

# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

*"Education is education. We should learn everything and then choose which path to follow. Education is neither Eastern nor Western, it is human." ... Malala Yousafzai*

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." ... Mhatma Gandhi*

*"Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." ... Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"Find yourself a teacher to ask questions, acquire for yourself a friend to challenge your answers, and judge every person on the positive side." ... Pirke Avot (Sayings of the Fathers)*

*"The mind is everything. What you think, you become." ... Buddha*

*"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me and I'll understand." ... Native American Saying*

*"Education is education. We should learn everything and then choose which path to follow. Education is neither Eastern nor Western, it is human." ... Malala Yousafzai*

*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." ... Mhatma Gandhi*

*"Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." ... Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"Find yourself a teacher to ask questions, acquire for yourself a friend to challenge your answers, and judge every person on the positive side." ... Pirke Avot (Sayings of the Fathers)*

*"The mind is everything. What you think, you become." ... Buddha*

*"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me and I'll understand." ... Native American Saying*

*"Education is education. We should learn everything and then choose which path to follow. Education is neither Eastern nor Western, it is human." ... Malala Yousafzai*

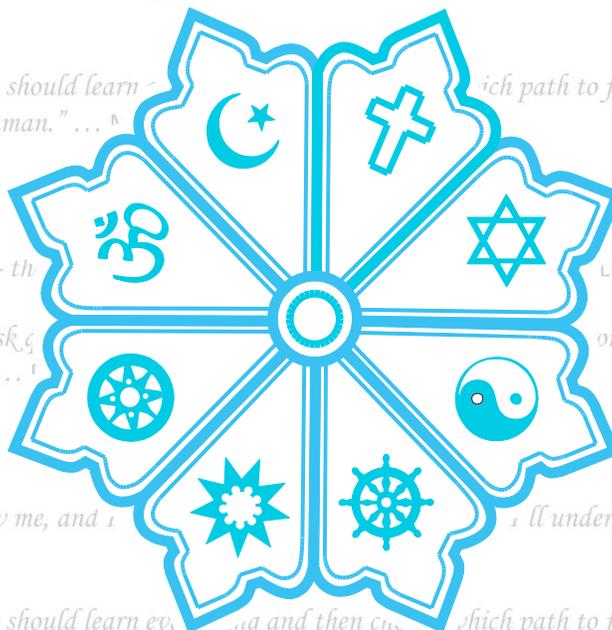
*"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." ... Mhatma Gandhi*

*"Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education." ... Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*"Find yourself a teacher to ask questions, acquire for yourself a friend to challenge your answers, and judge every person on the positive side." ... Pirke Avot (Sayings of the Fathers)*

*"The mind is everything. What you think, you become." ... Buddha*

*"Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me and I'll understand." ... Native American Saying*



**Tuesday, November 21, 2017**  
**7:00 am – 9:00 am**  
**Hotel Kabuki, San Francisco**



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

## **San Francisco Interfaith Council**

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

*Executive Director*

P.O. Box 29055

San Francisco, CA 94129

415-474-1321

Email: [mgpappas@sfinterfaithcouncil.org](mailto:mgpappas@sfinterfaithcouncil.org)

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

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

*Welcome to the*

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

---

The San Francisco Interfaith Council welcomes you to its milestone 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast. The Council exists to serve and give voice to our City's 800 congregations, their respective judicatories, and the faith-based social service agencies that provide the safety net for San Francisco's most vulnerable residents.

The Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast is our major event of the year, when representatives of the faith community, civic leaders and residents come together to give thanks for the gifts bestowed on our City and to pray for the well being of all of our residents.

Each year at this breakfast, we shine the spotlight on the important contributions the religious community makes to the life of San Francisco. This year's theme is "*Communities of Faith Nurturing Education in our City*" and we honor philanthropist, Clint Reilly, for his efforts in pioneering the Bay Scholars program that enables promising low-income students to have access to our City's faith-based high schools. We also recognize the important role communities of faith play in providing educational opportunities to our City's young people.

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

# Program

---

**Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell**

*Sensei Elaine Donlin*

Buddhist Church of San Francisco

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

*Fatih Ferdi Ates*

Pacifica Institute & Turkish-American Cultural Center

**Interfaith Statement (page 11)**

*Rev. Maggi Henderson, Pastor*

Old First Presbyterian Church

**Welcome by Prayer Breakfast Chair**

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

**Prayer of Thanks for the Meal**

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

*Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone, Archbishop of San Francisco*

*The Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale, Lead Pastor, St. Mark's Lutheran Church*

*~ Breakfast is served at your table ~*

**Introduction of Special Guests**

*Kaushik Roy, Chair, San Francisco Interfaith Council*

**Remarks**

*Mayor Edwin M. Lee*

**Song: "Morning Has Broken" (sung by all - see insert)**

Lyrics by Eleanor Farjeon and Music "Bunessan" (traditional Scottish song)

Led by *Cantor Marsha Attie, Congregation Emanu-El*

**Remarks**

*Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director*

San Francisco Interfaith Council

*Program (continued)*

**Introduction of Honoree Clint Reilly**

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

**Acceptance Remarks**

*Clint Reilly*

**Presentation to Honoree Clint Reilly**

*Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi*  
Vice Provost for Diversity & Community Engagement, University of San Francisco and  
President, San Francisco Public Library Commission  
*Luis Herrera*, City Librarian, San Francisco Public Library

**Reading of Sacred Texts Related to Education**

*Hala K. Hijazi*, Commissioner  
San Francisco Human Rights Commission

*Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern*, Senior Minister  
The First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco

