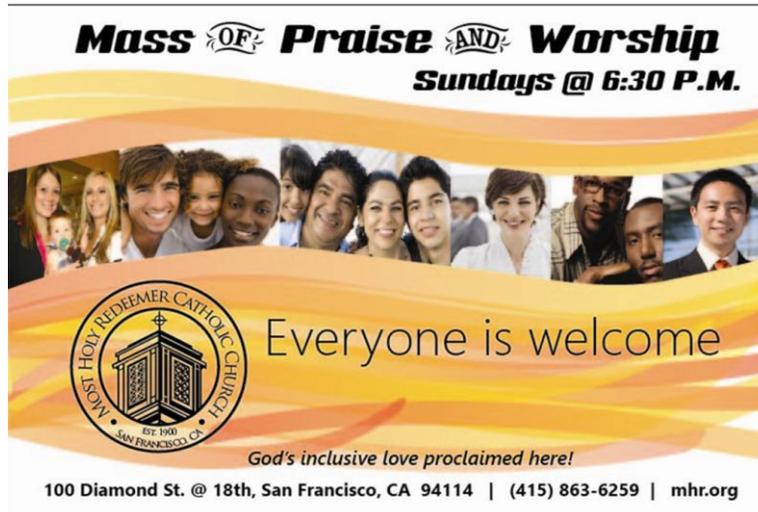
*Tutoring Programs* - University Ministry sponsors after-school tutoring at St. Anthony's of the Immaculate Conception Elementary School, St. Peter's Catholic School, and St. Charles Borromeo Elementary School. Once a year, the school students come to USF for a chance to see the opportunities they would have attending a university.

*We sincerely apologize for any omissions.*

# *Sponsors for Today's Breakfast*

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## **Supporting Sponsor - \$2,500**



## **Table Sponsors - \$1,000**

Nicholas Andrade and James McDermott  
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# *Accomplishments and Plans of the San Francisco Interfaith Council*

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2016 – 2017

## **OUR MISSION**

History teaches us that many of the world's conflicts are rooted in religious strife. Founded in 1988, the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) seeks to counter this history and promote interfaith harmony by *"Celebrating our diverse faiths and spiritual traditions, bringing people together to build understanding and serving our community."*

## **WHOM WE SERVE**

We count as our constituents the 800 congregations in 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.

## **OUR WORK**

Since the late 1980s, the SFIC has worked to combat homelessness and help prepare the City for disasters. While these efforts continue, we also address social justice issues, such as religious tolerance, housing affordability, immigration, and racial/ethnic equity. Strong relationships allow us to mobilize the faith community for united community service and advocacy, achieving together what no single congregation could achieve by itself. In addition, government and civic leaders view us as the "go to" agency when seeking input or action from the faith community.

## **ONGOING PROGRAMS**

### ***Monthly Breakfast***

Each month on the second Thursday, the SFIC hosts a free public interfaith breakfast at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco where 100 congregational and lay leaders network and share a meal. Speakers from a variety of City departments, civic agencies, NGOs and philanthropic programs discuss their important work, ask faith communities to help spread the word, and offer volunteer opportunities for congregants. An individual gives a "meditation" from his or her religious tradition, and another presents a personal "faith journey."

### ***Navigation Center***

The SFIC facilitated a gift of \$3 million to set up and operate the new Navigation Center at 1950 Mission Street, a pioneering approach to combating homelessness. The Center is unique among homeless shelters in the City in allowing homeless adults to maintain existing relationships. The Center accommodates couples, friends, even entire homeless encampments at once, permitting people to stay with their community, keep their pets, and bring along their belongings. This approach recognizes the important role that social and emotional connections play in recovery.

The Navigation Center provides comprehensive services. It provides beds, showers and meals at one location where staff are on hand 24/7 to assess the clients' needs for health care, substance abuse and mental health treatment; help them access benefits; and move them expeditiously into stable housing and rehabilitation programs, or reunite them with their families through the successful Homeward Bound program. One million is set aside for leasing Single Room Occupancy (SRO) units, where clients will move from the Navigation Center and continue to receive support services. The Navigation Center shelters up to 75 clients who stay three to ten days before moving to housing or residential treatment.

Many agencies contribute to the Center's operation. Episcopal Community Services is the lead on-site service provider, assisted by the newly formed Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, Department of Public Health, Project Homeless Connect and others. The Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing takes the lead on SRO master leasing. Other key partners are the Mayor's Office, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Planning Department, the Department of Building Inspection, the Department of Animal Care and Control, Recreation and Parks Department, and Adult Probation.

