

*22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast*

## **The San Francisco Interfaith Council**

**Celebrating 30 Years  
of Interfaith Collaboration in San Francisco**



Tuesday, November 26, 2019  
7:00 am – 9:00 am  
*Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco*

# Honoring Rita R. Semel with the San Francisco Interfaith Council's Lifetime Achievement Award

## THE NEW FILLMORE

SAN FRANCISCO ■ NOVEMBER 2019



■ LOCALS

### A Force for Good

Rita Semel has no time for retirement

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### LOCALS

By FRAN MORELAND JOHNS

**A**T AGE 98, Rita Semel doesn't waste time worrying about retirement. "Some time ago, I went to my friend Pam David's 'rewiring party,'" she says. "And I thought: That's what I'm going to do. I'm not retiring, I'm rewiring."

That decision was good news for the neighborhood — and far beyond. Semel talked about her rewired history, current activities and life in general recently during a rare quiet moment in her apartment overlooking Lafayette Park.

"When Max [her husband of 51 years] died in 1994, I looked around at our 1902 Victorian in the Castro — 17 steps to the front door, 17 steps to the basement — and said, 'What am I doing here?'" she recalls. "Though I hated leaving the Castro, I knew a couple of people in this building, so I put my name on the list." It soon became home.

Semel loves Lafayette Park, but best of all her not-so-new-anymore address is ideally located to access her main centers of volunteer activity: Grace Cathedral, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, where the San Francisco Interfaith Council regularly meets, and Temple Emanu-El. These locales, plus City Hall, command much of her attention.

**I**T IS FASCINATING being on the boards of Grace and Emanu-El at the same time," Semel says. She is a long-time congregant of Temple Emanu-El, as well as an enthusiastic supporter of the social justice ministries at Grace Cathedral and other Christian faith communities. The S.F. Interfaith Council, which established the Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund in her honor several years ago, is among the most significant accomplishments of her retirement.

In December 1988, then mayor Art Agnos asked a group of clergy to help with the city's homeless population during an exceptionally cold and wet winter. A committee was formed, and shelters were opened at Calvary Presbyterian Church on Fillmore, Grace Cathedral, Old First Presbyterian Church and Old St. Mary's Cathedral. The shelters closed in February 1989.

Then the '89 Loma Prieta earthquake struck, and Agnos again appealed to the interfaith group for help. Calvary's pastor, Jim Emerson, helped secure relief money from Church World Service, and a number of faith communities went to work. But Semel says she recalls telling her group of co-workers: "We can't keep setting up committees every time something happens. We need to organize."



Rita Semel, co-founder of the San Francisco Interfaith Council, with the group's executive director, Michael Pappas, in the Presidio Chapel.

success of the interfaith council and other endeavors. But in her 98 years she has also known great sorrow. Her younger daughter Jane died in a tragic accident shortly before her 18th birthday.

"It was the most devastating thing that ever happened," Semel says. And when older daughter Elisabeth came home from Bard College and didn't want to go back, Semel was inconsolable. "But my very wise husband said one day: 'If we want to honor Jane, we have to go on with our lives. We have to give back.'"

Semel has proceeded to do just that through her many volunteer activities. Daughter Elisabeth ("Don't get me started," her mom says, "I am so proud.") is the founding director of the Berkeley Law Death Penalty Clinic and is a nationally recognized expert on capital punishment.

**B**ORN AND RAISED in New York, Rita Semel first came to San Francisco with her parents in 1939. After graduating from Barnard College, she married and traveled with her soldier husband until he was shipped overseas in World War II. She worked as a "copy girl" and then a reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, later becoming the first associate editor of the newly established *Jewish Community Bulletin*.

After daughter Elisabeth's birth in 1950, Semel retired from the *Bulletin* and began doing freelance public relations for the March of Dimes, the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and the Israeli consulate. In 1964, she served on the committee that organized the San Francisco Conference on Religion and Race, then became its coordinator for the next 25 years. She later was associate director and then executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Semel has a wildly diverse assortment of honors and activities. Among them: She's on the board of Catholic Charities CYO Family Services America, co-founder of the Interfaith Center at the Presidio and has been honored as a pioneer of the Islamic Society of San Francisco and United Muslims of America.

In addition to faith communities, she has long been active in civic affairs. Asked to name a favorite cause in that area, she says: "It's hard to choose. But one would be being on the S.F. Human Services Commission, and our in-home supportive services. We serve people on Medi-Cal, keeping them in their homes."

Semel has several pearls of wisdom about living well to age 98. "Keep busy," she says. "And don't leave things for someone else — because if you don't do it, who will?"

## Rewired, Not Retired

Rita Semel, co-founder of the S.F. Interfaith Council, is a force for good

She and a colleague, Mary Culp, went to meet with the Marin Interfaith Council, and the San Francisco Interfaith Council was born. Its original prime movers were Semel, Culp and Emerson.

Since Michael Pappas was hired as the group's executive director in 2007 — a post Semel filled as a volunteer for more than

a decade while the board and organization grew — the council has become a major force for good. It continues to sponsor the annual Winter Shelter, which provides food and shelter for 100 homeless men during the winter months, as well as other community projects.

Semel has known great joy with the

# *Welcome to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast*

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The San Francisco Interfaith Council welcomes you to the 22<sup>nd</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 celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC). A little known fact is that the SFIC was born as a result of the Loma Prieta earthquake. Just a year earlier, at the behest of Mayor Art Agnos, religious leaders responded to the burgeoning homeless crisis by initiating the Interfaith Winter Shelter, which just commenced its 31<sup>st</sup> year of feeding and sheltering 60-100 homeless people from November 24<sup>th</sup> through the end of March. Those same religious leaders were invited to a meeting at Calvary Presbyterian Church in the aftermath of the Loma Prieta earthquake to assist the humanitarian aid organization, Church World Service, in distributing vital funds to the most vulnerable residents displaced by the earthquake. Realizing the importance of interfaith collaboration after the earthquake, those religious leaders committed to creating today's San Francisco Interfaith Council. Since then, in addition to responding to homelessness, the SFIC's work centers on civil rights, housing affordability and disaster preparedness.