*Nancy Sheftel-Gomes*  
Education Director and Interim Executive Director  
Congregation Sherith Israel

*Camilla Smith*  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

*Rev. Jisan Tova Green*  
San Francisco Zen Center

**Special Recognition of San Francisco  
Faith-Based Educational Institutions and Programs (page 8)**

**Special Recognition of Ken Reggio**  
Executive Director Emeritus, Episcopal Community Services

*Kaushik Roy*, Chair and *Michael G. Pappas*, Executive Director  
San Francisco Interfaith Council

*Program (continued)*

**Support for the San Francisco Interfaith Council**

*Kaushik Roy, Chair*

San Francisco Interfaith Council

**Song: "Hallelujah"** (sung by all - see insert)

Lyrics and Music by Leonard Cohen

Led by *Cantor Marsha Attie*, Congregation Emanu-El

**Introduction of The Honorable Nancy Pelosi**

*Rita R. Semel, Past Chair*

San Francisco Interfaith Council

**Remarks**

*The Honorable Nancy Pelosi*

Democratic Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

**"The Prayer of St. Francis"** (page 12)

Read by all

Led by *Rev. Jay Williams, Ph.D.*, Lead Pastor, GLIDE

Assisted by *Markensy Jacques*

St. Benedict Parish for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired

**Closing Remarks by Prayer Breakfast Chair**

**Song: "Let There Be Peace on Earth"**

(sung by all - see insert)

Original Lyrics and Music by Jill Jackson Miller and Sy Miller

Led by *Cantor Marsha Attie*, Congregation Emanu-El

**Closing Prayer**

*Rabbi Beth Singer, Senior Rabbi*

Congregation Emanu-El

# *Honoree*

## *Clint Reilly*

---



Throughout his career, Clint Reilly has been driven by twin passions of social justice and civic engagement. A former seminary student steeped in the Catholic tradition of activism and giving, Clint's work as a political consultant, business owner and philanthropist has been rooted in the idea that the greatest act of charity is to help create a just society.

Clint founded Clinton Reilly Campaigns in the 1970s and helped pioneer a new profession of campaign and political consulting in California. Over the course of his career, he helped elect a series of leaders who would go on to become champions for families, the environment and the poor, including local luminaries such as Nancy Pelosi and Dianne Feinstein.

Today, Clint—who ran his last campaign in 1995—is the founder and owner of a diversified family of commercial real estate, hospitality and media businesses headquartered in downtown San Francisco's landmark Merchants Exchange building. His companies reflect his commitment to the community, contributing significantly to a wide range of NGOs through direct giving, partnerships and media exposure.

In addition to his wide-ranging charitable contributions via the Reilly Family Foundation, Clint is most proud of his work to extend high-quality educational opportunities to disadvantaged Bay Area youth. Clint is the founder and president of Bay Scholars, a non-profit which provides scholarships and support services to nearly 400 inner-city youth to attend college-prep Catholic high schools throughout the Bay Area.

Clint currently sits on the advisory boards of UC Berkeley's Robert T. Matsui Center for Politics & Public Service and the Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at UC Davis, as well as the University of San Francisco President's advisory board. He served on the Board of Directors for Catholic Charities of San Francisco from 1997-2006, including as President of the Board—the first layperson to hold the post—from 2002-2006. Clint also served as president of the board of directors of the Oakland Military Institute, a successful charter school in northwest Oakland.

Clint lives in the Sea Cliff neighborhood of San Francisco with his wife, Janet, and their daughters, Jill and Ava.

# *Special Recognition of San Francisco*

## *Faith-Based Educational Institutions and Programs*

---

The San Francisco Interfaith Council is pleased to honor faith-based communities that provide education and support to San Francisco students. In so many ways, these faith-based programs nurture and guide our students to academic and life success, from pre-school through college. Below is a partial list of the San Francisco schools and support programs run by faith communities for the lasting benefit of our children and our civic society. We are grateful for your work.

<b>Schools</b>	<b>Grades</b>
Aleph Bet School	K – 5
Archbishop Riordan High School	9 – 12
Bais Menachem Yeshiva Day School	K – 8
The Brandeis School of San Francisco	K – 8
Brotherhood Way Preschool (JCCSF)	PK
Calvary Presbyterian Church Nursery School	PK
Cambridge International Preparatory School	6 – 12
Cathedral School for Boys	K – 8
Community Preschool at Grace Cathedral	PK
Congregation Adath Israel Preschool	PK
Congregation Beth Sholom Family Preschool	PK
Congregation Emanu-El Preschool	PK
Congregation Sherith Israel Preschool	PK
Convent of the Sacred Heart School	PK/K – 8
Convent of the Sacred Heart High School	9 – 12
Cornerstone Academy – Cambridge Campus	6 – 8
Cornerstone Academy – Lawton Campus	PK-K
Cornerstone Academy – Silver Campus	PK/K – 5
De Marillac Academy	PK/4 – 8
Ecole Notre Dame des Victoires School	PK/K – 8
Forest Hill Christian Preschool	PK
Friends of St. Francis Childcare Center	PK
Gan Noe Preschool	PK
GLIDE Foundation	PK
Growing Place Family Preschool and Parenting Center	PK
Helen Diller Family Preschool (JCCSF)	PK
Holy Family Day Home	PK/K-1
PK (Pre-school)	
K (Kindergarten)	