The Navigation Center is a pilot program designed to operate for 18 months or less. The City plans to develop affordable housing on the site, supporting Mayor Lee's goal of building or rehabilitating 30,000 homes over six years, with half for low and middle-income San Francisco residents.

In addition to the SFIC's fiduciary reporting responsibility to the donor and its coordinated effort to enlist congregations to prepare and serve "Sunday Suppers" at the facility, the Mayor's Office continues to engage the SFIC in an advisory capacity as well as a resource to help identify sites for additional future Navigation Centers.

### ***San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter***

For 28 years, the SFIC has sponsored and coordinated an Interfaith Winter Shelter for the homeless. This shelter provides a hot, nutritious dinner, breakfast and a safe, warm overnight rest for some 100 homeless men every night from the Sunday before Thanksgiving through the end of February. The SFIC coordinates four host-site congregations, 40 meal-providing congregations, shelter staff from Episcopal Community Services and the San Francisco Night Ministry, with input from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing.

Last year, the shelter was extended into April due to the El Nino storms and the need to shelter homeless residents displaced from encampments on Division Street. The City has recently asked the SFIC to continue this year's shelter through the end of April 2017.

### ***Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance and Interfaith Service***

For six years the SFIC has organized the City's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance, including a popular march and interfaith service. The march proceeds from the CalTrain terminal over the Lefty O'Doul Bridge to Yerba Buena Gardens (YBG), bringing together "freedom riders" from the South Bay and others from the wider Bay Area. This march pays tribute to the 1965 crossing made by Dr. King over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Once at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at YBG, a large crowd participates in the outdoor interfaith service organized by the SFIC to celebrate Dr. King's legacy. Key religious and civic leaders address the crowd.

With a mini-grant from the FAITHS Program of The San Francisco Foundation, the SFIC and the University of San Francisco convened a half-day symposium to complement the 2016 MLK Day Observance. At the symposium, scholars, activists and faith leaders examined the role of faith communities in the Civil Rights Movement and explored ways for faith communities to re-engage with current issues of racial injustice.

### ***Implicit Bias for Congregation Leaders***

In early November congregation leaders attended a highly interactive course exploring emerging research in neuroscience, leadership and decision-making. Brain imaging studies were used to explain how we lead in faith communities and build relationships across boundaries. The course pinpointed the areas where behaviors, attitudes, and practices can be affected by unconscious processes and subtleties. The course reviewed how unconscious decision-making can affect assessments of character, morality, warmth, authenticity, intelligence, threat, and competence. Participants learned how empathizing with those from other communities, collaborating with congregants, and implementing new practices can all be helped or hurt by conditioned dispositions. The course identified ways to increase fairness guided by science.

### ***Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations***

Last May at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, the SFIC hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations entitled "*Crisis to Resilience: Congregations Understanding and Responding to Climate Change Impacts.*" Our partners in this event were the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, Archdiocese of San Francisco, California Interfaith Power & Light, Neighborhood Empowerment Network, SF CARD (Community Agencies Responding to Disaster), SF Department of Emergency Management, SF Department of Public Health, SF Human Services Agency, The Salvation Army, and The San Francisco Foundation.

San Francisco is one of a hundred "Resilient Cities" around the nation. As a key partner in disaster preparedness, response and recovery, the SFIC works with San Francisco's Chief Resiliency Officer, Patrick Otellini, and other stakeholders to develop a resiliency plan for San Francisco. The SFIC also works on a pilot project with the City encouraging Mission District congregations to operate as emergency shelters during disasters.

### ***WinterFaith Shelter Walk***

Each year the SFIC hosts a "walk against hunger" around Lake Merced. Proceeds from the walk are used to defray the cost of operating the Interfaith Winter Shelter. This year's Walk was scheduled for October 30 but was cancelled due to inclement weather and safety concerns for our walkers. Nonetheless, sponsorships and pledges raised over \$18,000 for the shelter. The inclement weather was a powerful reminder of conditions faced by the homeless on our streets, and our duty to shelter and feed them.

### ***Annual "Bike to Worship" Week***

The SFIC partners with the SF Bicycle Coalition to promote "*Bike to Worship*," an opportunity that encourages congregants to pedal to their worship services. Employing its large communications network, the SFIC helps to spread the word, share the free "BIKE TO WORSHIP Toolkit," and enlist registrants. This year the SF Bicycle Coalition and Walk San Francisco (an organization whose focus is pedestrian safety) joined forces for "*Walk & Bike to Worship*" Week from May 21 - May 29, 2016. It was an enormous success with 25 congregations participating and included the "2nd Annual Interfaith Ride."