On this milestone anniversary the SFIC highlights our work over the past 30 years to make our City a better community for all. We particularly honor the SFIC's founders and early participants for their vision, commitment, and hard work. We continue to celebrate the SFIC's hopes and vision for the bright future of interfaith collaboration.

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.

# Milestones in Our History

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- 1988 First emergency homeless shelter organized \*
- 1989 Committee formed to respond to Loma Prieta earthquake effects
- 1992 San Francisco Interfaith Council incorporated as religious non-profit
- 1992 Following Loma Prieta earthquake, interfaith committee formed to monitor City's regulations with respect to unreinforced masonry buildings
- 1992 Helped organize and served as fiscal agent for CARD (Community Agencies Responding to Disaster)
- 1993 SFIC led effort to establish interfaith presence at new national park in the Presidio
- 1994 First participated in CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk
- 1995 Interfaith Center at the Presidio spun off from SFIC and incorporated as separate non-profit
- 1997 SFIC starts and funds Interfaith Chaplain Program at Juvenile Hall
- 1998 First official office for SFIC opens at Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center at 401 Baker Street
- 1998 SFIC forms interfaith Child Task Force providing supplies, backpacks, and free books to underserved children throughout the City
- 1998 First Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast \*
- 1999 First interfaith concert \*
- 2001 Became local advisory board for *First Book*, a national literacy effort for underserved children
- 2001 Shortly after 9/11, organized interfaith service of remembrance which filled Bill Graham Auditorium
- 2002 First Monthly Breakfast meeting for faith leaders and laypersons \*
- 2003 SFIC office moves to the Presidio Chapel at 130 Fisher Loop \*
- 2005 Organized interfaith home building project with Habitat for Humanity \*
- 2006 Organized first Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations \*
- 2007 SFIC Board of Directors approves hiring Michael G. Pappas as its first full-time Executive Director \*
- 2010 First convening of CEOs of major faith-based social service agencies \*
- 2011 SFIC assumes sponsorship of MLK Day march and interfaith service at Yerba Buena Gardens \*
- 2011 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 interfaith remembrance event in Golden Gate Park with the San Francisco Opera
- 2013 First WinterFaith Shelter Walk to benefit the San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter \*
- 2014 SFIC convenes group of faith and non-profit leaders to work on income inequality issues with emphasis on essential housing \*
- 2014 SFIC celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 2014 Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund for Interfaith Work receives \$100,000 donation from The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation
- 2015 \$3 million donation received to fund first "Navigation Center" for the homeless \*
- 2017 SFIC receives \$100,000 donation from The Janet and Clint Reilly Family Foundation
- 2018 SFIC played a leadership role in the creation of SF's first 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance \*
- 2018 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Interfaith Winter Shelter
- 2019 Invited by Governor Gavin Newsom to host an interfaith prayer service on the morning of his inauguration at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sacramento
- 2019 SFIC receives critical funding to take leadership role in 2020 SF decennial census \*
- 2019 First convening of Aging/Adult Services and Faith Communities Round Table \*
- 2019 First "Security in Houses of Worship" Workshop \*
- 2019 SFIC celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary

(\* ongoing)



# Homelessness, bigotry targeted by interfaith council

By TAMAR KAUFMAN  
Of the Bulletin Staff

Smoke signals from the Los Angeles riots are being read in San Francisco, where Jews, Christians, Hindus and Buddhists have joined together to tackle homelessness, bigotry and other social ills.

A year in the making, the S.F. Interfaith Council already has 50 dues-paying member groups, and now that it's an official non-profit, organizers are turning their attention to the task at hand.

Several local crises spurred the Interfaith Council into being, according to executive vice chair Rita Semel.

The first, the growing number of homeless in San Francisco, inspired more than 70 congregations and organizations to create an emergency shelter program now entering its fifth year.

The second, the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, again brought religious leaders together in an ad hoc relief committee; a third crisis — the execution of convicted murderer Robert Alton Harris — came up in April when many of the same religious leaders joined together to protest the death penalty.

But "we were tired of having to reinvent ourselves every time there was a crisis," says Semel, executive director emeritus of the S.F.-based Jewish Community Relations Council.

"There's also concern about the David Dukes of the world and, reinforced by the Los Angeles riots, we realized in a city like San Francisco people need to get to know



Photo by Mike Richman  
**Charting the future of the S.F. Interfaith Council are (from left) Buddhist priest Laverne Sasaki, Rabbi Martin Weiner, Lutheran Rev. Richard Schaper and Rita Semel, executive vice chair.**

each other on a human and personal basis," she says. "Where better than through churches and synagogues? I think it's true they can set the moral tone for a community and that's what we're talking about — values and ethics and ways of behaving."

She'll get no argument from the Rev. Richard Schaper. The pastor of St. Marks Lutheran Church and chair of the new Interfaith Council,

he emphasizes the need "to grow in mutual knowledge and respect" and notes that combating bigotry tops the agenda.

That will be done by examining "how the racism in our society is reflected in our respective faith communities," he says.

Another issue for Schaper is "Christians on the right" who claim America is a Christian nation. Such rhetoric "has even come

multiplicity of religious traditions."

Contrasting the broadly based Interfaith Council with the councils of churches common in other cities, Schaper says, "It's clear we're in this together as equal partners together with people of other faiths. Given the historical anti-Semitism in many Christian churches, this is a significant development."

Rabbi Mark Schifman of Temple Emanu-El and Martin Weiner of Congregation Sherith Israel echo that pride in the organization.

"I think we have a very effective organizational structure which can address community social service needs and build bridges of understanding among the various faiths," Weiner says, welcoming in particular the opportunity for Jews to work with Buddhists and Hindus.

Schifman cites the emergency shelter program as one area where interfaith cooperation has paid off.

"It's only the beginning of what's possible," he says. "No matter what one's politics, we have to deal with the results, and the reality is that for the past 12 years the American people have wanted a government that has had a hands-off policy toward these issues. In light of that, the Interfaith Council has to step in."