**Schools** (continued)**Grades**

Holy Name School	PK/K – 8
Immaculate Conception Academy	9 – 12
Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth & Childcare Center	PK-K
Jewish Community High School of the Bay	9 – 12
Kzv Armenian School	PK-8
Lakeside Presbyterian Center for Children	PK-K
Living Waters International Ministry Christian School	K – 12
Lutheran Church of our Savior Preschool	PK
Mercy High School	9 – 12
Mission Dolores Academy	PK/K – 8
Our Lady of the Visitacion School	PK/K – 8
Rise University Preparatory	6 – 8
Rosenberg Early Childhood Center (JCCSF)	PK
Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory	9 – 12
Saint Anthony-Immaculate Conception School	PK/K – 8
Saint Brigid School	PK/K – 8
Saint James School	PK/K – 8
Saint Peter School	PK/K – 8
Saint Philip School	PK/K – 8
Saint Thomas the Apostle School	PK/K – 8
Saint Veronica School	K – 8
San Francisco Adventist School	K – 8
San Francisco Christian School	K – 12
San Francisco City Academy	K – 8
San Francisco Islamic School	PK-3
School of the Epiphany	PK/K – 8
Shalom School	PK
St. Anne School	PK/K – 8
St. Brendan School	PK/K – 8
St. Cecilia School	K – 8
St. Charles Borromeo School	PK/K – 8
St. Finn Barr School	PK/K – 8
St. Francis Episcopal Church Preschool	PK
St. Gabriel School	PK/K – 8
St. Ignatius College Preparatory	9 – 12
St. James Episcopal Church Preschool	PK
St. John of San Francisco Orthodox Academy	K – 12
St. John School	PK/K – 8
St. Mary's School	PK/K – 8
St. Monica School	PK/K – 8

PK (Pre-school)

K (Kindergarten)

**Schools** (continued)**Grades**

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Preschool	PK
St. Paul School	PK/K – 8
St. Stephen Catholic School	PK/K – 8
St. Thomas More School	PK/K – 8
St. Vincent de Paul School	PK/K – 8
Star of the Sea School	PK/K – 8
Starlight Christian Preschool	PK
Sts. Peter and Paul School	PK/K – 8
Stuart Hall for Boys	PK/K – 8
Stuart Hall High School	9 – 12
Sunset Bible School	1 – 11
Tiny Knights Preschool	PK
Utopia Preschool	PK
West Portal Lutheran School	K – 8
Zion Lutheran School	K – 8

PK (Pre-school)

K (Kindergarten)

*(School list courtesy of California Department of Education)*

**After School Programs**

Back on Track (a collaboration between Congregation Emanu-El and Third Baptist Church)

Cameron House

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities Maureen & Craig Sullivan Youth Center

Christ United Presbyterian Church

Episcopal Community Services Canon Barcus Community House

Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth & Childcare Center

Jewish Coalition for Literacy

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco Havurah Youth Center

Jewish Vocational Service Youth Programs

Providence Foundation

Temple United Methodist Church Tutorial Ministry

True Sunshine Episcopal Church

**Universities**

University of San Francisco

**College Scholarships:** Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Providence Foundation, Third Baptist Church, and many more.

*This is a partial list only and we apologize for any omissions.*

## *Interfaith Statement*

---

**T**his is an interfaith community.

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

## *Prayer of St. Francis*

---

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

# *This Breakfast's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

---

How did the Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast get started? Twenty years ago, Mayor Willie Brown was interested in holding a City-wide prayer breakfast. He talked to his own pastor at Jones United Methodist Church, Dr. James McCray, who in turn contacted the San Francisco Interfaith Council. Working with the Mayor's Office, the Interfaith Council hosted the first prayer breakfast on November 24, 1998, at the Cathedral Hill Hotel (now the new CPMC Hospital on Van Ness). There has been an annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast ever since.

Over the years, the breakfast's focus has broadened to honor faith communities for their specific contributions to civic life, such as preventing violence, feeding the hungry, environmental leadership, and protecting immigrants. Below is a list of themes over twenty years, highlighting the beneficial work of faith communities in our City.

## **1998 – 2017**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>
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

# *Sponsors for Today's Breakfast*

---

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



## **Archdiocese of SAN FRANCISCO**

### **Table Sponsors - \$1,250**

Nicholas Andrade and James McDermott  
The Boldt Company  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Catholic Charities  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Rev. James DeLange  
Episcopal Community Services  
Episcopal Diocese of California  
First United Lutheran Church  
GLIDE

Grace Cathedral  
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
Palo Alto University  
San Francisco District Attorney's Office  
San Francisco State University  
The Shanti Project  
Sutter Health CPMC  
The Salvation Army  
Thompson | Dorfman  
United Methodist Church, CA-NV Conference  
United Religions Initiative  
University of San Francisco

### **Sustaining Sponsors - \$500**

Betsy Dodd and Jim Boddy  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco  
Ground Floor Public Affairs  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

# *We Thank Those Who Have Supported the San Francisco Interfaith Council in 2017*

---

## **Agencies**

Buddhist Tzi Chi Foundation  
Catholic Charities  
Episcopal Community Services  
GLIDE Foundation  
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center  
Institute on Aging  
Jewish Vocational & Career Counseling Service

Lutheran Social Services  
Religious Witness with Homeless People  
St. Anthony Foundation  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
The Salvation Army  
San Francisco Night Ministry  
Tabernacle Community Development Corp.

## **Congregations**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Christ Church, Lutheran  
Christ United Presbyterian Church  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
First United Lutheran Church  
Forest Hill Christian Church  
Grace Cathedral

Jones Memorial United Methodist Church  
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
Old First Presbyterian Church  
San Francisco Friends Meeting  
St. Francis Lutheran Church Endowment – SF  
St. Ignatius Parish  
St. Mary's Cathedral  
St. Paulus Lutheran Church  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church  
Unity Spiritual Center of SF

## **Corporations**

Amazon  
GAP Inc.

