



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

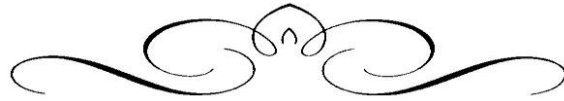
**Celebrating 25 Years of  
Faith-Based Collaboration**

***“Together We Can Do More!”***

**Tuesday, November 25, 2014**

**7:00 am – 8:50 am**

***Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco***



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

**San Francisco Interfaith Council**

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

*Executive Director*

P.O. Box 29055

San Francisco, CA 94129

415-474-1321

Email: [mgpappas.sfic@gmail.com](mailto:mgpappas.sfic@gmail.com)

Website: [www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org](http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org)

# *Welcome to the*

## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast**

The San Francisco Interfaith Council welcomes you to the 17<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 citizens come together to give thanks for the gifts bestowed upon our City and nation and to pray for their well being.

Each year, at this breakfast, we shine the spotlight on one of the many contributions the religious community makes to the life of San Francisco. This year we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Francisco Interfaith Council and highlight our work over the past quarter century to make this City a better community for all. We particularly honor the Council's founders and early participants for their vision, commitment, and hard work. And we celebrate the Council's hopes and vision for the bright future of faith-based collaboration; **TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE!**

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

# PROGRAM

---

## **Opening Prayer: “*The Prayer of St. Francis*”**

(sung by all – see sheet music insert)

Led by *Fr. Paul Zirimenya*, St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired  
and

*Sr. Elizabeth Padilla*, accompanied by *Sr. Kyoko Kimura*

Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center

*Jeanne Collins and Neva Turoff*, Interpreters

## **Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell**

*Rev. Ronald Kobata*, Buddhist Church of San Francisco

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

*Fatih Ates*, Pacifica Institute, Turkish-American Cultural Center

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

*Rabbi Beth Singer*, Congregation Emanu-El

~ *Breakfast is served at your table* ~

## **Welcome by Breakfast Co-Chairs**

*Marilyn Saner*, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

*Fr. Kenneth Westray*, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

## **President Lincoln’s Thanksgiving Day Proclamation (page 6)**

*Eloy Ortiz and Maria Zelaya*

De Marillac Academy Graduates, Class of 2012

## **Introduction of Special Guests**

*G.L. Hodge*, Vice-Chair

San Francisco Interfaith Council

## **Remarks**

*Mayor Edwin M. Lee*

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

(sung by all – see sheet music insert)

Led by *Sr. Elizabeth Padilla*, accompanied by *Sr. Kyoko Kimura*

Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center

# PROGRAM (continued)

---

## **Yesterday**

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

## **Presentation to Honorees**

*Marilyn Saner, Fr. Kenneth Westray*, Co-Chairs  
*Michael G. Pappas*, Executive Director  
San Francisco Interfaith Council

## **Welcome and Blessing of Honorees**

*Rev. Maggi Henderson*, Chair  
San Francisco Interfaith Council

## **Today and Tomorrow**

### **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

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

### **Keynote Speaker**

*George M. Marcus*  
Founder and Chairman, Marcus & Millichap Company

### **Remarks**

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

## **Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund for Interfaith Work**

*Rev. James DeLange*, Past Chair  
San Francisco Interfaith Council

## **Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs**

### **Closing Prayer**

*Rev. Dr. John Buehrens*, Senior Minister  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

### **Song: "Blessing Upon Blessings"**

*Sr. Elizabeth Padilla*  
Accompanied by *Br. Mario Reyes*  
Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center





## **President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation**

**October 3, 1863**

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the LORD.