# *San Francisco Interfaith Council*

## *Founders and Chairs*

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### **Founders**

Mary Culp      Rita R. Semel  
Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown  
Rev. Dr. Victor Carpenter  
Sister Chandru Desai  
Rev. James Emerson  
Iftekhhar Hai  
Fr. John Hurley, CSP  
Fr. P. Gerard O'Rourke  
Rev. LaVerne Sasaki  
The Rev. Richard Schaper  
Rabbi Marti Weiner

### **Chairs**

The Rev. Richard Schaper  
Rabbi Martin Weiner  
Fr. Milton Walsh  
Rev. Laird Stuart  
Rev. Roger Ridgway  
Rev. Alan Jones  
Rev. James DeLange  
Rita R. Semel  
Rev. Maggi Henderson  
Deacon G.L. Hodge  
Kaushik Roy

(in order of service)

# *First Board of Directors*

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Rev. Richard Schaper, *St. Mark's Lutheran Church* (Chair)

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

Rev. Dr. Victor Carpenter, *First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco*

Mary Culp, *Presbyterian Urban Ministry*

Rev. James DeLange, *Dean, SF Conference Sierra Pacific Synod*

Sister Chandru Desai, *Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center*

Rev. Timothy Hart-Andersen, *Old First Presbyterian Church*

Rev. Mike Hartley, *19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Baptist Church*

Fr. John Hurley, CSP, *Old St. Mary's Cathedral*

Archbishop Franzo King, *St. John Coltrane African Orthodox Church*

Rev. James McCray, *Jones Memorial United Methodist Church*

Rev. Bruce McSpadden, *SF United Methodist Mission*

Rev. James Mitulski, *Metropolitan Community Church*

Fr. P. Gerard O'Rourke, *Archdiocese of San Francisco*

Rev. Roger Ridgway, *St. John's United Church of Christ*

Rev. LaVerne Sasaki, *Buddhist Church of San Francisco*

Rabbi Mark Schiftan, *Congregation Emanu-El*

Rita R. Semel, *Congregation Emanu-El*

Fr. Milton Walsh, *Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption*

Rabbi Martin Weiner, *Congregation Sherith Israel*

Fr. Kenneth Westray, *Sacred Heart Catholic Church*

The Rev. Shari Young, *Grace Cathedral*

Rev. Lin Zenki, *San Francisco Zen Center*

# *San Francisco Interfaith Council Board of Directors*

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**2019 - 2020**

Kaushik Roy, Chair, *The Shanti Project*  
Mario Paz, Vice Chair, *Good Samaritan Family Resource Center*  
John McKnight, Treasurer, *Fleet Week*  
Nancy Nielsen, Secretary, *Lutheran Social Services*

Fr. Arturo Albano, *Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption*  
Nicholas Andrade, *Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church*  
Fatih Ferdi Ates, *Pacifica Institute*  
Wilma Batiste, *Neighborhood Baptist Church*  
P.J. Cherrin, *Mission Minyan*  
The Rev. Canon Dr. Ellen Clark-King, *Grace Cathedral*  
Rev. Elaine Donlin, *Buddhist Church of San Francisco*  
Rev. Norman Fong, *Chinatown Community Development Center*  
Hala K. Hijazi, Commissioner, *SF Human Rights Commission*  
Deacon G.L. Hodge, *Providence Baptist Church*  
Paige Hosking, *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*  
Rev. Monique Ortiz, *St. Mary and St. Martha Lutheran Church*  
Robert T. Phillips, *San Francisco Baha'i Center*  
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, *First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF*  
Rita R. Semel, Past Chair, *Congregation Emanu-El*  
Rev. Floyd Trammell, *First Friendship Institutional Baptist Church*  
Swami Vedananda, *Vedanta Society of Northern California*  
Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, *University of San Francisco*  
Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman-Graf, *Congregation Sherith Israel*





# *Accomplishments and Plans of the San Francisco Interfaith Council*

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**2019 - 2020**

## **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.

## **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.*"

## **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 of over 4,000 e-subscribers 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.

## **ONGOING PROGRAMS**

### ***Monthly Breakfast***

For over 16 years the SFIC has hosted a free public interfaith breakfast on the second Thursday of each month 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." To appreciate the substantive presentations made we invite you to visit: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/monthly-breakfasts>

### ***Ageing & Adult Services***

- **How Different Faith Traditions View Death**

On Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the San Francisco Public Library, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas moderated a panel of representatives from local religious groups to talk about how faith and beliefs can impact patients' end of life decisions. This

well-attended convening addressed the ways in which different religions comfort those who are in pain and dying, and what kind of spiritual guidance they provide to patients at the end of their lives. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2UeOHJp>

- **SF Department of Aging and Adult Services and Faith Communities Round Table**

The SF Department of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) and Faith Communities Round Table held their inaugural meeting on Friday, August 23, 2019 at Jewish Family & Children's Services. Communities of faith are hubs where older adults feel safe, valued and are able to overcome social isolation. In October 2017, the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) collaborated with DAAS in hosting a highly successful convening attended by over 200 congregation leaders to promote information exchange and connection between service providers and faith leaders. In 2018, the SFIC/DAAS organizing committee worked with a CORO Fellow to survey congregation leaders regarding supportive services for older community members. As a follow up to these activities, the decision was made to convene a cohort of those in communities of faith who are responsible for and lead programs that minister to older adults and people with disabilities in order to discuss strategies and develop an actionable plan to promote deeper coordination across the faith and service networks.

### ***Disaster Preparedness***

- **Fleet Week 2019**

On the occasion of the 244<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States Navy on Sunday, October 13, 2019, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, in collaboration with the Interfaith Center at the Presidio, the Navy League of the United States and the Fleet Week Host Committee offered an "Interfaith Blessing of the Fleet Service" at the Presidio Chapel. In addition to US Navy, US Marine Corps and US Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel, a large contingent from the Royal Australian Navy was also in attendance as were the Consul Generals of Japan, Indonesia and Hungary, and a representative of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission. Visiting chaplains participated in the service at this former military chapel. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2VwFAkx>

- **"Security in Houses of Worship and Faith-Based Organizations" Workshop**

The San Francisco Interfaith Council, in collaboration with the Walter & Elise Haas Fund and the Jewish Community Relations Council, presented "Security in Houses of Worship and Faith-Based Organizations" workshop on Monday, September 9, 2019 at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption. In light of recent terrorist attacks on houses of worship around the globe and in our nation, the SFIC and its collaborating partners provided necessary resources at the workshop designed to support and equip religious institutions in addressing this critical and timely need. These resources are available at:

