

18th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

**“Faith and Sanctuary:
There Are No Strangers”**



Tuesday, November 24, 2015

7:00 am – 9:00 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

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Welcome to the

18th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

The San Francisco Interfaith Council welcomes you to the 18th 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 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 honor people of faith for championing the rights of immigrants among us. In the 1980s, the faith community pioneered and boldly fought for the Sanctuary Movement, providing safety for those fleeing violence and war in Central America. Welcoming immigrants is now a well-established San Francisco tradition, supported by both faith groups and City government. Congregations still fight for immigrant rights, as our faith traditions teach us to welcome and protect the outsider. In addition, we were all immigrants once: there are no strangers here.

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

Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell

Rev. Ronald Kobata, Buddhist Church of San Francisco

Interfaith Statement (page 6)

Fatih Ates, Pacifica Institute, Turkish-American Cultural Center

Opening Prayer: “The Prayer of St. Francis” (page 7)

Read by all

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

Neva Turoff and Claude Shirts, Interpreters

Welcome by Breakfast Co-Chairs

Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto, Glide Memorial Church

Kaushik Roy, Shanti Project

Prayer of Thanks for the Meal

Andrew A. Galvan, Curator of Old Mission Dolores, San Francisco

An Ohlone Man

~ Breakfast is served at your table ~

Poem: “The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus (pages 8-9)

Read by *Elijah Toluao* in English

Read by *Andrea Reyes* in Spanish

DreamSF Fellows

Introduction of San Francisco Sanctuary Movement Video

Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director

San Francisco Interfaith Council

“The History of the San Francisco Sanctuary Movement and Ordinance”

Video by *Theo Rigby*

Blessing of the Work of Sanctuary

Co-Chairs

Program (continued)

Introduction of Special Guests

G.L. Hodge, Chair
San Francisco Interfaith Council

Remarks

Mayor Edwin M. Lee

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

Song: "This Land is Your Land" (page 21)

(sung by all)
Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

Remarks

Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director
San Francisco Interfaith Council

Support of the San Francisco Interfaith Council and the Rita R. Semel Endowment Fund for Interfaith Work

Nick Andrade, Treasurer
San Francisco Interfaith Council

Closing Remarks by Co-Chairs

Closing Prayer

Rabbi Douglas Kahn
Jewish Community Relations Council

Interfaith Statement

This 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.

“The New Colossus”

By Emma Lazarus



Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

“El Nuevo Coloso”

de Emma Lazarus

No como el gigante plateado de fama Griega,
Con extremidades conquistadoras extendiéndose de tierra a tierra;
Aquí, en nuestras puertas en el atardecer bañadas por el mar, estará de pie
Una poderosa mujer con una antorcha, cuya llama es
La luz de los prisioneros y su nombre es
La madre de los exiliados. Su mano como faro
Brilla en bienvenida al mundo entero. Sus ojos dóciles comandan
La bahía ventosa enmarcada por las ciudades gemelas.
"Tierras de antaño quédense con su historias pomposas!" Exclama ella
Con labios silenciosos. "Dadme tus cansados, tus pobres,
Tus masas amontonadas gimiendo por respirar libres,
Los despreciados de tus congestionadas costas.
Enviadme a estos, los desposeidos, basura de la tempestad.
Levanto mi lámpara al lado de la puerta dorada!"

The Dream SF Fellowship

The DreamSF Fellowship is an opportunity for DACA-approved youth (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) to serve San Francisco's immigrant communities while gaining paid professional experience and training. DreamSF Fellows commit to working 20 hours per week on a project-based fellowship with an immigrant-serving nonprofit or public organization. Additionally, Fellows receive weekly leadership development and professional skills training and a monthly stipend. For additional information please visit:

<http://dacasf.com/about/dreamsf-fellows/>

**Thank you to the DreamSF Fellows for their participation in this year's
Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast!**

Highlights of the San Francisco Sanctuary Movement

(Special thanks to Peter Mancina, doctoral candidate at Vanderbilt University, for his diligent research and compilation of this history.)