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

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

# OUR HONOREES

---

## Founders

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

(in order of service)

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

---

## *George M. Marcus*

George M. Marcus is the Co-Founder and Chairman of Marcus & Millichap Company. Founded in 1971, Marcus & Millichap Company is the parent company of a diversified group of real estate service, investment, and development firms including SummerHill Homes, one of the San Francisco Bay Area's largest home builders. Also falling under the Marcus & Millichap family of companies are Pacific Urban Residential, SummerHill Apartment Communities, Meridian Property Company, Hanover Financial and Marcus & Millichap Venture Partners, which invests in real estate technology companies. Mr. Marcus is also the Founder and Chairman of Essex Property Trust (ESS) and Marcus & Millichap, Inc. (MMI), both publicly traded companies. In April of 2014, ESS acquired BRE, making it a \$16 billion company, and is now traded on the S&P 500. MMI went public in October of 2013 and is the largest commercial investment real estate brokerage firm in the nation with over 1000 brokers in offices nationwide and in Canada.

Mr. Marcus' professional memberships include the Real Estate Roundtable, Urban Land Institute and the University of California Berkeley Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics, as well as numerous other professional and community organizations, including International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), United Religions Initiative (URI), Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and Fuse Corps. He also sits on the Board of Directors of the UCSF Foundation, is an Emeritus Board Member of the Corporation of Fine Arts Museums (COFAM) where he served on the development committee that built the de Young Museum in San Francisco, and is a Regent Emeritus of the University of California.

Mr. Marcus also serves on the Advisory Board of numerous organizations, including the University of California's QB3, a biotech fund, and founded Greater Bay Bancorp, sitting on its Board of Directors until it was acquired by Wells Fargo.

Mr. Marcus graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from San Francisco State University in 1965, was honored as Alumnus of the Millennium in 1999 and received his honorary doctorate in 2011. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School President's Management Program and the Georgetown University Leadership Program.



# OUR BEGINNINGS

---

The history of the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) begins in December 1988 when then Mayor Art Agnos summoned a group of clergy to his office to ask for help in providing additional shelter and meals for the homeless during a very wet and cold December. A committee was formed and shelters opened at Calvary Presbyterian Church, Grace Cathedral, Old First Presbyterian Church, and Old St. Mary's Cathedral. Other congregations were recruited to provide meals. The temporary shelters closed in February 1989.

In October 1989 the Loma Prieta earthquake rocked San Francisco and the Bay Area. Rev. James Emerson of Calvary Presbyterian Church received a call from Church World Service offering a grant to help those affected by the earthquake with the proviso that all must be served, not just Protestants. He brought together an interfaith committee to make the grants.

After those two experiences, with many of the same people serving on both committees, it was agreed that it was time for an organization to be formed to work together on issues of common concern. The San Francisco Interfaith Council was born.

Rita R. Semel

# 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.**

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 Schiffan 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.

Schiffan 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."

from the White House," he says. "But when one lives in a place like San Francisco, the obvious is even more bluntly obvious — that we're in a pluralistic society with a

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. Such rhetoric "has even come

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



# FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

---

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

---

# MILESTONES IN OUR HISTORY

---

- 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 \*

## MILESTONES IN OUR HISTORY (continued)

---

- 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 \*

(\* ongoing)



# INTERFAITH WINTER SHELTER HOST CONGREGATION SITES AND PARTNERS

---

**1989 – 2014**

## **Host Congregation Sites**

Calvary Presbyterian Church \*  
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption #  
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 Episcopal Church

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

## **Partners**


Episcopal Community Services  
San Francisco Human Services Agency \*  
San Francisco Night Ministry  
St. Vincent de Paul Society #

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

# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS FOR CONGREGATIONS

---

**2006 – 2014**



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

# ANNUAL INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING PRAYER BREAKFASTS

---

**1998 – 2014**



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
12/2/2003	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!