<https://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/security-houses-worship-resources>. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/32ldxqB>

### ***Immigration-Related Activities***

- On June 21, 2018 the SFIC co-hosted with Grace Cathedral an "Interfaith Vigil to End the Separation of Immigrant Families." Faith partners from diverse traditions gathered in solidarity and prayer at Grace Cathedral's Outdoor Plaza.

a. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2I3dpBD>

b. Link to program:

<http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/sites/default/files/files/Interfaith%20Vigil%20Program%206-21-2018.pdf>

c. Link to op-ed by SFIC founder and past chair, Rita Semel:

<https://www.jweekly.com/2018/06/25/interfaith-vigil-for-immigrants-was-good-action-is-even-better/>

- On April 24, 2018 SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas moderated a panel discussion regarding "Sanctuary Rising", a film screening by documentary film director Theo Rigby at the San Francisco Public Library addressing the history of the Sanctuary movement in San Francisco. The film and panelists spoke on how San Francisco became a Sanctuary City in the 1980s and how faith-based sanctuary work is being enacted today in the Bay Area and throughout the Country. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2HpyOcl>; link to panel video clip: <https://goo.gl/mVz3qc>

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

Entering our 31<sup>st</sup> year, 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, 50 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.

At the request of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing the Interfaith Winter Shelter will remain open through the end of March 2020. Extending the shelter is made possible, in large part, thanks to our partners at Episcopal Community Services and congregations who volunteer to prepare and serve meals. For additional information about the Interfaith Winter Shelter please visit: <https://goo.gl/o3zVdM> and <https://sites.google.com/site/shelterworkingsite/> The SFIC has created a page on their website with links to resources for the homeless.

Please visit: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/homeless-resources>

### ***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. The 2019 Walk occurred on Sunday, April 7, 2019 around Lake Merced with picture perfect weather and over 100 participants. Sponsorships and pledges raised close to \$17,000 for the shelter. For additional information please visit: <http://winterfaithshelterwalk.dojiggy.com>

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

For nine 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 attendees. The theme highlighted at this year’s Interfaith Prayer Service was “*We Are In This Together.*” Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was remembered with readings from his speeches. Program may be viewed at: <http://bit.ly/2UYsp14>

### ***The Vigil: Interfaith Annual Homeless Persons Memorial***

Every December, collaborating with the SF Night Ministry, the SFIC hosts the “*The Vigil: Interfaith Annual Homeless Persons Memorial.*” 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 Thursday evening, December 19, 2019 at UN Plaza.

### ***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. The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service on Thursday, November 22, 2018 was hosted by the Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist. The offering collected at this service is used to offset the costs of the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Program may be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/2RZGx2b>. This year’s 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service will be held on Thursday, November 28, 2019 at the Presidio Chapel in San Francisco.

### ***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. Last year’s 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, November 20, 2018 recognized the 30<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary Observance of the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Program may be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2ElFiXc> and the program booklet at <https://bit.ly/2UKESPZ>. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance of the Interfaith Winter Shelter video may be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taHLWCRO5Q>

This year's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 will celebrate the San Francisco Interfaith Council's 30 years of interfaith collaboration in San Francisco.

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

For the past ten years, the SFIC has regularly convened the leaders of the 20 major faith-based agencies to provide a forum to address issues of common concern. The SFIC promotes the agencies' collective impact and advocates on their behalf to increase the visibility of the economic challenges faced by non-profits and their clients. Since 2009 the CEO Roundtable has responded with a significant unified voice to issues ranging from dramatic budget cuts and their impact on programs and staff, to San Francisco's affordability crisis that prompted the displacement of numerous constituent agencies. Currently, focus is being placed on the attraction and retention of staff in light of shrinking availability and soaring housing costs. As well, the Roundtable is developing a strategic response to the significant shift in federal policy priorities and the threat of funding cuts. None of this work could be accomplished by any single agency. Its continued impact has established the CEO Roundtable as a major stakeholder at policy-making tables. For a list of the faith-based agencies please visit:

<http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/social-service-agencies>

### ***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 chronological order from the most current, the SFIC has issued the following statements. Access to the complete texts is available by visiting: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/social-justice-statements>

- SF Bay Area Faith Leaders Stand in Solidarity in Condemnation of Horrific Terrorist Attacks on Two New Zealand Mosques (3/15/2019)
- SFIC Extends Invitation to Participate in Vigils Against Hate (10/27/2018)
- We Stand With You! SF Bay Area Religious Leaders Stand in Support of Survivors of Sexual Assault (10/5/2018)
- SFIC Proud Co-Signer of Know Your Neighbor Multifaith Encounters Coalition Statement on Today's Supreme Court Decision on Muslim Ban (6/26/2018)
- SFIC Stands with our Partner, the Brady Center, to Respond to Las Vegas Shootings (10/4/2017)
- Communities of Faith Respond to DACA Decision (9/11/2017)
- SF Faith Leaders Stand United Against Hate in Charlottesville and Our Backyard (8/15/2017)
- Bay Area Muslims Condemn Attacks on Coptic Christians SF Chronicle Op Ed (4/17/2017)
- SF Religious Leaders Denounce Massacre of Coptic Christians (4/11/2017)
- A Message from SFIC Founder and Former Chair Rita R. Semel (2/27/2017)
- SFIC Joins Interfaith Partners Nationwide in Support of Our Muslim Neighbors (1/27/2017)
- SFIC Denounces Bomb Threats at Bay Area Jewish Schools (1/19/2017)
- SF Bay Area Faith Leaders Denounce Incidents of Hate Targeting Religion (12/1/2016)
- SFIC Statement of Support for Pacifica Institute (10/13/2016)
- All Lives Are Precious and Irreplaceable (7/8/2016)
- SF Communities of Faith Mourn Victims of Istanbul Terrorist Attack (6/30/2016)
- Communities of Faith Issue Statements in the Aftermath of the 6/12/2016 Orlando Massacre (6/22/2016)
- SF Communities of Faith Share in Grief of Orlando Massacre (6/13/2016)
- SF Faith Leaders Denounce Anti-Muslim Hate Speech (12/11/2015)
- Church Desecration Denounced by Coalition of SF Faith Groups (9/2/2015)
- SF Faith Leaders Respond to Racist Acts of Violence and Destruction (7/2/2015)
- SFIC Issues Social Justice Statement (3/12/2015)