Introduction:

In the early 1980s, the San Francisco Bay Area was one of the emerging centers of the U.S. Sanctuary Movement. This was in defiance of U.S. immigration authorities who had denied over 90 percent of the asylum requests from Guatemalans and Salvadorans fleeing the violence of U.S. supported military regimes. The goals of the Sanctuary Movement were to pressure the U.S. Department of State to end its active involvement in the Central American civil wars and also pressure the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to stop deporting Central American refugees fleeing the violence.

Even before the movement was organized, there were a number of churches doing “private sanctuary,” housing undocumented refugees without publicity. The first churches to do this were: **Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church** in 1980, soon joined by **St. Peter’s Catholic Church** and **Mission Dolores**. A pioneer of the Sanctuary Movement was Father Cuculain Moriarty, who was pastor of Most Holy Redeemer Church 1979/1980. He helped Eileen Purcell get funding for what later became known as the **Central American Refugee Organizing Project (CAROP)** of the Social Services Department of Catholic Charities.

Early 1980s:

The number of estimated Central American refugees arriving in the Bay Area was 60,000 to 110,000. The **Latin American Task Force (LATF)** of the Commission on Social Justice of the **San Francisco Archdiocese** and organizers of CAROP worked with religious leaders in over 65 churches, synagogues, and religious orders to educate them on the plight of refugees, the wars in Central America, and possible forms of communal action, including public sanctuary.

1980 – 1982:

Ongoing organizing by LATF, CAROP, and the **Ad Hoc Committee to Stop Deportations (AHCS)** consisting of organized public demonstrations, speaking events, public discussions, delegations to immigration officials, vigils, media work, assistance to refugees both in San Francisco and Central America.

Highlights of the San Francisco Sanctuary Movement (cont'd)

1982 – 1984:

Work carried out included an extensive “house meeting” campaign conducted by CAROP and **CRECE** (Comite de Refugiados Centroamericanos, also known as Central American Refugee Committee), educating and organizing folks who met in private homes about the wars in Central America and the plight of refugees. Refugees at these meetings told their stories of torture, bombings, and ongoing repression.

Concrete steps for action were suggested: providing refugees with food, shelter, medical and psychological care, education and tutoring, as well as the practicalities of declaring (typically a one-year process of discernment and a vote) and managing a public sanctuary. Other activities included:

- Lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C.
- Delegations to Central America and reporting back to U.S. audiences
- Aiding in the resettlement of displaced people in El Salvador

1983:

Catholic Archbishop John Quinn issues a Pastoral Letter inviting the faithful to inform themselves about the moral and legal issues regarding political asylum and giving his support to offering refuge to victims of war.

1984:

Six sanctuary congregations go public: **First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco, American Friends Meeting of San Francisco, Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church, St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church, Presentation Sisters, Dominican Sisters of San Rafael.**

1985:

Four more join public sanctuary: **7th Avenue Presbyterian Church, Franciscan Brothers and Fathers of San Francisco, Sisters of Mercy in Burlingame, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Belmont.**

December 1985: SF “City of Refuge” Resolution Passed:

After an extensive campaign at the grassroots level where organizers educated and collected nearly 50,000 signatures of S.F. residents, San Francisco passes a **“City of Refuge” Resolution** for Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees.

Highlights of the San Francisco Sanctuary Movement (cont'd)

Resolution states that City and County of San Francisco finds that immigration refugee policy is a matter of federal jurisdiction and that federal employees, not city employees, should be considered responsible for implementation of immigration and refugee policy. In effect, S.F. resolution mandates city employees to refrain from cooperation with the INS in immigration policing through gathering and distributing immigration status information.

The Resolution was not always carried out. Police on occasion accompanied INS agents on raids in the Latino community. There was no enforcement body or mechanism delineated in the Resolution.