# MAJOR FUNDERS

---

Archdiocese of San Francisco  
AT & T  
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  
Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church  
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  
H.B. and Lucille Horn Foundation  
The Koret Foundation \*  
The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation  
Judy and George Marcus  
McKesson Foundation \*  
One Nation Bay Area Fund  
The Bernard Osher Foundation  
Providian Financial  
Public Private Ventures  
The Roberts Foundation \*  
Bob A. Ross Foundation  
The San Francisco Foundation  
Rita R. Semel  
Sutter West Bay Hospitals  
Vesper Society \*  
  
(\* 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.*

# MAJOR FUNDERS TO THE RITA R. SEMEL ENDOWMENT FUND FOR INTERFAITH WORK

---



*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.*



# SPONSORS FOR TODAY'S BREAKFAST

---

## **Table Sponsor - \$500**

Archdiocese of San Francisco  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Catholic Charities  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Rev. James DeLange  
Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church  
Episcopal Community Services  
First Unitarian Universalist Society, Rev. Dr. John Buehrens, Sr. Minister  
First United Lutheran Church  
Glide Memorial Church  
Grace Cathedral  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
My Dutch Uncle  
Pacifica Institute  
Providence Baptist Church of San Francisco  
San Francisco District Attorney's Office  
San Francisco State University  
San Francisco Zen Center  
Shanti Project  
SpotOn Parking  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
Sutter Health CPMC \*  
The Salvation Army  
University Ministry – University of San Francisco  
(\* sponsored two tables)

## **Sustaining Sponsor - \$250**

Buddhist Church of San Francisco and Japanese American Religious Federation  
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption  
Betsy Dodd and Jim Boddy  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral  
The Rev. Richard Schaper  
Rita R. Semel  
St. Ignatius Catholic Church  
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

# WE THANK THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL IN 2014

## **Agencies**

Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation  
Catholic Charities CYO  
Episcopal Community Services  
Glide Foundation  
Jewish Vocational & Career Counseling Service  
Lutheran Social Services  
San Francisco Night Ministry  
St. Anthony Foundation  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
The Salvation Army

## **Congregations**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption  
Christ Church Lutheran  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Grace Cathedral  
Islamic Society of San Francisco  
Old First Presbyterian Church  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral  
San Francisco Friends Meeting  
St. Francis Lutheran Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
St. Paulus Lutheran Church  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
Swedenborgian Church

## ~ SUPPORTERS ~

### Foundations

The Germanacos Foundation  
Walter & Elise Haas Fund  
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation  
The San Francisco Foundation  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (SF Chapter)

### Individuals

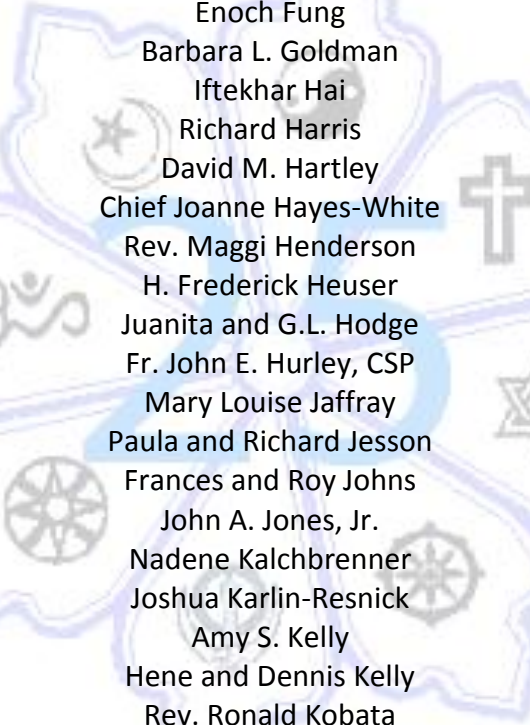


Nick Andrade  
Donald Andreini and Steven F. Crabiel  
Mary Ann Aronson  
Daniel Benatar  
Col. (Ret) Richard and Mrs. Bergson  
Aakash Bhatt  
Major Robert H. Birks  
Elyse Blatt  
Robert Bransten  
Anne and Herb Brigglin  
Linda and Tom Burns  
Tessa R. Callejo and William J. Black  
Betti Caramucci  
Rev. Paul Chaffee and Mrs. Chaffee  
Betsy and Theodore Chiao  
Betty M. Chin  
Barbara and Sam Ching  
Harry Chuck  
Jean and Andrew Coblenz  
Vicar Evered Cohen  
Stanley Cohn  
Linda Cole  
Kay Coleman  
Daniel Coles  
Deborah Dacumos and Kenneth Eisen  
Rev. James DeLange  
Betsy Dodd and Jim Boddy  
Julia Dowd  
Sally Durgan