- SFIC Condemns Vicious Anti-Muslim Bus Ads (10/16/2014)
- SFIC and Religious Leaders Speak Out Against ISIS Religious Persecution (9/17/2014)

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**

### ***9/11 Day of Service***

The SFIC was an integral partner for the 9/11 Day of Service and Remembrance's second Bay Area event on September 11, 2019. This nationwide effort to turn 9/11 from a day of tragedy to a day of service, unity and peace hosted like efforts in New York City, Los Angeles, Phoenix and San Francisco. Collectively, over 8,000 volunteers came together to pack 1.6 million plus non-perishable meals for distribution by local food banks. Here in San Francisco over 1,000 Bay Area volunteers packed an estimated 300,000 of those meals. The SFIC was instrumental in making introductions to the SF-Marin Food Bank, the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission, sf.citi as well as to key civic officials and members of the media. Additionally, the SFIC extended invitations to faith leaders across the religious spectrum who commenced each meal pack shift with poignant blessings. Please visit: <https://conta.cc/32gJUqr>

### ***Annual San Francisco Ramadan Interfaith Iftar Dinners***

On May 15, 2019 the SFIC was once again a co-sponsor of the Annual San Francisco Ramadan Interfaith Iftar Dinner at Grace Cathedral. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2UGTVY3>. The SFIC also co-sponsored the Ramadan Iftar Dinner at Congregation B'nai Emunah on May 19, 2019. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2KHHHjH>. Additionally, the SFIC participated in Ramadan Iftar Dinners at City Hall on May 10, 2019 and at The Battery on May 21, 2019.

### ***"Lest We Forget" Holocaust Remembrance Project***

From April 17 - May 19, 2019, a Holocaust remembrance project designed by German-Italian artist Luigi Toscano, was on exhibit at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza. Seventy-eight large-scale photographs of Holocaust survivors honored individuals living in the United States, Israel, Germany, Ukraine, Russia, Austria, the Netherlands, and the Bay Area with dignified portraits. Fifteen of them were taken in San Francisco and the Bay Area. These pictures were at the center of the unique photographic installation, "Lest We Forget" and were designed to inspire and ensure that we do not forget the Holocaust and continue to fight hatred today.

In addition to representing the SFIC at the exhibition's opening, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to emcee the City's official recognition of the exhibition hosted by Mayor London Breed at City Hall on May 2, 2019, which coincided with Holocaust Remembrance Day. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2KHZpUf>

### ***San Francisco Community Vigil to Mourn and Pray for Victims of Christchurch Mosques Shootings***

Elected Officials, the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, the Muslim Community, and Community Leaders gathered on the steps of San Francisco's City Hall on March 20, 2019 for a community vigil to stand together in solidarity with Muslim sisters and brothers in New Zealand and around the globe against Islamophobia, hate, bigotry, and white supremacy. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2Fci7xf>

### ***Financial Capabilities: A Social Justice Issue “Mini Summit”***

The San Francisco Interfaith Council, local civic leaders and a planning committee of women of faith and action hosted a “mini summit” at the San Francisco Main Public Library on January 31, 2019 focused on raising awareness about the vast inequities in pay and wealth impacting our diverse San Francisco community, pioneering local efforts responding to this challenge and strengthening economic security and mobility for families. The program featured faith leaders on social justice, San Francisco Treasurer, Jose Cisneros, and the San Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment’s programs, and a keynote from Commissioner on the Status of Women, Carrie Schwab-Pomerantz, on the importance of financial capability. Link to Financial Security and Wellness Resource Guide: <http://bit.ly/2CEVNMn>

### ***Interfaith Unity Celebration for Governor Gavin C. Newsom***

At the invitation of Governor-Elect Gavin C. Newsom, the San Francisco Interfaith Council was asked to be the lead coordinator for an Interfaith Unity Celebration that was held on the morning of the gubernatorial inaugural on January 7, 2019 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Sacramento. The SFIC was responsible for extending invitations to clergy participants as well as developing the order of service for this interfaith prayer gathering. In addition to the governor-elect and his first partner, over 150 faith leaders from throughout the State were in attendance praying for the governor-elect and his family. Program: <http://bit.ly/2FrkOvc>

### ***Commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World War I Armistice***

The San Francisco Interfaith Council collaborated with the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission, the American Legion Eighth District Council, the San Francisco World War I Armistice Commemoration Committee, the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the Interfaith Center at the Presidio in commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World War I Armistice with an Interfaith Memorial Service at the Norwegian Seamen’s Chapel. The SFIC also encouraged congregations throughout the City to join citizens and organizations across the nation to ring bells in their communities 21 times at 11:00 am local time on Sunday, November 11, 2018 in remembrance of when fighting ceased. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/32RIIta>

### ***Vigils Against Hate in Response to Pittsburgh Tree of Life Congregation Shooting***

The San Francisco Interfaith Council extended an invitation to the greater community to gather for vigils at Congregation Emanu-El on Sunday, October 28, 2018 and the Contemporary Jewish Museum on Saturday, October 27, 2018. It was important to come together as community with our Jewish sisters and brothers, to demonstrate our solidarity and resilience and reject the normalization of violence against the Jewish community or any community in our country. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2OcTLWK>

### ***Global Climate Action Summit***

In San Francisco, on September 12-14, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown hosted a summit to bring sub-nationals, business leaders, and civil society together to collaborate and commit to more ambitious goals to curb carbon pollution and protect our climate. The Global Climate Action Summit was intended to inspire leaders from around the world to “Take Ambition to the Next Level.” It was a moment to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of states, regions, cities, companies, investors and citizens with respect to climate action. It was also a launchpad for deeper worldwide commitments and accelerated action from countries – supported by all sectors of society – that can put the globe on track to prevent dangerous climate change and realize the historic Paris Agreement. The decarbonization of the global economy is in sight. Transformational changes are happening across the world and across all sectors as a result of technological innovation, new and creative policies and political will at all levels. States and regions, cities, businesses and investors are working to push down global emissions by 2020, setting the stage to reach net zero emissions by mid-century. Religious institutions and faith communities are leading the way, and many low-to-no carbon congregations are right here in San Francisco in the network of Interfaith Power & Light.