## **Foundations**

Walter & Elise Haas Fund  
The George and Judy Marcus Family Foundation  
The Morrison & Foerster Foundation  
Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Foundation  
of the Jewish Community Federation & Endowment Fund  
The San Francisco Foundation  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

## 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  
The Northern California Board of Rabbis

## Individuals

Helen Allen	Sally Durgan
Tamara Alliston and Jacob Johnson	Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale
Nicholas Andrade	Margi English and Brett Sales
Ximena Arias	Lisa Erdberg and Dennis Gibbons
Fatih Ferdi Ates	Bahtiyar Erdogan
Col. (Ret) Richard and Mrs. Maureen Bergson	Erica Ernst
Sr. Sukanya Belsare	Maria Flocas
Jane Bernard-Powers	Rev. Victor Floyd
Mary Ann Berthoud	Yeeching Fung
Laura Bertone	Pa Gianni
Zahra Billoo	Phil Ginsburg
Robin Brasso	Aimee Golant
Leona Bridges	Judith Gold Bloom
The Rev. Gwen Buehrens and	Barbara Grieco
Rev. John Buehrens	Annabelle Groh
Brian Cahill	Brent Haas
Sr. Cathy Cahur, SC	Iftekhar Hai
Tessa Callejo and William Black	Sharron Harper
Betti Caramucci	Mary Liz Harris
Shelley Carroll	Marilee Hearn
Linda Chafetz	Rev. Maggi Henderson
Betty Chin	Sheriff Vicki Hennessy
Alexa Cole	Cathy and Ron Hermanson
Diana Conan	Hala K. Hijazi
Deborah Dacumos and Kenneth Eisen	Charles Hinger and Jay Beatty
Jack Dairiki	G.L. Hodge
Elizabeth Darr	Katherine Hreib
Maria Tanya de Guzman-Viera	Aileen Huang and Jeff Kositsky
Rev. James DeLange	Catherine Huston
Betsy Dodd and Jim Boddy	Mary Louise and John Jaffray

## Individual Supporters (continued)

Elie Abi Jaoude  
Elizabeth Jasny  
Arlene Jech  
William Jeong  
Martha Johnson  
Seigen Johnson  
Abigail Karlin-Resnick  
Joshua Karlin-Resnick  
The Rev. Victor Kazanjian, Jr.  
Colette Kelly  
Celine Kennelly  
Rev. Pat Kleinberg  
Rev. Ronald Kobata  
Anne Koch  
Terry Kraus  
Anne Kronenberg  
Iris Lee  
Linda Lee and Harry Chuck  
Mark Lieu  
Alice Lindstrom Davis  
Sonja and Peter Lobban  
Vangie Lopez  
Mary Lovely  
Rev. Debra Low-Skinner  
A. Lueck  
Daniel Lurie  
Danielle Macias  
Daniel Kohanski and Jean Marcucci  
Lisa Mayer  
Cora McCoy  
Judith McCullough  
Fr. Anthony McGuire  
Shireen McSpadden  
Cheryl and Fred Merrick  
Sylvia Mestayer-Collins  
Roger Miller  
Russ Miller and Kirk Pessner  
Enrique Mireles  
Rev. Ron and Mrs. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda  
Danny Montemayor  
Lou Montoya  
Maraya Morgan  
Sr. Marilyn Morgan  
Richard Morten  
Mary Molly Mullaney  
Ismael Nass-Duce  
Dr. Raquel Newman  
Nancy Nielsen  
Tom Nolan  
Deborah Novachick  
Christopher O'Grady  
Fr. P. Gerard O'Rourke  
Lisa Ochs and Lea Salem  
Muhammad Olabi  
Marlene Olivencia  
Rev. Monique Ortiz  
Karen Pace  
Katherine D. Pappas  
Michael G. Pappas  
Dr. & Mrs. David Pating  
Mario Paz  
Dr. & Mrs. W. Gordon Peacock  
Lisa Pearson  
Robert T. Phillips  
Orion Pitts  
Abby and Jason Porth  
Debbie Raphael  
Rabbi Lawrence Raphael  
Maria and Philippe Rapin  
Stephanie Rapp  
Jacob Ratinoff  
Susana Razo  
Janet and Clint Reilly  
Ed Reiskin  
Shawn Rosenmoss  
Kaushik Roy  
Joel Rubinstein  
Marilyn Saner  
Ed Sattizahn  
Cathy and Chris Schember  
Mindy Schweitzer-Rawls  
Rita R. Semel

## Individual Supporters (continued)

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes  
Vickie Sherman  
Fairy Simms  
F. Michael Simons  
Fr. River Sims  
Suzanne Smith  
Michael Somers  
The Rev. Mark Stanger  
Blaine Stoddard  
Stephanie Strickland and Douglas Pfaff  
Dr. Robert Lee Stuart  
Anna Sylvester  
Juanita Tamayo Lott  
Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer  
Katherine Ann Thompson

Judith Vaughn  
Dr. Mary J. Wardell  
Dr. Sally Wei  
Zeke Weiner  
Kathleen Wesner  
Fr. Kenneth Westray  
Sarah Wong  
Jean Wright  
Anna Yang  
Moya, Troy, Sophia, Alexandra Zamboukos  
Rev. Dr. Christopher and Mrs. Zacharias  
Cynthia S. Zamboukos  
Mary J. Zamboukos  
Steve Zeiger  
Xiong Zhou

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

---

## **2017 Supporters**

Ardis and Alfred Breslauer  
Betti Caramucci  
Kathleen Cardinal  
Catholic Charities  
Diana Conan  
Jerilyn Gelt  
Chief Joanne Hayes-White  
Dr. Helen Mikiko Huang and Dr. Marshall Stoller  
Dan Joraanstad and Bob Hermann Faith in the Future Fund of Horizons Foundation  
Nanette Lee Miller  
Robin Morjikian  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Anne Wilson and Richard Cohn

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

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

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

---

2017 – 2018

## **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 judiciaries, 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 15 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."