## ~ SUPPORTERS ~

### Individuals

(continued)



Ava Marie Eichler  
Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale  
Farah El Abed  
Rev. Chris Fortin  
Nancy and Francis Foster  
Enoch Fung  
Barbara L. Goldman  
Iftekhhar Hai  
Richard Harris  
David M. Hartley  
Chief Joanne Hayes-White  
Rev. Maggi Henderson  
H. Frederick Heuser  
Juanita and G.L. Hodge  
Fr. John E. Hurley, CSP  
Mary Louise Jaffray  
Paula and Richard Jesson  
Frances and Roy Johns  
John A. Jones, Jr.  
Nadene Kalchbrenner  
Joshua Karlin-Resnick  
Amy S. Kelly  
Hene and Dennis Kelly  
Rev. Ronald Kobata  
C. Richard Kramlich  
Elaine B. Larkin  
Mary Katherine Law  
Therese N. Leonard-Young  
Lee Klinger Lesser  
The Rev. Andy Lobban and Mrs. Lobban  
Ada Lowe and Andrew Lee  
Siesel and Howard Maibach  
Judy and George Marcus  
Geraldine and Bruce McGrath  
Cheryl and Fred Merrick  
Russ Miller

## ~ SUPPORTERS ~

### Individuals

(continued)

Mia Mitchell and Andrew Zittel

Peggy Mitchell

Danny C. Montemayor

Madeline and Richard Morten

Rev. Paul Mowry

Mary Louise Myers

Nancy and Bill Newmeyer

Raymond O'Connor

Robert E. O'Donnell

Fr. John O'Neill

Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto

Michael G. Pappas

Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Peacock

Kirk Pessner

Bruce D. Pettit

Rev. Andreas Pielhoop

Linda Festa Plack

Abby Michelson Porth

Rev. Carolyn Ransom-Scott

Rabbi Lawrence Raphael

Maria Redolla and Enrique Mireles

Janet and Clint Reilly

Ed Reiskin

Linda Robinson

Nathalie Roland

Shawn Rosenmoss

Kaushik Roy

Fr. Terrence P. Ryan, CSP

Sylvia Sabel and Joel Rubinstein

Stefan Salinas

Diana Saylor and Thomas Brookshire

Adrienne and Norman Schlossberg

Diane Scott

Rita R. Semel


Fairy Simms



## ~ SUPPORTERS ~

### Individuals

(continued)



Camilla M. Smith  
Suzanne J. Smith  
Susan Solomon  
Joyce and Robert Stewart  
Robyn and Eric Stone  
Rebecca Swee  
Roselyne C. Swig  
Commander Lyn Tomioka  
Haj Tomiyama  
Sergio Vasquez  
Dr. Sally Wei  
Fr. Kenneth Westray  
Dixie L. Wirth  
Jean Wright  
Akemi Yoshimoto  
Margi Young  
Dolores Zacconi  
Cynthia S. Zamboukos  
Mary J. Zamboukos  
Joan C. Zinner  
Sara Zumwalt

### Judicatories

Archdiocese of San Francisco  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (San Francisco Stake)  
Diocese of California, The Episcopal Church  
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco  
Japanese American Religious Federation of San Francisco  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
The Northern California Board of Rabbis  
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

### Schools

Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory  
Society of the Celtic Cross, Church Divinity School of the Pacific

# RITA R. SEMEL ENDOWMENT FUND FOR INTERFAITH WORK

---

## 2014 Supporters



Ardis and Al Breslauer  
Betti Caramucci  
S.H. Cowell Foundation  
Linda G. Frank  
Barbara L. Goldman  
Annabelle Groh  
Iftekhar Hai  
Mikiko Huang and Marshall Stoller  
Valerie Jahan  
Hene and Dennis Kelly  
Mia Mitchell  
Chief Greg Suhr  
Rev. Joanne Tolosa