1986:

Three more congregations declare public sanctuary: **St. John of God Catholic Church, St. Francis Lutheran Church, Redemptorist Fathers.**

1989:

Five more congregations declare public sanctuary: **St. Boniface Catholic Church, Sisters of the Holy Names, Jewish Congregations Ahavat Shalom and Sha'ar Zahav. S.F. Jewish Sanctuary Coalition** joined as an affiliate organization.

Summer 1989 – two incidents:

In June, S.F. police officers photograph CRECE leaders during a protest and hand over pictures to the Salvadoran Consulate.

In July, S.F. police officers and Alcohol Beverage Control officers work directly with INS to raid local salsa club, Club Elegante. These actions threatened the trust that had been created by the sanctuary resolution, and lead to the passage of the Sanctuary City Ordinance in 1989.

September 1989 – Sanctuary “City of Refuge” Ordinance signed into law by Mayor Art Agnos:

The ordinance sought to legally enforce institutionalized sanctuary in city departments that worked directly with immigrants, to make sure that they could no longer disregard the City of Refuge resolution, and as a result, to re-establish undocumented residents’ trust in the municipal government. The ordinance mandated that no city employees assist with detention or arrest procedures of the INS. It forbids the SFPD from stopping, questioning, or detaining any individual solely because of individual’s national origin, foreign appearance, inability to speak English, or immigration status. Nor can officers assist INS in transporting people suspected solely of violating federal immigration laws. City Departments began to treat immigration status as “irrelevant” to providing their department’s services. The monitoring and enforcement body would be the Human Rights Commission.

FILE NO. 495-85

RESOLUTION NO. 1087-85

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(city of refuge)
RESOLUTION URGING THE MAYOR TO DECLARE SAN FRANCISCO TO BE A
CITY OF REFUGE

WHEREAS, The United States of America has provided an enduring symbol of freedom for generations of people from other countries who fear persecution in their native land on the basis of political beliefs, and;

WHEREAS, The United States Congress reaffirmed this tradition in the provision of the Refugee Act of 1980 which recognized the rights to asylum of the refugee, defined as "any person who is unable or unwilling to return to his/her country because of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group, or political opinion," language which parallels the 1967 United Nations Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees; and,

WHEREAS, The Geneva Conventions, ratified by the United States in 1956, similarly stipulate that civilians fleeing a country at war may not be forcibly repatriated until after the cessation of hostilities (Convention IV, Article 45); and,

WHEREAS, an estimated 60-100,000 Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees currently reside in the San Francisco area and live with the constant fear of deportation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and,

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco has a diverse ethnic population and has historically welcomed immigrants fleeing hardship and persecution in their home countries; and,

WHEREAS, It is in the interests of the City and County of San Francisco to encourage all residents, whether crime victims or witnesses to crime, to report all criminal violations without fear of inquiry into immigration status; and,

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 WHEREAS, The Attorney General of the State California
2 relying on the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision (Gonzalez
3 versus the City of Peoria), has concluded that the civil
4 enforcement of immigration law is within the exclusive
5 jurisdiction of the federal government, and further concluded
6 that local or state officials "have no duty to report to the
7 Immigration and Naturalization Service knowledge they might
8 have" about a person's immigration status; and further, that
9 their failure to do so does not constitute any failure to obey
10 local, state and federal law; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco out of
12 respect for National and International law and human rights,
13 requests the State Department to recommend and the Immigration
14 and Naturalization Service to grant "extended voluntary
15 departure" status to Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees who
16 have fled persecution in their home countries; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San
18 Francisco affirms its support of H.R. 822 (Moakley) and S. 377
19 (De Concini) which would temporarily suspend all deportation of
20 Salvadorans and, be it

21 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San
22 Francisco commend the Congregations and Religious Orders who
23 have declared sanctuary committing themselves to provide
24 support, protection and advocacy for Salvadoran and Guatemalan
25 refugees who reside within San Francisco; and, be it