### ***Navigation Center***

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

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

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

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

The overwhelming success of this pilot has had significant outcomes. Appreciating the inter-disciplinary collaboration inherent in the design of the Navigation Center model, more specifically the streamlining of services to clients, Mayor Lee subsequently established the new Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. Additionally, the Navigation Center concept quickly became a model for the nation and was so embraced by city government that it catalyzed its replication in numerous neighborhoods.

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

Entering our 29<sup>th</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 was able to remain open through the end of March 2017. Extending this year's shelter was made possible, in large part, thanks to our partners at Episcopal Community Services and congregations who volunteered to prepare and serve meals.

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

For seven 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 "Today's Youth ... Tomorrow's Leaders." Young people of diverse religious, ethnic and racial backgrounds were selected to be chief participants in the service. In addition, special recognition was paid to Carletta Jackson-Lane, J.D., Executive Director of Sojourner Truth Foster Family Service Agency, Mattie Scott, Founder and Executive Director of Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation, and Elizabeth Torres, Administrative Advisor for Healing 4 Our Families & Our Nation. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/ezieRw>

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

On November 4, 2016 congregation leaders attended a highly interactive course exploring emerging research in neuroscience, leadership and decision-making. Brain imaging studies were used to explain how we lead in faith communities and build relationships across boundaries. The course pinpointed the areas where behaviors, attitudes, and practices can be affected by unconscious processes and subtleties. The course reviewed how unconscious decision-making can affect assessments of character, morality, warmth, authenticity, intelligence, threat, and competence. Participants learned how empathizing with those from other communities, collaborating with congregants, and implementing new practices can all be helped or hurt by conditioned dispositions. The course identified ways to increase fairness guided by science.

### ***SFIC Core Mission of Disaster Preparedness***

- **Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations**

In May 2016 at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, the SFIC hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations entitled "*Crisis to Resilience: Congregations Understanding and Responding to Climate Change Impacts.*" Our partners in this event were the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, Archdiocese of San Francisco, California Interfaith Power & Light, Neighborhood Empowerment Network, SF CARD (Community Agencies Responding to Disaster), SF Department of Emergency Management, SF Department of Public Health, SF Human Services Agency, The Salvation Army, and The San Francisco Foundation. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/DokvNp>

Plans are underway for the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations to be held in the Spring of 2018.

SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to make a presentation on the significance and role of communities of faith in the midst of disaster at the Epicenter 2017 Summit, an interactive and experiential learning environment with a unique focus on real world scenarios. He also presented at the San Francisco Joint

Counter Terrorism Awareness Workshop in July 2016, a nationwide initiative designed to improve the ability of local jurisdictions to prepare for, protect against, and respond to terrorist attacks.

In the aftermath of the devastation caused in Texas by Hurricane Harvey on August 26, 2017, the SFIC issued an email communiqué encouraging houses of worship to make an offering to support the critical and time sensitive on-the-ground aid work being undertaken, by way of the comprehensive list of humanitarian aid/relief NGOs resources link on the SFIC website. <http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/humanitarian-aid>

- **SFIC's Role in Responding to Extreme Heat Warning (September 1-3, 2017)**

Anticipating the extreme heat warning forecasted by the National Weather Service over the weekend of September 1-3, 2017, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, called upon the SFIC to reach out to its vast constituency to offer key health precautions and encourage congregation leaders to make their houses of worship accessible for those needing respite from the heat. Additionally, at the request of the coordinator for Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster (VOAD), the SFIC facilitated a time-sensitive connection which enabled the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco to authorize and allow its facility to be listed among key strategic cooling stations in the official City advisory.

### ***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. Last year's Walk was scheduled for October 30, 2016 but was cancelled due to inclement weather and safety concerns for our walkers. Nonetheless, sponsorships and pledges raised over \$18,000 for the shelter. The inclement weather was a powerful reminder of conditions faced by the homeless on our streets and our duty to shelter and feed them.

It was decided by both the Planning Committee in concert with the SFIC Board of Directors that the next WinterFaith Shelter Walk should be scheduled for the Spring of 2018.

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

The SFIC partners with the SF Bicycle Coalition to promote "*Bike to Worship*," an opportunity that encourages congregants to pedal to their worship services. Employing its large communications network, the SFIC helps to spread the word, share the free "BIKE TO WORSHIP Toolkit," and enlist registrants. Once again, the SF Bicycle Coalition and Walk San Francisco (an organization whose focus is pedestrian safety) joined forces for "*Walk & Bike to Worship*" Week from May 27 – June 4, 2017. It was an enormous success with 28 congregations participating and included the "3rd Annual Interfaith Ride."

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

Our major event of the year is the SFIC Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, attended by 400 people on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Each year we shine the spotlight on a significant contribution made by the

faith community to San Francisco. At the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on November 22, 2016 our theme was *"The Soul of the City: Faith and Social Justice in San Francisco."* We honored Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer for their faith-based leadership in social justice and San Francisco congregations for their tireless work in realizing a more just society. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/8kt2ic>

At the milestone 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on November 21, 2017 the theme will focus on *"Communities of Faith Nurturing Education in our City,"* at which we will honor philanthropist Clint Reilly for his efforts in pioneering the "Bay Scholars" program that enables promising low-income students to have access to and flourish in our City's faith-based high schools. We will also be recognizing and honoring the significant role communities of faith continue to play in offering educational opportunities to our City's young people.