For additional information about making a gift to the Fund, including estate and tax advantaged gifts, please return the Fund's postcard or contact:

Betsy Dodd at 415-563-9891 [betsydodd@mac.com](mailto:betsydodd@mac.com) or  
Rev. James DeLange at 415-626-6497 [jimdidl@aol.com](mailto:jimdidl@aol.com)

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PLANS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL

---

2014 – 2015

**H**istory teaches us that many of the world's conflicts are rooted in religious strife. Here in San Francisco, the San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) seeks to *“celebrate our diverse faiths and spiritual traditions, bring people together to build understanding and serve our community,”* and thus, counter that historical trend. We count as our constituents the 800 congregations in the City and County of San Francisco, their respective judicatories, sectarian educational and healthcare institutions, as well as the faith-based social service agencies that provide the social safety net for our most vulnerable residents.

The SFIC is increasingly seen by civic leaders and the public as the “go-to” organization to contact to mobilize the religious communities of our City. Further, congregations and faith-based agencies look to the SFIC for resources, referral and representation. Building on our 2013-2014 accomplishments, we have strengthened our relationships with key civic agencies and non-governmental organizations, enabling us to enhance our core missions of responding to homelessness and disasters. Most importantly, we bring the religious community together to address areas of need and observance they cannot do alone.

## **ONGOING PROGRAMS**

### ***Monthly Breakfast***

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

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

For a quarter of a century the SFIC has hosted and coordinated the City's Interfaith Winter Shelter. This effort provides dinner, breakfast and a safe, warm overnight rest for up to 110 homeless men each night. Four host congregations, 40 meal providing congregations, staff provided by Episcopal Community Services and the San Francisco Night Ministry, along with help from the City's Human Services Agency, enable the shelter to operate from the Sunday before Thanksgiving through the end of February.

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

For half a decade, in what is quickly becoming a San Francisco tradition, the SFIC has assumed primary responsibility for organizing the City's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance. Our role is to coordinate the annual march over the Lefty O'Doul Bridge, which brings together "freedom riders" from the South Bay as well as those who gather from the City at the Caltrain Terminal. This march to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at Yerba Buena Gardens (YBG) pays tribute to and is symbolic of the 1965 crossing made by Dr. King over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Upon arrival at YBG, the estimated 10,000 attendees are led by the SFIC in a moving Interfaith Service. Key civic and noted dignitaries are in attendance.

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

On April 30, 2014, at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, the SFIC hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations. Past workshops have focused exclusively on the faith community's response to catastrophic disasters. This year's theme, "*Congregations Responding to Everyday Disasters,*" examined the role of the faith community in responding to the needs of those impacted by fires, floods and other regularly occurring crises. Our partners in this important event were the SF Department of Emergency Management, the SF Police and Fire Departments, the SF Human Services Agency, the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, SF CARD and The San Francisco Foundation.

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

Each year the SFIC hosts a walk for hunger around Lake Merced. Proceeds from the walk are used to help defray the rising cost of operating the Interfaith Winter Shelter. This year's WinterFaith Shelter Walk was held on May 4, 2014, and raised over \$14,000 for the shelter. Picture perfect weather, 13 teams, 100 walkers and over 20 volunteers contributed to the success of the day!

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

The SFIC partnered with the SF Bicycle Coalition to promote "*Bike to Worship 2014,*" an opportunity that encouraged congregants to pedal to their primary worship services from May 25 – June 1, 2014. Employing its vast communications network, the SFIC helped to spread the word, share the free "BIKE TO WORSHIP Toolkit" and helped to enlist registrants.

### ***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 Day. Each year we shine the spotlight on a contribution of the faith community to the life of San Francisco. In 2013 honored "*Swords to Plowshares*" as well as congregations and agencies assisting current and returning veterans and their families in the challenges they face transitioning to life in our City. We honored the late Walter Newman for his tireless efforts to catalyze the Vets to College program at City College of San Francisco. Our keynote speaker was Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Legislative Affairs of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Joan M. Mooney. At the 17th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, November 25, 2014, the SFIC will be "Celebrating 25 Years of Faith-Based Collaboration: Together We Can Do More!"