### ***Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast***

Our major event of the year is the SFIC Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, attended by 400 people on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Each year we shine the spotlight on a significant contribution made by the faith community to San Francisco. At the 18th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on November 24, 2015 our theme was "*Faith and Sanctuary: There Are No Strangers*." We honored congregations who helped San Francisco become a Sanctuary City, recognized those who continue the tradition, and highlighted young people for whom the City's commitment has provided hope and safety. Featured at the Prayer Breakfast was a brief documentary entitled, "*Sanctuary Movement: A Short History*," produced by documentary filmmaker, Theo Rigby. The SFIC now serves as fiscal sponsor for Mr. Rigby's full-length documentary.

At the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on November 22, 2016 our theme is "*The Soul of the City: Faith and Social Justice in San Francisco*." We honor Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer for their faith-based leadership in social justice and San Francisco congregations for their tireless work in realizing a more just society.

### ***Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service***

Each year, the SFIC sponsors San Francisco's only Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service which brings together people of diverse faiths for prayer and thanksgiving. Last year the Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service was hosted by the historic Baha'i Community of San Francisco in the Mission District.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service on Thursday, November 24, 2016 will be hosted by the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church. The offering collected at this service is used to offset the costs of the Interfaith Winter Shelter.

### ***Annual Interfaith World AIDS Day Service***

For the past several years, the SFIC has collaborated with St. Mark's Lutheran Church in co-hosting the City's only Interfaith World AIDS Day Service.

This year's service, "*Where Is Our Hope*," is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2016 at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and will be organized by Calvary Presbyterian Church, Old First Presbyterian Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the SFIC.

### ***Annual Interfaith Memorial for the Homeless Dead***

Every December, collaborating with the SF Night Ministry, the SFIC hosts the “*Interfaith Memorial for the Homeless Dead*” at the Civic Center. Religious leaders of different faiths offer prayers for the homeless who have died during the past year, and their names are read. This year’s memorial service will take place on Wednesday evening, December 21, 2016 at the Civic Center Plaza.

### ***Annual Interfaith Calendar***

Interfaith harmony begins with mutual understanding and respect among faiths. Each year the SFIC produces and distributes widely a calendar of religious holidays of the major world religions. This resource has helped sensitize the San Francisco Unified School District, schools of the SF Archdiocese, various agencies of City government, and the Consular Corps to important religious observances and has helped avoid scheduling conflicts.

### ***Convener of Faith-Based Social Service Agencies (“CEO Roundtable”)***

For the past seven years, the SFIC has regularly convened the leaders of the 12 major faith-based agencies, providing a forum for exchanging ideas and addressing issues directly affecting agency clients. Seven years ago, San Francisco was in a very different economic place. Deep cuts in the City’s budget forced these agencies to cut staff and programs, and the CEO Roundtable convened for the first time to coordinate an effective response to the City. When the tech boom created prosperity for the City, these agency budgets were never fully restored. Again, the CEO Roundtable was able to speak with a unified voice, reminding the City of the vital role the agencies play in protecting our most vulnerable residents. This coalition also alerted the City to the effect of the boom’s “affordability crisis” not only on clients but also on nonprofits and their staff who lost office space and housing. Further, the work of the CEO Roundtable and the City’s religious leaders was critical for passage of the \$310 million Housing Affordability General Obligation Bond ballot measure. None of this work could have been done by any single agency and today, the CEO Roundtable is an established stakeholder at policy-making tables.

### ***Crisis Response Communications***

It has been the ongoing practice of the SFIC to issue statements, either on behalf of the SFIC Board of Directors or in collaboration with key faith leaders, on occasions when extremists act violently in the name of religion. In the past 27 months the following statements were issued:

SFIC and Religious Leaders Speak Out Against ISIS Religious Persecution (9/17/2014)  
SFIC Condemns Vicious Anti-Muslim Bus Ads (10/16/2014)  
SFIC Issues Social Justice Statement (3/12/2015)  
SF Faith Leaders Respond to Racist Acts of Violence and Destruction (7/2/2015)  
Church Desecration Denounced by Coalition of SF Faith Groups (9/2/2015)  
SF Faith Leaders Denounce Anti-Muslim Hate Speech (12/11/2015)  
SF Communities of Faith Share in Grief of Orlando Massacre (6/13/2016)  
Communities of Faith Issue Statements in the Aftermath of the 6/12/2016 Orlando Massacre (6/22/2016)  
SF Communities of Faith Mourn Victims of Istanbul Terrorist Attack (6/30/2016)  
All Lives Are Precious and Irreplaceable (7/8/2016)  
SFIC Statement of Support for Pacifica Institute (10/13/2016)

In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks at the *Charlie Hebdo* magazine and anti-semitic killings in Paris, the SFIC, Jewish Community Relations Council, and Islamic Networks Group (ING) sent an interfaith delegation to the Consul General of France in San Francisco, to express concern and offer support from San Francisco's diverse faith communities.