### ***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 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service on Thursday, November 24, 2016 was hosted by the San Francisco Swedenborgian Church. The offering collected at this service is used to offset the costs of the Interfaith Winter Shelter. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/WoPNzP>. This year's 13th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service on Thursday, November 23, 2017 will be hosted by Old First Presbyterian Church.

### ***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, *"Where Our Hope Is,"* was held on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and was organized by Calvary Presbyterian Church, Old First Presbyterian Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the SFIC. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/ECdUFR>. This year's service will be held once again at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav on Sunday, December 3, 2017.

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

Every December, collaborating with the SF Night Ministry, the SFIC hosts the *"Interfaith Memorial for the Homeless Dead"* at the Civic Center. Religious leaders of different faiths offer prayers for the homeless who have died during the past year, and their names are read. Last year's memorial service took place on Wednesday evening, December 21, 2016 at the Civic Center Plaza. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/7Csgg1>. This year's service will be held on Thursday evening, December 21, 2017 at the Civic Center Plaza.

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

For the past eight years, the SFIC has regularly convened the leaders of the 15 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>

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**

### ***Faith Community & City: Coming Together to Support Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities***

In collaboration with the San Francisco Department of Adult & Aging Services, the San Francisco Interfaith Council hosted a half-day workshop on Monday, October 16, 2017, at which congregation leaders shared their challenges and needs for ministering to older adults and persons with disabilities, as well as being briefed on how to access important City services available to these vulnerable sectors in their congregations.

### ***UN International Day of Peace Interfaith Service***

On Thursday, September 21, 2017, the San Francisco Interfaith Council, in collaboration with the Interfaith Center at the Presidio and United Religions Initiative, will host an Interfaith Service in the Presidio Chapel in observance of the United Nations International Day of Peace. Central to this observance will be a special honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "*Roots of Peace: Mines to Vines*" for its tireless efforts to eradicate landmines worldwide. Program may be viewed at: <https://goo.gl/RoirHw>

### ***SFIC's Role in Civic Response to "Patriot Prayer" Rally***

The San Francisco Interfaith Council (SFIC) played a critical role in our City's civic response to the "Patriot Prayer" rally, permitted and scheduled by Federal authorities to take place on August 26, 2017, at San Francisco's Crissy Field. At the outset, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to join SF Mayor Edwin M. Lee, SF Police Department Chief William Scott and Board of Supervisors President London Breed at a briefing, followed by a press conference, that took place at the Mayor's Office on August 15, 2017. The Council then issued a statement entitled "*SF Faith Leaders Stand United Against Hate in Charlottesville and Our Back Yard*," signed by 53 prominent interfaith partners. Pappas was also invited to be part of a special briefing for federal, state and local law enforcement, as well as related departments and agencies, at the SF Department of Emergency Management's Incident Command Center. Additionally, the SFIC was called upon by both the Mayor's staff as well as senior clergy from Congregation Emanu-El and the Episcopal Diocese/Grace Cathedral to extend invitations to key religious leaders to participate at the primary City Hall religious leaders briefing, civic rally, as well at interfaith services at those two anchor houses of worship. The Council's vast communication network was utilized to promote these events and keep its constituency apprised of precautions being taken to ensure public safety. These collective efforts resulted in the impactful presence of San Francisco's religious leaders and their congregants at key civic and interfaith response gatherings.

#### **Related Links:**

- Statement Issued Link: "*SF Faith Leaders Stand United Against Hate in Charlottesville and Our Back Yard*" <http://conta.cc/2i3YeJS>
- Pam David, Executive Director, and Stephanie Rapp, Senior Program Officer for Jewish Life and Special Projects, of the Walter & Elise Haas Fund (a major SFIC funder), issued the following blog post on their website and listserve: <http://haassr.org/blog/following-charlottesville/>
- Press conference link: [http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=18&clip\\_id=28555](http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=18&clip_id=28555)
- ABC 7 TV news coverage link: <http://abc7news.com/politics/sf-city-leaders-oppose-right-wing-rally-permitted-for-crissy-fields/2311129/>