26 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San
27 Francisco declares itself in opposition to the deportation of
28 known law-abiding refugees who have fled their homelands for
29 fear of losing their lives; and, be it

30

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That The City and County of San
2 Francisco finds that immigration and refugee policy is a matter
3 of Federal jurisdiction; that federal employees, not City
4 employees, should be considered responsible for implementation
5 of immigration and refugee policy; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San
7 Francisco urges the Mayor, and the Chief Administrative
8 Officer, to advise the commissions and departments under their
9 respective jurisdiction of this fact of law; and that the Mayor
10 is urged to affirm that City Departments shall not discriminate
11 against Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees because of
12 immigration status, and shall not jeopardize the safety and
13 welfare of law-abiding refugees by acting in a way that may
14 cause their deportation; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution is not intended to
16 affect the standards or current criteria or the authority of
17 the employees of the Department of Social Services to make
18 inquiries necessary to apply those standards or criteria in
19 evaluating applications for entitlement to any benefits
20 provided by the City and County of San Francisco, provided that
21 any other information that may be obtained in making these
22 inquiries not be relayed to any other agencies; and, be it

23 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San
24 Francisco be declared a City and County of Refuge for
25 Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees, and, that the
26 implementation of the provisions of this resolution by
27 employees and agencies of the City and County of San Francisco
28 remain consistent with federal statute, ordinance, regulation
29 or court decision and, provided further, the City and County of
30

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1 San Francisco is not, in adopting this resolution, encouraging
2 its employees and citizens to violate any local, state or
3 federal laws; and, be it .

4 FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent
5 to Senators Cranston and Wilson, the California Congressional
6 delegation, the Commissioner of the Immigration and
7 Naturalization Services, the State Department and the President
8 of the United States.

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11 Supervisors Nancy Walker, Harry Britt, Doris Ward, Willie B.
12 Kennedy, Richard Hongisto, John Molinari, Carol Ruth Silver
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Adopted - Board of Supervisors, San Francisco December 23, 1985


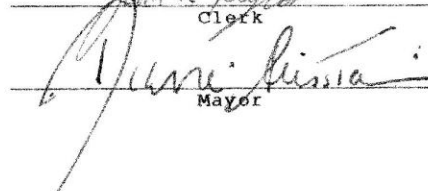
Ayes: Supervisors Britt Hongisto Kennedy Molinari Renne Silver
Walker Ward

Noes
~~Supervisors~~: Supervisors Kopp Maher Nelder

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution
was adopted by the Board of Supervisors
of the City and County of San Francisco

File No.
495-85

DEC 27 1985
Date Approved


Clerk

Mayor

City and County of San Francisco

Sanctuary Ordinance

What is the Sanctuary Ordinance?

In 1989, San Francisco passed the "City and County of Refuge" Ordinance (also known as the Sanctuary Ordinance) which prohibits City employees from helping Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with immigration investigations or arrests unless such help is required by federal or state law or a warrant. The Ordinance is rooted in the Sanctuary Movement of the 1980s, when churches across the country provided refuge to Central Americans fleeing civil wars in their countries. In providing such assistance, faith communities were responding to the difficulties immigrants faced in obtaining refugee status from the U.S. government. Municipalities across the country followed suit by adopting sanctuary ordinances.

In recent years, the Sanctuary Movement has experienced a rebirth, as grassroots organizations, faith communities, and local government have stood firmly against repressive immigration proposals in Congress and immigration raids that separate families. In February 2007, Mayor Gavin Newsom reaffirmed San Francisco's commitment to immigrant communities by issuing an Executive Order that called on City departments to develop protocol and training on the Sanctuary Ordinance.

San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 12H: Immigration Status

SEC. 12H.1. CITY AND COUNTY OF REFUGE.