Following the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015, the SFIC leadership participated in a moving interfaith service for peace at Calvary Presbyterian Church.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### ***El Nino Planning and Outreach***

Last year, the City engaged the SFIC in the early stages of planning its response to the anticipated El Nino storms. SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas participated in all stakeholder sessions hosted by the SF Department of Emergency Management, and facilitated sessions with City department heads and the Faith-Based Social Service Agency CEO Roundtable. The SFIC held a "Monthly Breakfast" devoted to storm precautions for congregations, diligently worked with City officials to identify emergency shelter sites, and utilized our broad-reaching communications network to provide alerts and updated information to congregations. In addition, the SFIC extended the Interfaith Winter Shelter by an additional five weeks, as requested by the City.

### ***Collaboration with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA)***

As San Francisco braces itself for a significant increase in residential and corporate building, the impact new structures and increased inhabitants will have on our City's transit system is a growing concern. Over the past two years the SFMTA, in collaboration with the SFIC, has engaged congregations along the Dolores/Guerrero Streets corridor to help address issues related to median parking in that neighborhood. As a result of those efforts, the SFMTA Board of Directors recently voted to institute a pilot study along that corridor. Recognizing the SFIC's role as advocate for its constituent congregations, the Director of the SFMTA has initiated a regular, bi-monthly "check-in" with the SFIC Executive Director regarding the impact of SFMTA policies on faith communities throughout the City.

### ***Convener of the "SF Interfaith Essential Housing Task Force"***

With the growing scarcity of housing and skyrocketing rents, low paid/middle income workers who provide essential services for the City are leaving San Francisco. By developing religious institutions' underutilized parcels for affordable rental housing, our faith communities will help stop the outmigration of our essential services workers.

The SFIC convened the City's key religious leaders and the CEOs of the major faith-based social service agencies on September 11, 2014, for the purpose of developing a response to income inequality and the housing affordability crisis. At that meeting, the group decided to form the "SF Interfaith Essential Housing Task Force." The Task Force agreed to work with the City to identify parcels of property owned by religious institutions that could be developed for rental housing, using private funding, for low paid workers who provide essential services to the City. These employees work in the fields of health care, social services, education and the arts, and public safety.

SF Mayor Ed Lee directed staff in the Mayor's Office of Housing and the SF Office of Economic and Workforce Development to advise the Task Force on its mapping efforts, site recommendations, and funding strategies and

to make introductions to prospective developers. A select number of parcels have been identified and are currently under serious consideration for development.

In addition, during the 2015 election cycle, the City asked the SF Interfaith Essential Housing Task Force to endorse and advocate for passage of a \$310 million Housing Affordability General Obligation Bond. Due in part to the Task Force's diligent efforts, the measure was approved.

### ***San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship***

After the 2010 Census, San Francisco learned that approximately 100,000 people living in the City were legal permanent residents who were eligible for citizenship. In 2012, the City's Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA), and several foundations including The San Francisco Foundation, formed the San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship ("SF Pathways"). SF Pathways is a "one stop shop" designed to encourage citizenship-eligible residents to naturalize. Numerous eligible residents do not apply for citizenship because of costly applications, lack of legal services, communication barriers, and fear. SF Pathways responds to these obstacles by offering innovative, cost-efficient, large group processing workshops for residents.

A grant received from The San Francisco Foundation engaged the SFIC to bolster the work of SF Pathways through its longstanding relationships with faith communities. The SFIC was called upon to effectively educate congregations and their citizenship-eligible congregants about SF Pathways, and readily recruit congregational volunteers and highly skilled legal experts to help at the workshops. This entailed tapping into the SFIC's broad network of contacts to promote SF Pathways, devoting an "SFIC Monthly Breakfast" to educating about the workshops and most importantly engaging in focused recruitment at the University of San Francisco Law School and other academic entities to identify and secure legal experts for participation in the program.

### ***Commonwealth Club of California***

The SFIC's Executive Director has moderated several panels for the Commonwealth Club's Middle East Forum. Last February Michael Pappas moderated a presentation by human rights activist and author, Rebecca Tinsley, who talked about a project, *Waging for Peace*, which she started after visiting a Darfur refugee camp at the height of the killing there. In August Pappas moderated a panel of representatives of the Abrahamic faiths as they discussed their views on protecting the earth, caring for the environment, and combating climate change.

