

INTERFAITH EXPLORER

SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

August 2008

GET READY...IT'S COMING IN SEPTEMBER!!!

Gentle Reader...The SFIC INTERFAITH EXPLORER is getting a facelift!!! Making its debut with a new and improved format in September, our enhanced newsletter will be user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing to the eye. Taking advantage of the Constant Contact technology employed by other non-profits, our readers will be able to access information in an easier and streamlined format. This new system will enable the SFIC to increase delivery efficiency, avoid ending up in spam files, and better monitor readership along with what our subscribers are reading. Gone will be the days of endlessly scrolling down text to digest all that is being reported.

On behalf of the San Francisco Interfaith Council I want to thank you for subscribing to the INTERFAITH EXPLORER and for your patience during this time of transition. Without burdening you, we try, through this monthly correspondence, to keep you informed of and engage your participation in citywide interfaith activities. In just a short period of time our list of subscribers has grown to over a thousand email addresses.

Please be assured that the privacy of your email address will continue to remain privileged information. We will only remove email addresses of those who make that specific request.

You have SFIC permission to include any of the information found in the INTERFAITH EXPLORER in your congregation's weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter. You are encouraged to forward this newsletter to interested persons on your email list. Feel free to forward the email addresses of prospective readers and noteworthy news items to my attention at: michael@sf-interfaith.org <<mailto:michael@sf-interfaith.org>> . Deadline for submission is the first day of each month.

Michael G. Pappas, Editor
INTERFAITH EXPLORER

YOU ARE INVITED TO BREAKFAST!

On the second Thursday of each month at the Urban Life Center of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, from 8:00am-9:30am, SFIC invites the community to breakfast. Presentations are made on timely issues and a participating member gives a faith journey. The first breakfast of the new season will take place on September 11, 2008. Information regarding Presenters will be noted in the September 2008 Interfaith Explorer. Offers to host and provide food for the monthly breakfast are being accepted and are greatly appreciated. Those interested in hosting the monthly breakfast are encouraged to sign up soon (michael@sf-interfaith.org), as this popular opportunity to offer hospitality traditionally fills up quickly. All are welcome to attend the monthly breakfast.

SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

HUNGER IN THE CITY is the SFIC's dominant programmatic theme for upcoming season:

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT IN BAYVIEW HUNTER'S POINT

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Partnering with the San Francisco Interfaith Council

Join the faith-based community and Project Homeless Connect in providing access to needed services for people experiencing homelessness in the Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood. The community of congregations will provide

much needed volunteers, choirs for entertainment, staff for the spiritual area, and bible donations for the Book Area. Services offered at PHC include medical and dental, employment, legal assistance, DMV IDs, and much more. PHC clients can access, in one day, what may otherwise take eight months to achieve.

Location is along Keith Street between Armstrong and Carroll Streets, including: SF Community Health Center, BVHP Foundation & Bayview Playground.

To volunteer, please register at: <http://www.ProjectHomelessConnect.com> <<http://www.ProjectHomelessConnect.com>> <<http://www.ProjectHomelessConnect.com/>> or call 415.255.3674 http://sfconnect.org/specialevents/viewSpecialEvent.php?_mode=eventDetail&_action=eventDetail&ixSpecialEvent=16 <http://sfconnect.org/specialevents/viewSpecialEvent.php?_mode=eventDetail&_action=eventDetail&ixSpecialEvent=16>

- *"I've been homeless for five years, and I've never seen anything like this in my life...Project Homeless Connect must be serious."* Red B, PHC Client

You are encouraged to view the latest Project Homeless Connect video now appearing on the PHC website. Click on the link at the top of the page: http://www.sfconnect.org/AboutUs/index.php/in_the_news.html

SFIC TO CO-SPONSOR 2008 CROP/HUNGER WALK:

The 2008 Golden Gate Hunger Walk will be held - Sunday, Oct. 19, 1:30 p.m. Registration and 2:00 p.m. Walk at the West Bluff Picnic Area of Crissy Field.

What you can do to help:

- Save the 2008 Walk Date - October 19th - on your group's calendar.
- Check out our brochure (PDF link) and new website: <http://cropwalksf.blogspot.com> which will soon be accessible at www.cropwalksf.org <<http://www.cropwalksf.org>> <<http://www.cropwalksf.org>>
- Walk on the Web at: www.cropwalk.org <<http://www.cropwalk.org>> starting July 1st and register as an individual or group.
- Volunteer to help with recruitment, publicity, treasury, education, logistics or corporate sponsorship or on the day of the walk.
- Contact Marc Jung, Golden Gate Hunger Walk Coordinator at: (510) 848-7024, or marcauditor@juno.com.