It is hereby affirmed that the City and County of San Francisco is a City and County of Refuge.
(Added by Ord. 375-89, App. 10/24/89)

SEC. 12H.2. USE OF CITY FUNDS PROHIBITED.

No department, agency, commission, officer or employee of the City and County of San Francisco shall use any City funds or resources to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law or to gather or disseminate information regarding the immigration status of individuals in the City and County of San Francisco unless such assistance is required by federal or State statute, regulation or court decision. The prohibition set forth in this Chapter shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- (a) Assisting or cooperating, in one's official capacity, with any Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) investigation, detention, or arrest procedures, public or clandestine, relating to alleged violations of the civil provisions of the federal immigration law.
- (b) Assisting or cooperating, in one's official capacity, with any investigation, surveillance or gathering of information conducted by foreign governments, except for cooperation related to an alleged violation of City and County, State or federal criminal laws.

(c) Requesting information about, or disseminating information regarding, the immigration status of any individual, or conditioning the provision of services or benefits by the City and County of San Francisco upon immigration status, except as required by federal or State statute or regulation, City and County public assistance criteria, or court decision.

(d) Including on any application, questionnaire or interview form used in relation to benefits, services or opportunities provided by the City and County of San Francisco any question regarding immigration status other than those required by federal or State statute, regulation or court decision. Any such questions existing or being used by the City and County at the time this Chapter is adopted shall be deleted within sixty days of the adoption of this Chapter.

(Added by Ord. 375-89, App. 10/24/89)

SEC. 12H.2-1. CHAPTER PROVISIONS INAPPLICABLE TO PERSONS CONVICTED OF CERTAIN CRIMES.

Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit, or be construed as prohibiting, a law enforcement officer from identifying and reporting any person pursuant to State or federal law or regulation who is in custody after being booked for the alleged commission of a felony and is suspected of violating the civil provisions of the immigration laws. In addition, nothing in this Chapter shall preclude any City and County department, agency, commission, officer or employee from (a) reporting information to the INS regarding an individual who has been booked at any county jail facility, and who has previously been convicted of a felony committed in violation of the laws of the State of California, which is still considered a felony under State law; (b) cooperating with an INS request for information regarding an individual who has been convicted of a felony committed in violation of the laws of the State of California, which is still considered a felony under state law; or (c) reporting information as required by federal or state statute, regulation or court decision, regarding an individual who has been convicted of a felony committed in violation of the laws of the State of California, which is still considered a felony under state law. For purposes of this Section, an individual has been "convicted" of a felony when: (a) there has been a conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction; and (b) all direct appeal rights have been exhausted or waived; or (c) the appeal period has lapsed.

However, no officer, employee or law enforcement agency of the City and County of San Francisco shall stop, question, arrest or detain any individual solely because of the individual's national origin or immigration status. In addition, in deciding whether to report an individual to the INS under the circumstances described in this Section, an officer, employee or law enforcement agency of the City and County of San Francisco shall not discriminate among individuals on the basis of their ability to speak English or perceived or actual national origin.

This Section shall not apply in cases where an individual is arrested and/or convicted for failing to obey a lawful order of a police officer during a public assembly or for failing to disperse after a police officer has declared an assembly to be unlawful and has ordered dispersal.

Nothing herein shall be construed or implemented so as to discourage any person, regardless of immigration status, from reporting criminal activity to law enforcement agencies.

(Added by Ord. 282-92, App. 9/4/92; amended by Ord. 238-93, App. 8/4/93)

SEC. 12H.3. CLERK OF BOARD TO TRANSMIT COPIES OF THIS CHAPTER; INFORMING CITY EMPLOYEES.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors shall send copies of this Chapter, including any future amendments thereto that may be made, to every department, agency and commission of the City and County of San Francisco, to California's United States Senators, and to the California Congressional delegation, the Commissioner of the INS, the United States Attorney General, and the Secretary of State and the President of the United States. Each appointing officer of the City and County of San Francisco shall inform all employees under her or his jurisdiction of the prohibitions in this ordinance, the duty of all of her or his employees to comply with the prohibitions in this ordinance, and that employees who fail to comply with the prohibitions of the ordinance shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Each city and county employee shall be given a written directive with instructions for implementing the provisions of this Chapter.