The SFIC participated on the Planning Committee for the inspiring and historic Global Climate Action Summit Multi-Faith Service and Workshops hosted at Grace Cathedral to inaugurate the broader convening. Additionally, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to emcee "Faiths Rise," an interfaith service held at Ferry Park prior to the Climate March at which 30,000 people participated. Please visit: <https://conta.cc/2CocQVg>

The SFIC also devoted as the theme of its September Monthly Breakfast: "Global Climate Action Summit and Contributions by Communities of Faith" Please visit: <https://conta.cc/2NqC35z>. Guest speakers featured founder and past President of Interfaith Power & Light, The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham as well as California Interfaith Power & Light Program Manager, Liore Milgrom-Gartner.

### ***Interfaith Prayer Service for Mayor-Elect London N. Breed***

On Monday, July 9, 2018 the SFIC and the historic Third Baptist Church co-sponsored an Interfaith Prayer Service for Mayor-Elect London N. Breed at Third Baptist Church with many diverse communities of faith participating. Link to email invitation: <https://conta.cc/2J2oZ07> Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/f2Mh2K>

### ***Interfaith Blessing: Opening Ceremony for Salesforce Tower***

Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff extended the invitation to the SFIC to offer an interfaith blessing on the occasion of the "Opening Ceremony" of the new Salesforce Tower. This edifice is the tallest structure west of Chicago. On May 22, 2018, six prominent faith leaders offered prayers from their respective traditions. Together, a final blessing for all who undertook this monumental effort as well as for those who will labor and visit the structure was prayed in unison by those clergy. Link to email blast: <https://conta.cc/2wZbtto>

An account of this event and the role played by the SFIC's executive director and constituent leaders may be found in the following ABC7 News video:

<http://abc7news.com/business/ceremony-held-for-grand-opening-of-san-franciscos-salesforce-tower/3508208/>

### ***2020 Complete Count (Census)***

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census counts every resident in the nation. A complete and accurate count of California's population is essential to the state because the data collected by the Census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities. More than 70 federal programs that benefit California, including education, health and human services, use Census numbers as part of their funding formulas. Communities of faith are central to the count as they comprise trusted institutions and leaders that are able to identify and convey the importance of the count to marginalized and "hard-to-find" residents (e.g. undocumented immigrants and the homeless). A key challenge surrounding the upcoming count is the transition from paper to electronic surveys and related confidentiality and security concerns. SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was selected to participate among community stakeholders on San Francisco's highly successful 2010 Complete Count Committee and is being designated to assist in the 2020 effort. An expanded role he will play will be to coordinate census efforts of regional religious communities participating in the The San Francisco Foundation's FAITHS Program. The SFIC received a grant from The San Francisco Foundation and was selected to host a Coro Fellow, which enabled the SFIC to develop a comprehensive Tool Kit tailored for the use of communities of faith in their outreach efforts to their congregants. Additionally, the Tool Kit provides important resources related to census employment opportunities, linguistic and technological capacities, as well as how houses of worship can become data collection hubs for census responses.

### ***US State Department International Visitors Program Delegation Visits***

The SFIC regularly hosts visiting delegations from across the globe at the Presidio Chapel organized by the US State Department International Visitors Program. Recently, the SFIC has hosted delegations from Belgium, Germany, North Macedonia, Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

### ***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.

Building upon the important work of the Interfaith Essential Housing Task Force, spearheaded by the Council in 2014, the SFIC continues to counsel and work closely with congregations and religious institutions seeking to repurpose their facilities to create housing units for low paid/middle income workers who provide essential services in our City. Additionally, the SFIC, in comments made by Executive Director Michael Pappas to the San Francisco Business Times and Bay City Beacon, helped to shed light on the Federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, which gives religious institutions the right to develop their properties without interference by entities seeking to place obstacles in their way that cause financial hardship. Moreover, the SFIC joined its name to those endorsing Prop A, the \$600 million housing affordability/general obligation bond ballot initiative, that successfully passed on November 5, 2019.

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

The SFIC's Executive Director has moderated several panels for the Commonwealth Club's Middle East Forum and other programs at the Commonwealth Club. On Friday, October 25, 2019, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas moderated a panel discussion at the Commonwealth Club of California's Middle East Forum entitled "Envisioning Peace: The United Religions Initiative." The audio podcast is available at: <http://bit.ly/32TI1Qe>

On February 15, 2019, Michael Pappas also moderated a panel “*Helping Refugees, Welcoming the Stranger.*” The audio podcast is available at: <http://bit.ly/2TX00pm>

All Commonwealth Club video and audio podcasts where the SFIC has been the moderator are available at: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/video-and-audio-archives>

### ***SFIC in the News***

For further articles and other media related to the SFIC, we would direct your attention to the following link: <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/sfic-news>

### ***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 Aging & Adult Services Commission, designated as the SF Aging & Adult Services Commission’s representative to the In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Governing Body, 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. Thanks to a grant from the Metta Fund, a database of religious institutions claiming non-profit status in the City and County of San Francisco, and a pro bono donation of software from Salesforce, the SFIC is currently engaged in updating, streamlining and creating its comprehensive database. We gratefully acknowledge the funding provided by congregations, judicatories, agencies, individuals, and foundations which makes these achievements and others not listed here possible.