Please help us reach Our Goal of \$25,000 for 2008. 75% of the proceeds will benefit the work of Church World Service and other international humanitarian agencies. 25% of the proceeds will benefit the San Francisco Food Bank and Interfaith Homeless Shelter.

CONCEPTS OF THE ABRAHAMIC TRADITIONS

Scholars from the three Abrahamic Traditions will address the theological understanding of hunger on October 26th at Congregation Emanuel. This quarterly dialogue brings together Muslims, Christians and Jews to discuss the concepts of the Abrahamic faiths. This rich fellowship includes a meal and the occasion for the exchange of ideas among those attending. Keep an eye out for details on the event in the September issue of the INTERFAITH EXPLORER.

WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM

The 19th Interfaith Winter Shelter program sponsored by the San Francisco Interfaith Council is scheduled to begin Sunday, November 23 at Trinity Episcopal Church. It will run until February 28 when it concludes at First Unitarian Universalist Church with stops along the way at St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Eight congregations have already agreed to serve meals but there are still many open dates. If your congregation is interested, please email Executive Director Michael Pappas at Michael@sf-interfaith.org or Executive Vice-Chair Rita Semel at rsemel@gmail.com Thanks!

MAYOR'S INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST

Tuesday, November 25, 2008
Cathedral Hill Hotel

1101 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco, CA 94109

The SFIC will host the 11th Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer breakfast at the Cathedral Hill Hotel on November 25, 2008. Special recognition will be given to the SF Food Bank and congregations with programs designed to alleviate hunger in the City.

SFIC INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thursday, November 27, 2008
First Unitarian Church
1187 Franklin St, San Francisco, CA 94109

Each year, on Thanksgiving day, the SFIC sponsors San Francisco's only Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Prayer Service. This year's observance will take place at the First Universalist Unitarian Church on November 27, 2008, from 10:00am to 11:00am. Special emphasis will be given to the theme of hunger in this season which gives thanks for abundance.

OTHER SFIC ACTIVITIES:

SFIC TO BE FEATURED ON NENtv/ SF CITY STAR NEWSPAPER

On Tuesday, August 5, 2008, at 7:00pm, SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas and SFIC Executive Vice Chair Rita Semel will appear on AccessSF NENtv, (Channel 76), and share with the viewing public the history, vision and programs of the San Francisco Interfaith Council.

In November 2007, The NEN (Neighborhood Empowerment Network, a program of the SF City Administrator's Office) and the City Star newspaper launched a new strategic partnership to raise awareness of the many important organizations in San Francisco that contribute to the betterment of the community. Each Monday the City Star dedicates a column written by a NEN partner.

The program has been so successful that NEN recently launched a second component to this effort with AccessSF TV. On the Tuesday evening following the appearance of the column in the City Star, the authoring organization is invited to appear on the NENtv AccessSF, Comcast Cable Channel 76 or Astound Cable Channel 30 at 7pm. On this show people will be able to call in and ask the organization questions about what it has done and how did it do it.

Please visit the link to NENtv where the SFIC segment will be posted for on-demand viewing:

<http://www.veoh.com/channels/NENtv?searchId=3716445565729629195&rank=0>
<<http://www.veoh.com/channels/NENtv?searchId=3716445565729629195&rank=0>>

SFIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INVITED TO MODERATE "FORUM"

Friday, August 15, 2008 / 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Pacific Time
Grace Cathedral / 1100 California St. (at Taylor St.) / San Francisco

SFIC Executive Director Michael Pappas has been invited to moderate a special evening Forum with Gustav Niebuhr, the former New York Times religion reporter and author of *Beyond Tolerance*, an examination of the nature of community and religion as well as the roots of religious freedom in America.

The Forum at Grace Cathedral is a unique live and broadcast talk show, bringing people and ideas together on a community level. The Forum is dedicated to open conversation on critical issues. Listen live or on-demand at www.GraceCathedral.org <<http://www.GraceCathedral.org>> <<http://www.gracecathedral.org/>> .

PROGRESS ON FUNDRAISING GOAL FOR THE SFIC:

Jim DeLange, Chair

One year ago, the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Interfaith Council made a bold venture into the future. We decided to hire a full time Executive Director and raise \$100,000 in each of the next three years to support the position and the Council's programs. I am happy to report that as of July 31, we are over 90% toward reaching our goal with \$75,150 received and another \$17,000 in solid pledges. The support is widely spread: 18 congregations; 4 agencies; 3 foundations; 3 individuals; and 2 judicatories. The fundraising committee consisting of Rev. John Talesfore, Secretary Fran Johns, Board Member

Ron Dudum, Executive Vice-Chair Rita Semel and myself have made personal calls. In every case, the people we have visited have expressed support of the Council and what it has done and is accomplishing. It has been gratifying, to say the least, to be received so warmly and to see the religious community in San Francisco follow through on their promises of support. We know there is even more support out there and wish we could visit everyone. We will keep working at it, but in the meantime: Thank you all for your generous support!