(Added by Ord. 375-89, App. 10/24/89)

SEC. 12H.4. ENFORCEMENT.

The Human Rights Commission shall review the compliance of the City and County departments, agencies, commissions and employees with the mandates of this ordinance in particular instances in which there is question of noncompliance or when a complaint alleging noncompliance has been lodged.

(Added by Ord. 375-89, App. 10/24/89)

SEC. 12H.5. CITY UNDERTAKING LIMITED TO PROMOTION OF GENERAL WELFARE.

In undertaking the adoption and enforcement of this Chapter, the City is assuming an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. This Chapter is not intended to create any new rights for breach of which the City is liable in money damages to any person who claims that such breach proximately caused injury. This section shall not be construed to limit or proscribe any other existing rights or remedies possessed by such person.

(Added by Ord. 375-89, App. 10/24/89)


SEC. 12H.6. SEVERABILITY.

If any part of this ordinance, or the application thereof, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby, and this ordinance shall otherwise continue in full force and effect. To this end, the provisions of this ordinance, and each of them, are severable.

This Land is Your Land

**Words and Music by
Woody Guthrie**


F7 Bb



This land is your land, this land is
As I went walk - ing that ribbon of
This land is your land, this land is

(4) I've roamed and rambled and I
followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond
deserts;
And all around me a voice was sounding:
This land was made for you and me.


F C7



my land, from Ca - li - for - nia, to the New York
high - way, I saw a - bove me, the_ end - less
my land, from Ca - li - for - nia, to the New York

(5) When the sun came shining, and I was
strolling,
And the wheat fields waving and the dust
clouds rolling,
As the fog was lifting a voice was
chanting:
This land was made for you and me.

F F7 Bb



is - land, from the red-wood fo - rests, to the Gulf Stream
sky - way, I_ saw be - low me that_ gold - en
is - land, from the red-wood fo - rests, to the Gulf Stream

(6) As I went walking I saw a sign there
And on the sign it said "No Trespassing."
But on the other side it didn't say
nothing,
That side was made for you and me.

F C7 F



wa - ters, This land was made for you and me.
val - ley, This land was made for you and me.
wa - ters, This land was made for you and me.

(7) In the shadow of the steeple I saw my
people,
By the relief office I seen my people;
As they stood there hungry, I stood there
asking
Is this land made for you and me?

(8) Nobody living can ever stop me,
As I go walking that freedom highway;
Nobody living can ever make me turn
back
This land was made for you and me.

Sponsors for Today's Breakfast

Table Sponsor - \$750

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Calvary Presbyterian Church
Catholic Charities
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Congregation Emanu-El
Congregation Sherith Israel
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First United Lutheran Church
Glide
Grace Cathedral
Jewish Community Relations Council
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Dr. Emily Murase and Friends
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Norm Dito and Steve Weiner
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Old St. Mary's Cathedral
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United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

*We Thank Those Who Have Supported
the San Francisco Interfaith Council in 2015*

Agencies

Catholic Charities
Episcopal Community Services
Glide Foundation
Good Samaritan Family Resource Center
Jewish Vocational & Career Counseling Service
Lutheran Social Services
St. Anthony Foundation
St. Vincent de Paul Society
The Salvation Army
San Francisco Night Ministry
Tabernacle Community Development Corporation

Congregations

Buddhist Church of San Francisco
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption
Christ Lutheran Church
Congregation Emanu-El
Congregation Sherith Israel
Golden Gate Spiritualist Church
Grace Cathedral
Most Holy Redeemer – St. Vincent de Paul Conference
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Old First Presbyterian Church
St. Ignatius Catholic Church
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Accomplishments and Plans

of the San Francisco Interfaith Council

2015 – 2016

History 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.