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

Each year, the SFIC sponsors San Francisco's only Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service bringing together faith leaders and congregants from the rich diversity of our City for prayer and thanksgiving. The 9th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service was hosted last year at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. This year's host for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service will be Congregation Sherith Israel. At that service an offering is collected to offset the rising cost of the San Francisco 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. Last year's service included important testimonies from an emerging young adult network calling themselves "*3<sup>rd</sup> Space*," a medical researcher noted for his groundbreaking research at UCSF Medical Center, and performers from the homeless community called "*Singers from the Street*." This year's observance will take place on the eve of World AIDS Day, Sunday, November 30, 2014, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

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

Collaborating with the SF Night Ministry, the SFIC co-hosted the "*Annual Interfaith Memorial for the Homeless Dead*." This moving observance took place on the evening of December 19, 2013 at the Civic Center Plaza. In addition to prayers for the dead offered by religious and civic leaders of many faith traditions, a solemn reading of the names of the homeless who died in the past year was offered. This year's observance will take place on Thursday, December 18, 2014 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 a calendar that lists religious holidays of the major world religions. The calendar is useful in scheduling being done by the San Francisco Unified School District, the Schools of the SF Archdiocese, various agencies of City government and the Consular Corps. This invaluable resource has sensitized these agencies and organizations to important religious observances and helped them avoid potential conflicts when scheduling events.

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

For the past five years the SFIC has assumed the role of "convener" of the CEOs of the ten major faith-based social service agencies to address issues of common concern. The SFIC not only has provided these important leaders an arena for professional collaboration, but also, was instrumental in facilitating an important editorial in the San Francisco Chronicle that brought attention to the correlation of rising rents and nonprofit displacement in our City and the ultimate impact on social service agency clients. What followed was the convening of a series of meetings of the CEOs with key governmental, media and tech leaders and the inclusion of our constituents on a City Nonprofit Displacement Taskforce. The SFIC was also invited as a stakeholder to an important Roundtable called by the Mayor to better relations between the tech and nonprofit communities. The City is also engaging the CEO Roundtable on the issue of potential services for undocumented minors arriving in our "Sanctuary City."



## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### ***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 these new structures and their inhabitants will have upon our City's transit infrastructure is a growing concern. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has asked the SFIC to convene congregation leaders of the houses of worship in the Cathedral Hill neighborhood to undertake a study of how their congregants get to worship. At the heart of this effort is a survey that will track multimodal transit patterns. The results of this investigation will allow development of pilot programs to encourage and incentivize congregants to take alternative methods of transportation to worship. If successful, public/private collaboration will be replicated in other key San Francisco neighborhoods. The SFIC is also working with the SFMTA and Board of Supervisors' staff to convene neighborhood conversations of congregation leaders, residents and business owners to address weekend parking challenges in vulnerable neighborhoods.

### ***Essential Housing Initiative***

In its role as convener, the SFIC effectively brings together prominent faith leaders of judicatories that are headquartered in San Francisco, but serve broader geographic regions. A common concern of these religious leaders is the need for a united voice to speak out on the immorality of our nation's growing income gap. In a recent unprecedented gathering, these religious leaders together with the CEOs of San Francisco's major faith-based social service agencies, viewed a segment of Robert Reich's informative documentary, "*Inequality For All*," heard a panel discussion and engaged in constructive conversation on the issue. This important gathering resulted in these key leaders committing to a unified advocacy strategy on the issue of essential housing in San Francisco and the greater Bay Area.