- KRON 4 TV news coverage link: <http://kron4.com/2017/08/15/san-francisco-mayor-wants-alt-right-rally-blocked/>
- SF Examiner article “SF Lawmakers Demand Feds Deny Permit for Patriot Prayer Rally”: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/sf-lawmakers-demand-feds-deny-permit-patriot-prayer-rally/>
- Email blast sent regarding “Interfaith Gathering Against Hate” hosted by Congregation Emanu-el on Friday, August 25. Link to email blast: <http://conta.cc/2g09LzO>
- Email blast sent “SFIC Encourages Participation in Peaceful Weekend Gatherings” at Civic Center Plaza on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm; at Congregation Emanu-el on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm; and at Grace Cathedral on Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm. Link to email blast: <http://conta.cc/2gatc9k>
- Email blast sent regarding SFMTA Weekend Transit and Traffic Advisory. Link to email blast: <http://conta.cc/2vcTlpr>
- A powerful spirit of love, unity and community filled Congregation Emanu-El on Friday evening, August 25, 2017. The San Francisco Interfaith Council partnered with Congregation Emanu-El, the Jewish Community Relations Council, San Francisco based Jewish Community Federation and Jewish Community Center of San Francisco in hosting a special Shabbat service called an “Interfaith Gathering Against Hate.” Over 1,200 faithful from throughout the City, including an overwhelming number of faith leaders from different traditions invited by the San Francisco Interfaith Council along with civic officials were in attendance. The SFIC participated in numerous planning sessions in preparation for the event and promoted it to our 4,500 e-subscribers on August 21, 24, and 25. SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to the Bema along with the directors of the sponsoring partners to offer a communal greeting during that service. Audio recording of service: <https://www.emanuelsf.org/interfaith-gathering-hate/>
- J Weekly article: “Bay Area Unites Against Hate at Rousing Synagogue Events” <https://www.jweekly.com/2017/08/26/bay-area-unites-hate-rousing-synagogue-events/>
- The SFIC partnered with the Episcopal Diocese of California and Grace Cathedral in sponsoring an “Interfaith Gathering for Peace” at the Cathedral’s Chapel of Grace. Founder and Past Chair Rita R. Semel and SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas participated at the event. Rita Semel was invited to be a featured speaker along with the Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown and The Rev. Vicki Gray. At the conclusion of this powerful service The Right Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California, offered a blessing to all in attendance before they marched in solidarity to join the masses at yet another rally in the Civic Center Plaza. Link to Grace Cathedral’s announcement: <https://www.gracecathedral.org/events/interfaith-gathering-for-peace/>

### ***Faith Leaders Convening with Assemblymember David Chiu***

At the request of Assemblymember David Chiu, the San Francisco Interfaith Council convened a broad cross section of religious leaders and CEOs of our City's faith-based social service agencies for a briefing on his legislative agenda. Assemblymember Chiu highlighted his signatory bills related to housing, homelessness and immigration, after which he fielded a robust array of questions on a variety of timely and substantive issues. This convening took place on Friday, August 25, 2017 at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco.

### ***Interfaith Blessing: Topping Off Celebration of Salesforce Tower***

Salesforce CEO Marc Benioff extended the invitation to the SFIC to offer an interfaith blessing on the occasion of the “Topping Off” of the new Salesforce Tower, currently under construction. This edifice will be the second

tallest structure west of the Mississippi River. On April 6, 2017, 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. An account of this event and the role played by the SFIC's director and constituent leaders may be found in this article published that afternoon by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Please visit: <https://goo.gl/jkJuex>

### ***The SFIC's Engagement with San Francisco Law Enforcement***

In recognition of the important role communities of faith play in fostering healthy and constructive neighborhood relationships, the newly appointed Chief of the San Francisco Police Department, William "Bill" Scott, accepted the SFIC's invitation to address and answer questions of our City's faith leaders. This exchange, which took place on May 5, 2017 at Congregation Emanu-El, was an opportunity for Chief Scott to outline his priorities for SFPD engagement with the community as well as to report on measures the force is taking in response to the currently issued Department of Justice report. For SFIC invitation to this briefing please visit: <https://goo.gl/oZCjCm>

Most recently, SFPD Chief William Scott invited Pappas, as a community leader and subject matter expert, to join the department as an external senior advisor to offer external perspectives on best practices in strategic planning and policy trends. More specifically, the work of this team will focus on the SFPD's multi-year process with the U.S. Department of Justice called the "Collaborative Reform Initiative" (CRI). The CRI mandates over 270 individual changes to the SFPD and how it operates.

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

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

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

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

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

SF Mayor Ed Lee directed staff in the Mayor's Office of Housing and the SF Office of Economic and Workforce Development to advise the Task Force on its mapping efforts, site recommendations, and funding strategies and to make introductions to prospective developers. A select number of parcels have been identified and are currently under serious consideration for development.

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

Most currently, the real estate consulting team collaborating with the Task Force is both preparing feasibility and financial analyses on the properties under consideration as well as developing realistic funding strategies and options that will make these sites viable prospects for streamlined development.

### ***Immigration Defense Fund***

With a dramatic departure from existing immigration policy at the federal level, congregations and religious based non-profits and academic institutions have emerged as leaders in the effort to provide support and services to vulnerable immigrants whose residency status in our nation has been threatened.

On March 2, 2017 Mayor Edwin M. Lee announced that the City and County of San Francisco in partnership with the SFIC would launch a new funding program that would provide resources and support to non-profit community-based organizations serving immigrant communities. The SFIC identified as key priorities for the distribution of funds, those institutions whose missions and activities include: 1) protective and legal services; 2) workshops and trainings; and 3) support for those young people registered in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The full text of this communiqué may be found by visiting: <https://goo.gl/p2ny5p>

Additionally, the SFIC partnered with key non-profits in co-sponsoring the following panels and forums:

- Free Citizenship Workshop (12/3/2016) <https://goo.gl/GbS3AJ>
- Immigration Now Workshop at Grace Cathedral (4/20/2017) <https://goo.gl/c7jjoR>
- Free Citizenship Workshop (4/22/2017) <https://goo.gl/jsghZn>
- New Sanctuary Panel at St. Agnes Parish (5/25/2017) <https://goo.gl/eKSuhB>
- Free Citizenship Workshop (9/9/2017) <http://conta.cc/2wudZEa>

Most recently, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas was invited to join Mayor Edwin M. Lee, civic leaders, community partners and DACA recipients at a press briefing on September 5, 2017 to express concern over the discontinuation of the Federal DACA Program. The consequence of this action will be to place in jeopardy the future of over 800,000 young people who voluntarily disclosed their immigration status with the hope and promise of security and a pathway to full citizenship. Diverse communities of faith issued statements in the following link: <http://conta.cc/2vQoeBJ>

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

The SFIC's Executive Director has moderated several panels for the Commonwealth Club's Middle East Forum. In February 2016, Michael Pappas moderated a presentation by human rights activist and author, Rebecca Tinsley, who talked about a project, "***Waging Peace: Why Genocide Keeps Happening,***" which started after visiting a

Darfur refugee camp at the height of the killing there (Podcast: <https://goo.gl/DrrQp3>). In August 2016 Pappas moderated a panel of representatives of the Abrahamic faiths as they discussed their views on protecting the earth, caring for the environment, and combatting climate change (Podcast: <https://goo.gl/rhU7BK>). On December 15, 2017, Pappas is scheduled to moderate a presentation that will feature the critical work of founder and CEO of "Roots of Peace," (<http://rootsofpeace.org/>) Heidi Kuhn, who for 20 years, has worked tirelessly to eradicate landmines worldwide.