Civic leaders and the public increasingly view the SFIC as the "go-to" organization for mobilizing the religious communities of our City. Congregations and faith-based agencies look to the SFIC for resources, referral and representation. Our relationships with key civic agencies and non-governmental organizations alike are strong, enabling us to enhance our core missions of responding to homelessness and disasters. Perhaps most importantly, by bringing the religious community together, the SFIC creates an effective, combined force for service and issues of public policy, allowing us to accomplish what no single congregation or organization can.

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, and hear a speaker, a meditation, and a "faith journey." 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 presents a meditation from his or her religious tradition and someone describes a personal "faith journey" from another faith perspective.

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 third of the \$3 million gift is for leasing Single Room Occupancy units around the City, where clients will move from the Navigation Center and continue to receive support services. The Navigation Center shelters up to 75 clients who generally stay three to ten days before moving to housing or residential treatment.

The SFIC coordinates a "Sunday Suppers" program at the Center, in which different congregations cook and serve dinners to the homeless clients each week.

A plethora of agencies contribute to the Center's operation. Episcopal Community Services is the lead on-site service provider, assisted by the City's Human Services Agency, Department of Public Health, Project Homeless Connect and others. The City's Human Services Agency takes the lead on SRO master leasing. Other key partners are the Mayor's Office, the Mayor's Office of Housing, Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE), 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.

San Francisco Interfaith Winter Shelter

For over 26 years, the SFIC has sponsored and coordinated an Interfaith Winter Shelter in cooperation with the City. 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 February. The shelter depends on a coordinated effort among four host-site congregations, 40 meal-providing congregations, shelter staff provided by Episcopal Community Services and the San Francisco Night Ministry, and the City's Human Services Agency.

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

For six years, in what is 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. The SFIC coordinates the annual march over the Lefty O'Doul Bridge, which brings together "freedom riders" from the South Bay as well as those who gather at the Caltrain Terminal. This march to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at Yerba Buena Gardens (YBG) pays tribute to the 1965 crossing made by Dr. King over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama. Once at YBG, the estimated 10,000 attendees participate in an outdoor Interfaith Service organized by the SFIC. Key religious and civic leaders address the crowd.

With a mini-grant from the FAITHS Program of The San Francisco Foundation, the SFIC will partner with the University of San Francisco to convene a half-day symposium as a follow-up and complement to the 2016 MLK Day Observance and Interfaith Service. At the symposium, scholars, activists and faith leaders will examine the historical role of faith communities in the Civil Rights Movement, assess the current state of the movement, with a particular focus on new voices at the table, and explore ways that faith communities can reclaim their prophetic voice as the Civil Rights movement looks to the future.

Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations

On April 30, 2014, at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, the SFIC hosted the 5th Biennial Disaster Preparedness Workshop for Congregations. Past workshops have focused exclusively on the faith community's response to catastrophic disasters. Last 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.

San Francisco is one of a hundred "Resilient Cities" around the nation. As a follow up to the workshop, the SFIC was invited by San Francisco's Chief Resiliency Officer, Patrick Otellini, to join other stakeholders in developing a resiliency plan for San Francisco. With the participation of its disaster preparedness partners, the SFIC is working with Mr. Otellini and a graduate student from the University of San Francisco to spearhead a pilot program in the Mission neighborhood designed to engage congregations to enter into agreements with the City to operate as emergency shelter sites in the event of everyday and/or catastrophic disasters.

WinterFaith Shelter Walk

Each year the SFIC hosts a "walk against hunger" around Lake Merced. Proceeds from the walk are used to defray the cost of operating the Interfaith Winter Shelter. This year's WinterFaith Shelter Walk was held on September 20, 2015, and raised close to \$16,000 for the shelter. Picture perfect weather, 10 teams, 100 walkers and over 20 volunteers contributed to the success of the day!