### ***Islamophobia***

Recipients of the ONE NATION BAY AREA MINI-GRANTS (a collaboration of the San Francisco Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Silicon Valley Foundation, Asia Pacific Foundation and Russell Foundation) for two consecutive years, the SFIC held seven dinner conversations to sensitize non-Muslims to the realities and challenges faced by American Muslims. The purpose of these dinner conversations was to directly address the phenomenon of "Islamophobia." Those well attended convenings included key faith and thought leaders of the Abrahamic traditions, who shed light on their respective faiths' perspectives, experiences and teachings on education, gender issues, immigration, racial profiling, media influence on public perception of religion and observant versus nominal adherents. The final gathering featured a screening of the documentary, "*An American Mosque*," followed by a robust panel discussion that included the filmmaker and lawyers from Muslim Advocates, whose chief work is to represent Muslim victims of racial profiling and to call out those who perpetrate such practices.

In addition, the SFIC, in partnership with United Religions Initiative (URI), utilized its vast social media network of 3,600 e-subscribers, to disseminate a toolkit to congregation leaders as a resource to combat Islamophobia in their respective faith communities. The SFIC also participated in URI's "Talking Back to Hate Campaign," a successor program, of which a key component was Islamophobia.

On October 17, 2014, the *San Francisco Chronicle* published an OPEN FORUM on religious intolerance entitled “Decry Muni Bus Ads on Islam,” co-signed by SFIC Executive Director, Michael G. Pappas and Jewish Community Relations Council Associate Executive Director, Abby Michelson Porth. In addition to responding to anti-Muslim ads being run on SFMTA Muni buses, this work also incorporated themes from recently issued SFIC statements on anti-Semitism and the antithetical teachings of the Islamic State group.

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

The SFIC’s Executive Director is periodically called upon to moderate presentations at the Commonwealth Club of California’s Middle East Forum. On February 14, 2014, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas, moderated a presentation entitled “*Democracy in the Muslim World*” that featured the President of the Alliance for Shared Values, Alp Aslandogan. This particular presentation considered how the Turkish experience could be a guide to emerging democracies in the Middle East.

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Annual Interfaith Town Hall***

With growing concern for the well-being of those incarcerated in our City Jail, as well as for the transition of the anticipated mass of those re-entering society as the result of the passage of important legislation, the SFIC partnered with the Sheriff’s Department to co-host the “*1<sup>st</sup> Annual Interfaith Town Hall.*” Attended by over 80 faith leaders, this forum addressed issues of clergy access to the jails, programs for inmates and re-entry transition programs. A follow-up orientation workshop for participants on specific policies and programs is anticipated in the coming months.

### ***Gun Buy-Back Program***

The SFIC collaborated with the City and County of San Francisco and the Ingleside Community Police Advisory Board in promoting two highly successful GUN BUY-BACK programs. This program, part of a broader initiative to curb gun violence in our City, took place on two Saturdays – April 5, 2014 and November 1, 2014. With guaranteed anonymity, gun owners were invited to drive up and leave unloaded firearms in working condition in the trunks of their cars. In return, they received \$100 for firearms and \$200 for assault weapons. The result of these safe and community-based events was the collection of hundreds of firearms, including assault weapons.

### ***Pathways to Citizenship***

The SFIC was invited to partner with the SF Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs and the US Department of Homeland Security’s US Citizenship & Immigration Services’ San Francisco District Office in co-hosting the upcoming December 6, 2014, San Francisco “*Pathways to Citizenship Workshop.*” As trusted stakeholders, clergy are in the unique position to help identify and inform eligible candidates of this program. This series of workshops is designed to fast track such candidates by providing free citizenship consultation and fee waiver assistance. In addition to providing notice of the workshop through the SFIC list serve and devoting the SFIC October 2014 Monthly Breakfast to briefing congregation leaders on the program, the SFIC was instrumental in securing the University of San Francisco as a host venue and is working to enlist volunteers for the event.

### ***Children at the Border***

Communities of faith have historically taken a central leadership role in assisting immigrants fleeing persecution from their countries of origin. Arguably, it was the faith community's efforts in offering refuge to Central American political asylum seekers that led to San Francisco becoming a Sanctuary City. In attempting to offer a welcome to the countless undocumented minors from Central America crossing the border, the City reached out to the SFIC to engage its constituent congregations, judicatories and faith-based social service agencies to provide services and assistance. In response, the SFIC facilitated a highly constructive briefing by the City's primary coordinator/strategist on this issue, at which, faith-based social service agency directors, foundation funders and others engaged in interfaith immigration efforts responded with their firsthand perspectives as well as the services they are offering these young clients. The SFIC reaffirms its commitment to this public/private collaboration as developments unfold.