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

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

San Francisco State University (SFSU) President, Dr. Les Wong, responding to tensions that have flared between student groups, campus climate and employee satisfaction, has created the President's Task Force on Campus Climate. President Wong recently invited SFIC Executive Director Michael G. Pappas to serve as a member of that task force. Through policy recommendations, the ultimate goal will be to reaffirm SFSU's commitment to the ideals of social justice, equity, inclusion and tolerance, the core values that support the institution's mission of providing an education to its students and true preparation for living a life of principle and value.

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

# *San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter 2016-2017*

---

## **Host Site Congregations**

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

## **Meal Providers**

Asian Commission Youth in the Diocese of CA  
Bethany United Methodist Church  
Buddhist Church of San Francisco  
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation  
Calvary Presbyterian Church  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
(Bay/Golden Gate/Sunset Wards)  
Congregation Emanu-El  
Congregation Sherith Israel  
Corpus Christi Church  
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation  
Episcopal Community Services  
(Board of Directors)  
First AME Zion Church  
First Grade Dads of Convent Elementary  
School  
First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF  
Forest Hill Christian Church  
Girl Scout Troop 31018  
Girl Scout Troop 32567  
Grace Cathedral  
Holy Innocents Episcopal Church  
Kindergarten Dads of Stuart Hall  
Knights of St. Francis  
Ladies Prayer Group  
Mission Dolores Basilica

Mission Minyan Social Action Committee  
Missionary Temple CME Church  
Noe Valley Ministry  
Old First Presbyterian Church  
Old St. Mary's Cathedral  
Presbyterian Church in Chinatown  
Rotary Club of San Francisco – Castro  
St. Boniface Catholic Church  
St. Dominic's Catholic Church Friends in Christ  
St. Ignatius Catholic Church  
St. James Episcopal Church  
St. John Armenian Apostolic Church  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
St. Mary's Cathedral SVDP Conference  
St. Mary's Cathedral/St. Vincent de Paul  
Society  
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church  
St. Teresa's Circle of Light  
St. Vincent de Paul Conference  
San Francisco Interfaith Council  
San Francisco Swedenborgian Church  
San Francisco Zen Center  
Temenos Catholic Worker  
12 Adler Museum and Café  
Waffles & Honey Jewelry

# *Planning Committee*

## *Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast*

---

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

Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director, *SFIC*

Betsy Dodd, *Calvary Presbyterian Church*  
Joan M. Peponis-Rinde, *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*  
Lloyd Rinde, *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church*  
Rita R. Semel, Past Chair, *SFIC, Congregation Emanu-El*  
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, *Congregation Sherith Israel*  
Cynthia S. Zamboukos, Program/Administrative Associate, *SFIC*  
Mary J. Zamboukos, *St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*

### *Special Thanks*

Catering Department and Staff  
*Hotel Kabuki*

Neva Turoff  
*Sign Interpreter*

# *San Francisco Interfaith Council*

## *Board of Directors*

---

**2017 - 2018**

Kaushik Roy, Chair, *The Shanti Project*  
Betsy Dodd, Vice Chair, *Calvary Presbyterian Church*  
Rabbi Lawrence Raphael, Treasurer, *Congregation Sherith Israel*  
Nancy Nielsen, Secretary, *Lutheran Social Services*

Fr. Arturo Albano, *Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption*  
Fatih Ferdi Ates, *Pacifica Institute*  
P.J. Cherrin, *Mission Minyan*  
Sensei Elaine Donlin, *Buddhist Church of San Francisco*  
Richard H. Harris, Jr., *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*  
Hala K. Hijazi, Commissioner, *SF Human Rights Commission*  
John McKnight, *The Salvation Army*  
Rev. Monique Ortiz, *St. Mary and St. Martha Lutheran Church*  
Mario Paz, *Good Samaritan Family Resource Center*  
Robert T. Phillips, *San Francisco Baha'i Center*  
Rita R. Semel, Past Chair, *Congregation Emanu-El*  
The Rev. Mark Stanger, *Grace Cathedral*  
Rev. Floyd Trammell, *First Friendship Institutional Baptist Church*  
Swami Vedananda, *Vedanta Society of Northern California*  
Dr. Mary Wardell, *University of San Francisco*  
Dr. Sally Wei, *Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation*  
Fr. Kenneth Westray, *St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church*



# San Francisco Interfaith Council

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

## Convening, Communicating, and Advocacy

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

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

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

### CIVIL RIGHTS:

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

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

Biennial Disaster Preparedness  
Workshop for Congregations

### HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:

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

### CONVENING AND ADVOCACY:

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

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

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

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

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





“Behold, how good and pleasant it is for sisters and brothers  
to dwell together in unity.”  
(Psalm 133:1)



**San Francisco**

**INTERFAITH**

**COUNCIL**



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