# *Interfaith Winter Shelter Host Sites and Partners*

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Calvary Presbyterian Church \*  
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption #  
Episcopal Community Services' Canon Kip Senior Center #  
First Congregational Church  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco \* #  
Grace Cathedral \*  
Old First Presbyterian Church \*  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral \*  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
St. Paulus Lutheran Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church #  
Trinity+St. Peter's Episcopal Church

(\* First Interfaith Winter Shelter Site)  
(# Current Interfaith Winter Shelter Site)

## **Partners**

Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing \*  
Episcopal Community Services  
San Francisco Night Ministry  
St. Vincent de Paul Society #

(\* Major funder of the Interfaith Winter Shelter)  
(# First agency to provide staff)

# *Interfaith Winter Shelter Meal Providers*

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2018 – 2019 Season

## **Meal Providers**

Bethany United Methodist Church  
Bridgepoint Community Church  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Catholic Charities  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints:  
Bay/Golden Gate/ Sunset Wards  
The Church Ladies  
Congregation Beth Shalom  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation  
Episcopal Community Services  
Board of Directors  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
The Filipino Community at St. Boniface  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF  
First United Lutheran Church – Middle Circle  
Forest Hill Christian Church  
Franciscan Friars  
Fraternite Notre Dame  
Girl Scout Troop 31018  
Girl Scout Troop 32567  
Gospel Mass Community  
Grace Cathedral  
The Hispanic Community at St. Boniface  
Hispanic Prayer Group at St. Boniface  
Holy Innocents Episcopal Church  
Holy Trinity Cathedral  
Knights of St. Francis  
Ladies Prayer Group

Mission Dolores Basilica  
Missionary Temple CME Church  
Morse Lodge 257  
Noe Valley Ministry  
Old First Presbyterian Church  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral  
Or Shalom Jewish Community  
Presbyterian Church in Chinatown  
Rotary Club of San Francisco - Castro  
SS Peter & Paul Chinese Apostolate  
St. Boniface Community  
St. Dominic's Friends in Christ  
St. Dominic's – RCIA/Torch  
St. Ignatius Parish  
St. John Armenian Church  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
St. Mary & St. Martha Lutheran Church  
St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church  
St. Philip School 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Families  
St. Stephens Church  
St. Teresa of Avila Circle of Light  
St. Vincent de Paul – St. Mary's Cathedral  
St. Vincent de Paul Conference  
Saldana Family  
Saldana/Hamilton-Lam Family  
San Francisco Friends Meeting  
San Francisco Interfaith Council  
San Francisco Swedenborgian Church  
San Francisco Village  
San Francisco Zen Center  
Trammell Crow Residential  
University of San Francisco

# *Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfasts*

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**1998 – 2019**

11/24/1998	Leaves of Blessing: Prayers for the City
11/23/1999	Dawn Blessings for Our City
11/21/2000	Embracing Our Children and Our Youth
11/20/2001	Caring for the City's Children
11/26/2002	Moving On and Reaching Out to Our Children and Youth
12/02/2003	Prayers from Faith Communities in the City
11/23/2004	Healing a Troubled World
11/22/2005	Serving Our City Together
11/21/2006	Honoring Models of Hope: Creating a Peaceful City
11/20/2007	Honoring Models of Hope: Recognizing Organizations Overcoming Violence
11/25/2008	Feeding the Hungry: Honoring Congregations and the San Francisco Food Bank
11/24/2009	Honoring Congregations for Disaster Preparedness
11/23/2010	Honoring the Unsung Healers: Hospital and Hospice Chaplains
11/22/2011	Repairing the World: Honoring the Work of Rita R. Semel
11/20/2012	Going Green: Honoring Congregations and California Interfaith Power & Light for Their Environmental Leadership
11/26/2013	Honoring Veterans and the Faith Communities that Serve Them
11/25/2014	Celebrating 25 Years of Faith-Based Collaboration: Together We Can Do More!
11/24/2015	Faith and Sanctuary: There Are No Strangers
11/22/2016	The Soul of the City: Faith and Social Justice in San Francisco
11/21/2017	Communities of Faith Nurturing Education in our City
11/20/2018	30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance of Interfaith Winter Shelter
11/26/2019	Celebrating 30 Years of Interfaith Collaboration in San Francisco

# *Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Services*

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**2005 – 2019**

11/24/2005	Congregation Emanu-El
11/23/2006	Grace Cathedral
11/22/2007	St. Ignatius Parish
11/27/2008	First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
11/26/2009	Calvary Presbyterian Church
11/25/2010	Third Baptist Church
11/24/2011	The Konko Church
11/22/2012	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
11/28/2013	Buddhist Church of San Francisco
11/27/2014	Congregation Sherith Israel
11/26/2015	Baha'i Community of San Francisco
11/24/2016	San Francisco Swedenborgian Church
11/23/2017	Old First Presbyterian Church
11/22/2018	Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist
11/28/2019	Presidio Chapel



# *Disaster Preparedness Workshops for Congregations*

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**2006 – 2019**

2006	Lessons Learned from Hurricane Katrina
2008	Creating a Culture of Preparedness
2010	Global Lessons for Local Use
2012	Building Resilience Beyond Our Walls
2014	Congregations Responding to Everyday Disasters
2016	Crisis to Resilience: Congregations Understanding and Responding to Climate Change Impacts
2019	Security in Houses of Worship

## *Major Funders*

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Anonymous  
Archdiocese of San Francisco  
AT & T  
The Battery Foundation  
Lynne and Marc Benioff  
Tony Blair Faith Foundation  
California Pacific Medical Center  
Callison Foundation  
Calvary Foundation  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Catholic Charities  
Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-day Saints  
Columbia Foundation  
Jeanne Dinkelspiel  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
Ford Foundation  
The Germanacos Foundation  
GLIDE Foundation  
Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund \*  
Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund  
Miriam and Peter Haas Fund  
Walter & Elise Haas Fund

James Hormel and Michael P. Nguyen  
H.B. and Lucille Horn Foundation  
The Koret Foundation \*  
The George and Judy Marcus  
Family Foundation  
Judy and George Marcus  
McKesson Foundation \*  
Metta Fund  
One Nation Bay Area Fund  
The Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies  
Foundation  
Providian Financial  
Public Private Ventures  
The Janet and Clint Reilly  
Family Foundation  
The Roberts Foundation \*  
Bob A. Ross Foundation  
The San Francisco Foundation  
Rita R. Semel  
St. Paulus Lutheran Church  
Sutter West Bay Hospitals  
Vesper Society \*  
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg  
Foundation, Inc.