### ***Interfaith Concert***

Song is a metaphor that artistically expresses the possibility for harmonious peace. As part of the SFIC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, a concert was held at the historic First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco on Sunday, November 9, 2014. In addition to a musical presentation by the host congregation's choir, works were performed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; a Buddhist singer; St Dominic's Schola Cantorum; Taneen Sufi Music Ensemble; Kol Emanu-El Choir complemented by the congregation's Cantor Roslyn Barak; and the Providence Baptist Church Choir.

### ***Concluding Thoughts***

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

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

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

# MEAL PROVIDERS INTERFAITH WINTER SHELTER

---

**2013 – 2014**

Bayview Mission  
Bethany United Methodist Church  
Brahma Kumaris  
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Church Divinity School of the Pacific  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Bay/Golden Gate/Sunset Wards)  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Corpus Christi Church/St. Vincent de Paul Society  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco  
Girl Scouts of San Francisco/Morse Lodge  
Grace Cathedral  
John Gwynn and Friends  
Knights of St. Francis  
Mission Dolores  
Noe Valley Ministry  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral  
Pacifica Institute  
Presbyterian Church in Chinatown  
San Francisco Interfaith Council  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
St. Francis Episcopal Church  
St. Ignatius Catholic Church  
St. James Episcopal Church  
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church  
St. Vincent de Paul Society/St. Mary's Cathedral Conference  
Swedenborgian Church

# PLANNING COMMITTEE

## INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING PRAYER BREAKFAST

---

Betsy Dodd, *Calvary Presbyterian Church*  
Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director, *SFIC*  
Joan M. Peponis-Rinde, *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*  
Lloyd Rinde, *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*  
Marilyn Saner, Co-Chair, *Episcopal Church of the Incarnation*  
Rita R. Semel, Past Chair, *SFIC, Congregation Emanu-El*  
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, *Congregation Sherith Israel*  
Fr. Kenneth Westray, Co-Chair, *St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church*  
Cynthia S. Zamboukos, Program/Administrative Associate, *SFIC*  
Mary James Zamboukos, *St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

### SPECIAL THANKS

Sr. Kyoko Kimura  
Sr. Elizabeth Padilla  
Br. Mario Reyes  
*Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center*

Catering Department and Staff  
*Hotel Kabuki*

Thanksgiving Coffee Company

Jeanne Collins and Neva Turoff  
*Sign Interpreters*



# A TASTE OF PEACE

---



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

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

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

To find out more about how you can bring this coffee into your community please visit: [www.deliciouspeace.com](http://www.deliciouspeace.com)





# SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL

---

## Board of Directors

**2014 - 2015**

Rev. Maggi Henderson, Chair, *Old First Presbyterian Church*

G.L. Hodge, Vice Chair, *Providence Baptist Church*

Nick Andrade, Chief Financial Officer, *Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church*

Abby Michelson Porth, Secretary, *Jewish Community Relations Council*

Fr. Arturo Albano, *Mission Dolores*

Fatih Ates, *Pacifica Institute*

Rev. Richard C. Baker, Esq., *Third Baptist Church*

Sr. Sukanya Belsare, *Brahma Kumaris*

Major Robert H. Birks, *The Salvation Army*

Betsy Dodd, *Calvary Presbyterian Church*

Faral El Abed, *Muslim*

Richard H. Harris, Jr., *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*

Rev. Ronald Kobata, *Buddhist Church of San Francisco*

The Rev. Andy Lobban, *Grace Cathedral*

Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto, *Glide Memorial Church*

Rabbi Lawrence Raphael, *Congregation Sherith Israel*

Kaushik Roy, *The Shanti Project*

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

Dr. Sally Wei, *Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation*

Fr. Kenneth Westray, *St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church*



***“Together We Can Do More!”***