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

BURMA DAY : AUGUST 8 FLOWERS OF HOPE FOR THE PEOPLE OF BURMA

Union Square, San Francisco, California
Burma Day Rally
Friday August 8, 2008, 4-7 PM

City Hall, Berkeley, California
Burmese Flag Raising
Friday August 8, 2008, 8:08 AM
FLOWERS OF HOPE
FLOWERS OF FREEDOM

The two events listed below are part of a series scheduled to take place in select cities worldwide on August 8. Please join us as we say, "We shall never forget 8-8-88!"

Flower offering is a custom that accompanies Burmese prayers. On August 8, 2008, in a ceremony that transcends religion and culture, we'll offer a freedom wreath, woven with flowers donated by you. Each flower is a quiet prayer for a budding life swept away. Each counts towards the revival of hope.

With this floral tribute, we mourn the innocent lives lost in the recent cyclone, acknowledge the sacrifice of the anonymous heroes of the Saffron Revolution of 2007 and the Student Uprising of 1988, and honor the strength of the survivors.

To donate flowers online, go to www.flowersofhope4burma.org <<http://www.flowersofhope4burma.org>> . Your purchase will be marked as part of the Burma Day event, allowing the organizers to pick them up for inclusion in the rally. A portion of the proceeds will go towards International Burmese Monks Organization (www.sasanamoli.org <<http://www.sasanamoli.org>>) to support the victims of cyclone Nargis.

Related events in the Bay Area
Global Justice for Burma
Frey Norris Gallery, 456 Geary Street, San Francisco, California
August 8, 6-9 PM

THE SACRED FEMININE & THE WISDOM TRADITION OF DEMOCRACY

The School of the Sacred Feminine in collaboration with Veriditas is pleased to announce our fall session:

September 6, 2008
First Universalist Church (1187 Franklin Street, San Francisco, CA)

In this time of unprecedented political opportunity, the School of the Sacred Feminine invites women to consider the gifts of their wisdom - the harvest of their heroine's journey. Part of the mission of the School of the Sacred Feminine is to energize the power and wisdom of women's lives to bring about the reemergence of sacred feminine values in our culture. This one day event will feature Susan Griffin, award-winning poet, writer, essayist, playwright and filmmaker, author of 19 books, including her newest, *Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy*, *On Being an American Citizen*, as well as *A Chorus of Stones*, a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, *The Book of Courtesans*, *What Her Body Thought*, and *Woman and Nature*. Kayleen Asbo and Caitlin Fendler will present on Sophia and the tradition of the sacred feminine as the Throne of Wisdom. Founder and Director, Judith Tripp will guide participants in an integration of labyrinth walks, meditation, ritual and art with presentations, writing practice and large and small group

discussion. <http://veriditas.org/programs/school.shtml>

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\$150 Early Registration (before August 6th)
\$175 including lunch
7 CEUS for MFTs or LCSWs

For further information or to register, go to www.veriditas.org <<http://www.veriditas.org>> <<http://www.veriditas.org>> or call 415-561-2921.

SECOND TUESDAY POTLUCK

Sept. 10, 6:00-9:00 pm, Presidio Interfaith Chapel Opening the Door to Interspirituality – An Evening with Edward Bastian

Huston Smith had no problem staying a Methodist Christian while practicing Buddhist meditation. But sharing spiritual practices – including prayer and meditation – between and among different traditions, is a taboo subject for some. For others it is an arena of interfaith development that is long overdue. *Spiritual Pathways Foundation* has been a pioneer in exploring interspirituality, sponsoring programs, retreats, and academic degree programs in the subject. Founder *Dr. Ed Bastian* joins us over dinner to tell us the story of the Foundation and the opportunities it represents. Bring food to share and join the dialogue. We gather at six. For a map and directions to the Presidio Interfaith Chapel, go to www.interfaith-presidio.org <<http://www.interfaith-presidio.org>> <<http://www.interfaith-presidio.org>> .

NETWORK OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESSIVES (NSP) FORUM

The Network of Spiritual Progressives is a member based organization working to create the world we believe is possible through political advocacy, local action and spiritual support. We believe that by establishing a new bottom line- one where institutions and organizations are judged effective by the amount of love, care, kindness and respect for the environment they generate, not only by the money and power they have is crucial to changing our society.