### ***Broad Civic Engagement***

Because of the important stakeholder role the SFIC plays in many arenas, the SFIC has been invited to take a place at many tables. Executive Director Michael Pappas currently serves on the SF Human Rights Commission, the SF Disaster Council, and The San Francisco Foundation FAITHS Leadership Council.

The accomplishments listed above are the work of two full-time staff (Executive Director, Michael Pappas and Program/Administrative Associate, Cynthia Zamboukos), an active Board of Directors, the tireless volunteer efforts of our Past Chair, Rita R. Semel, and other dedicated volunteers. We gratefully acknowledge the funding provided by congregations, judicatories, agencies, individuals, and foundations which makes these achievements and others not listed here possible.

# *San Francisco*

## *Interfaith Winter Shelter 2015-2016*

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### **Host Site Congregations**

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

### **Meal Providers**

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Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Calvary Presbyterian Church and  
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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
(Bay/Golden Gate/Sunset Wards)  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Corpus Christi Church  
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation  
Girl Scout Troop 31018  
Girl Scout Troop 32567  
Grace Cathedral  
John Gwynn and Friends  
Holy Child and St. Martin Episcopal Church  
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San Francisco Zen Center  
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# *WinterFaith Shelter Walk Supporters 2016*

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Thank you to the following supporters of the WinterFaith Shelter Walk 2016  
to benefit the Interfaith Winter Shelter.

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Episcopal Community Services

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Bethany United Methodist Church  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Congregation Emanu-El  
First United Lutheran Church  
Grace Cathedral  
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
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Paul Venables  
Michael Vezzali  
Edwin Waite  
Susan Walczak  
Fr. Milton Walsh

Mary and Ray Wanser  
Stanley Watson  
Elaine and Richard Wells  
Steve Wereb  
Julie Wong  
Frank Woo  
Dale Young  
Lydia Zablotska  
Cynthia S. Zamboukos  
Mary J. Zamboukos  
Sharon and Pete Zamboukos  
Tracie Zyla



*Original design by Hector Navarro, Archbishop Riordan High School  
Developed and transformed by Kimberley Rodler*

*Planning Committee*  
*Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast*

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Kaushik Roy, Prayer Breakfast Chair and  
Executive Director, *The Shanti Project*

Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director, *SFIC*

Betsy Dodd, *Calvary Presbyterian Church*

Joan M. Peponis-Rinde, *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*

Lloyd Rinde, *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*

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

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, *Congregation Sherith Israel*

Cynthia S. Zamboukos, Program/Administrative Associate, *SFIC*

Mary J. Zamboukos, *St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

*Special Thanks*

Catering Department and Staff

*Hotel Kabuki*

Neva Turoff

*Sign Interpreter*

# *San Francisco Interfaith Council*

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## **Board of Directors**

**2016 - 2017**

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# San Francisco Interfaith Council

**OUR MISSION:** History teaches us that many of the world's conflicts are rooted in religious strife. Founded in 1988, the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) seeks to counter this historical trend by celebrating our diverse faiths and spiritual traditions, bringing people together to build understanding, and serving our community.

## Convening, Communicating, and Advocacy

The San Francisco Interfaith Council's work centers on civil rights, homelessness, housing affordability, and disaster preparedness. The SFIC convenes and amplifies the voice of our city's faith-based community on these important issues.

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

**OUR WORK:** During this time of social change in San Francisco, civic leaders and the public view the SFIC as the "go-to" organization for mobilizing our City's religious communities. Congregations and faith-based agencies turn to us for resources, referral and representation. Our robust relationships and communications network allow the SFIC to bring together and mobilize San Francisco's faith-based community to create an effective, combined force for service and issues of public policy, so that we may accomplish together what no single congregation can alone.

### CIVIL RIGHTS:

San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship  
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance and Interfaith Service  
Implicit Bias Training for Congregation Leaders

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations

### HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:

San Francisco Interfaith Essential Housing Task Force  
San Francisco Navigation Center  
Interfaith Winter Homeless Shelter  
Annual Walk Against Hunger  
Annual Interfaith Memorial for the Homeless Dead

### CONVENING AND ADVOCACY:

Monthly Interfaith Breakfast  
Crisis Response Communications  
Faith Based Social Service Agencies CEO Roundtable  
Annual Walk & Bike to Worship Week  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast & Thanksgiving Day Service  
Interfaith World AIDS Day Service  
Annual Interfaith Observance Calendar

We invite you to join in our work.  
Please contact us to find out more.

[office@sfinterfaithcouncil.org](mailto:office@sfinterfaithcouncil.org)

[www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org) • 415-474-1321

Executive Director: Michael G. Pappas, M.Div.



# *Notes*

# *San Francisco Interfaith Council*

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