(\* First Funders)

*These agencies, congregations, corporations, foundations, judicatories, and individuals  
have generously contributed \$5,000 or more in any given year. We sincerely apologize for any omissions.*

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*Major Funders to  
The Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund  
for Interfaith Work*

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Mary Culp

The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation

Joan and Robert McGrath – Celebrate Foundation

Dr. Charles B. Wilson and Ms. Frances S. Petrocelli

*These agencies, congregations, corporations, foundations, judicatories, and individuals  
have generously contributed \$5,000 or more in any given year. We sincerely apologize for any omissions.*

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# *Sponsors for Today's Breakfast*

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



## **Archdiocese of SAN FRANCISCO**

### **Table Sponsors - \$1,500**

The Boldt Company  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Dr. Allen Calvin  
Catholic Charities  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Episcopal Community Services  
Grace Cathedral

Commissioner Hala K. Hijazi  
Martin Luther Tower (MLT)  
San Francisco District Attorney's Office  
San Francisco State University  
The Shanti Project  
Sutter Health CPMC  
United Methodist Church – Bay District  
United Religions Initiative  
University of San Francisco

### **Sustaining Sponsors - \$600**

American Buddhist Cultural Society  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco  
Forge Development Partners  
Islamic Society of San Francisco  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
Lutheran Social Services  
The Salvation Army  
San Francisco Zen Center  
Rita R. Semel

# *We Thank Those Who Have Supported the San Francisco Interfaith Council in 2019*

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## **Agencies**

Catholic Charities  
Chinatown Community Development Center  
Church Women United  
Episcopal Community Services  
GLIDE Foundation  
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center  
Institute on Aging

Jewish Vocational Service  
Mercy Housing Inc.  
San Francisco Night Ministry  
San Francisco Village  
St. Anthony Foundation  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Tabernacle Community Development Corp.

## **Congregations**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Bethany United Methodist Church  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption  
Christ Episcopal Church Sei Ko Kai  
Church of Sweden San Francisco  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Ner Tamid  
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
Covenant Presbyterian Church  
First United Lutheran Church  
Golden Gate Spiritualist Church of SF  
Grace Cathedral  
Mission Bay Community Church  
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Noe Valley Ministry  
Old First Presbyterian Church  
Presbyterian Church in Chinatown  
San Francisco Friends Meeting  
Sinai Memorial Chapel  
Sisters of the Presentation  
St. Dominic's Friends in Christ  
St. Francis Lutheran Church Endowment  
St. Ignatius Church  
St. John Armenian Apostolic Church  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
St. Mary & St. Martha Lutheran Church  
St. Paulus Lutheran Church  
Unity Spiritual Center of San Francisco  
Zion Lutheran Church

## **Corporations**

Amazon  
The Boldt Company  
The Green Cross  
Salesforce.org  
Waffles & Honey Jewelry

## **Educational Institutions**

Convent & Stuart Hall High School  
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory  
University of San Francisco

## **Foundations**

The Battery Foundation  
Evelyn & Walter Haas Jr. Fund  
Walter & Elise Haas Fund  
The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation  
Metta Fund  
The San Francisco Foundation  
The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc.

## **Judicatories**

Archdiocese of San Francisco  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (San Francisco Stake)  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
Japanese American Religious Federation of San Francisco  
Jewish Community Relations Council

## **Individuals**

Adam Ahlbach  
Donald and Marie Ahlbach  
John Ahlbach  
Marty, Tiffany and Paige Ahlbach  
Susan and Gerald Ahlbach  
Muhammad Alabi  
Isaiah Alexander  
Dr. Tamara Alliston and Dr. Jacob Johnson  
Virginia Ruth Alvarado  
Nicholas Andrade  
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Wilma Batiste

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Stephanie and Bruce Dorfman  
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Sally Durgan  
Priscilla Dwyer  
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Amy Everitt  
Brian Farmer  
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Christina Ferrari  
Alida Fisher  
Rev. Norman Fong  
Donald Fox  
William Friedeman  
Aine Fullerton  
Gary Gach  
Amy Gallardo  
Rachel Gan  
John Garis  
Ethan Gassner  
Alison Gayek  
Jennifer Gee  
Marlene George and Nick Zamorano  
Sophia Georgiadis  
Col. (Ret) D. Peter Gleichenhaus  
Carol Borden Gomez  
Victoria Gomez-Finne  
Dave and Kris Gonzales  
Valerie Gonyea  
Harold Gordon  
Martha Gould  
Johannes Grad  
Meghan Grady  
Allison Green  
Rev. Tova Green  
Kathryn Gulbranson  
Iftekhar Hai  
Jill Hamilton  
Mary E. Harris  
Richard Harris, Jr.  
Kholood Hassan  
Pamela Hawley  
Marilee Hearn  
David Heckadon  
Rev. Maggi Henderson  
Marilyn Herand  
Dennis Herrera  
Charles Hinger and Jay Beatty  
Patrick Hirigoyen  
Felicia Hirsch  
Catherine Hoepke  
Bridget Holian  
Shannon Horton

Rev. Alyson Jacks  
Janet Jacobs  
Ameena Jandali  
Anne and Jerold Jayne  
John Jimenez  
Orlando Jimenez  
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Fran Johns  
Amy Johnson  
Martha Johnson  
David Jolliffe  
Leo Joslin  
Marcus Jung  
Ossama Kamel  
Emily Karabines  
Carole and Lefty Karkazis  
Abigail Karlin-Resnick  
Joshua Karlin-Resnick and Ashley Wells  
Sandy Kavanaugh  
Colette Kelly  
Keenan Kelsey  
Mary Kenny  
Patricia Kephart  
Alexander Kern  
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*Thanksgiving Coffee Company* has graciously provided the coffee being served at today's Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast.

"In 2003, a group of Jewish, Christian and Muslim farmers came together to build lasting prosperity in their villages and to spread a message of peace throughout the world. They named their coffee Mirembe Kawomera, which means, "Delicious Peace" in the Luganda language. Coffee brings people together, both in cafes and on farms. The farmer cooperatives that grow our coffees work together to create a lasting prosperity which fosters peace within their communities. Our "Delicious Peace" coffee comes from the Gumutindo Cooperative in Uganda, an interfaith community of Muslim, Christian and Jewish farmers who have put aside their differences to produce a delicious coffee together. The Gumutindo Cooperative has grown to over 1,200 members. Thanks to their collective effort, the farmers sell directly to *Thanksgiving Coffee Company*, and receive prices four times higher than what they were previously paid. This has enabled farmers to send their children to school, start savings accounts, and reinvest in their farms."

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and spiritual traditions,  
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brings people together  
to build understanding  
and serve our community.

## **San Francisco Interfaith Council**

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

*Executive Director*

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