We are bringing together people on September 21, 2008 from 10am-6pm at UC-Berkeley to discuss what really matters at their work and how to bring to meaning to their professional laws. People will be gathering from the fields of Law, Business, Education, Medicine and other professions to talk about their highest values and how to bring them into their workplace. At this gathering, you'll connect with like-minded people and build the support needed to work on these issues.

For more information and to register, please visit spiritualprogressives.org <<http://spiritualprogressives.org>>

Registration before Aug 15 is \$70, 45\$ for Graduates in Training.
Please contact David at dlapedis@tikkun.org for any questions.

THE NONVIOLENT VIGIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Every Thursday, Noon-1:00 p.m. at the Federal Building, Larkin and Golden Gate. The vigil is sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and the San Francisco Friends (Quaker) Meeting. This group has held vigil for nonviolence every Thursday since September 11, 2001. INFOSFVIGIL@mac.com <<mailto:INFOSFVIGIL@mac.com>> . All are welcome to join them.

CONTRIBUTING ARTICLES/HOMILIES/STATEMENTS OF NOTE:

In light of the recent SF Supreme Court Decision sanctioning same-sex marriage and the proposed constitutional amendment to ban such unions, a number of faith communities have issued statements on the issue. In the spirit of the SFIC's policy not to take advocacy stands, but rather to inform, we present the following statements:

San Francisco Roman Catholic Archdiocese:
<http://www.sfarchdiocese.org/about-us/news/?i=1075>

Episcopal Diocese of California:
<http://episcopalbayarea.org/joomla/content/view/666/87/>

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Jewish Community Relations Council:
http://www.jcrc.org/issues/cal_supreme_court_ruling_same-sex_marriage_2008-05-15.htm

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First Unitarian Universalist Church:
<http://www.uusf.org/gay-lesbian-weddings.html>

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United Methodist Church:
<http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=wl4KnN1LtH&b=2433457&ct=5686699>
<<http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=wl4KnN1LtH&b=2433457&ct=5686699>>
<<http://www.umc.org/site/apps/nlnet/content3.aspx?c=wl4KnN1LtH&b=2433457&ct=5686699>>

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA):
<http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2008/marchweb-only/111-53.0.html>

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Swedenborgian Church:
<http://hypermodern.net/archives/san-francisco-church-offering-to-marry-same-sex-couples-free-of-charge-for-a-limited-time/>

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OTHER ARTICLES OF NOTE:

SFIC Featured in "The City Star" (August 4, 2008)
"Interfaith Council Addresses Hunger In The City"
http://www.thecitystarsf.com/catalog/catalog.php?catalog_id=307

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Grace Cathedral Will Turn To Solar Power
Thursday, July 17, 2008 / SF GATE
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/17/BAQV11QIIO.DTL&feed=rss.bayarea>
<<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/17/BAQV11QIIO.DTL&feed=rss.bayarea>>
<<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/17/BAQV11QIIO.DTL&feed=rss.bayarea>>

(NAIN) Conference opens in S.F. To Build Interfaith Matrix
Thursday, July 24, 2008 (SF Chronicle)
Matthai Kuruville, Chronicle Religion Writer
<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2008/07/24/MN4011T9I0.DTL>

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INTERNATIONAL / REGIONAL / LOCAL INTERFAITH WEBSITES:

SAN FRANCISCO INTERFAITH COUNCIL WEBSITE

You are cordially invited to visit the newly launched San Francisco Interfaith Council website: sf-interfaith.org. Like all of us, this website is a work in progress; it tells our story, informs and engages. As GOOGLE has yet to detect us, please bookmark the site. You are also encouraged to forward it to friends in your email address book who would be interested in and benefit from our important work. Congregations, judicatories, agencies, FBO,s, non profits and all other organizations with websites are kindly asked to add us to your links! PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!!!

United Religions International: <http://www.uri.org/>

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Interfaith Center at the Presidio: <http://www.interfaith-presidio.org/> <<http://www.interfaith-presidio.org/>>

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County: <http://www.interfaithcouncilofccc.net/>
<<http://www.interfaithcouncilofccc.net/>>

Marin Interfaith Council: <http://www.marinifc.org/> <<http://www.marinifc.org/>>

Peninsula Clergy Network: www.peninsulaclergy.org <<http://www.peninsulaclergy.org>>
<<http://www.peninsulaclergy.org>>

THE INTERFAITH EXPLORER

... is an outreach service of the San Francisco Interfaith Council

San Francisco Interfaith Council

Interfaith Center at the Presidio

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