Annual "Bike to Worship" Week

The SFIC has partnered 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 helped to spread the word, share the free "*BIKE TO WORSHIP Toolkit*," and enlist registrants. This year's "*Bike to Worship*" Week took place May 24 - May 31, 2015. It was an enormous success with 22 congregations and over 200 bicyclists participating. There was also an "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 Day. Each year we shine the spotlight on a significant contribution made by the faith community to the life of San Francisco. At the 17th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast on November 25, 2014, the theme was "*Celebrating 25 Years of Faith-Based Collaboration: Together We Can Do More*." We celebrated the rich history of interfaith work and service in our City. On November 24, 2015 our theme will be "*Faith and Sanctuary: There Are No Strangers*." We will honor congregations who helped San Francisco become a Sanctuary City, recognize those who continue the tradition, and highlight young people for whom the City's commitment has provided hope and safety.

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 City's rich diversity for prayer and thanksgiving. The 10th Annual Interfaith

Thanksgiving Day Service was hosted last year by Congregation Sherith Israel. The 11th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service will be hosted by the Baha'i Community of San Francisco on Thursday, November 26, 2015. The offering collected at these services is used 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 observance took place on the eve of World AIDS Day, Sunday, November 30, 2014. The theme of the service, "*From Darkness Into Light*," was expressed by the inspirational music, prayers and reflections from many different faith traditions. This year's service, "*New Light, New Life*," will take place on Sunday, November 29, 2015.

Annual Interfaith Memorial for the Homeless Dead

Collaborating with the SF Night Ministry, the SFIC co-hosts the "*Annual Interfaith Memorial for the Homeless Dead*." This moving observance will take place on the evening of December 21, 2015 outdoors on the steps of City Hall. 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 is offered.

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 for scheduling 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 conflicts when scheduling events.

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

In the midst of crisis emerges unique opportunity. Proof positive of this axiom is the coming together, sustained relationships, growth and recognition of the Faith-Based Social Service Agencies CEO Roundtable. For the past six years, the San Francisco Interfaith Council has regularly convened the leaders of the 12 major agencies, providing a forum for exchanging ideas and for addressing time-sensitive issues directly affecting agency clients. Six years ago, San Francisco was in a very different economic place. Deep cuts in the City's budget forced these agencies to cut staff and programs, and the CEO Roundtable convened for the first time to coordinate an effective response to the City. When the tech boom created prosperity for the City, these agency budgets were never fully restored. Again, the CEO Roundtable was able to speak, with a unified voice, reminding the City of the vital role the agencies play in protecting the City's most vulnerable residents. This important coalition also brought to the City's attention the effect of the boom's "affordability crisis" not only on agency clients but also on nonprofits and their staff who lost both office space and housing. Further, the CEO Roundtable, along with the City's religious leaders, have been critical in the SFIC's "essential housing" efforts and in promoting the upcoming \$310 million Housing Affordability General Obligation Bond ballot measure. None of this work could have been done by any single agency and today, the CEO Roundtable is an established stakeholder at key policy-making tables.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Responding to Homelessness on Our Doorsteps

On April 30, 2015, partnering with the SF Office of Housing, Opportunity, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE), the SFIC convened over 200 congregational leaders for a workshop entitled, "*Responding to Homelessness on Our Doorsteps*." Individuals affected by homelessness and poverty often seek respite in the doorways of religious houses of worship and institutions. Held at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, this training provided attendees with resources and tools to meet the needs of these individuals as well as congregants who may be homeless or marginally housed.

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. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) asked the SFIC to convene congregations in the Cathedral Hill neighborhood to pilot a survey of how congregants travel to worship. In addition, the SFMTA has asked the SFIC to work with congregations along the Dolores/Guerrero Streets corridor on the controversial issue of median parking. Recognizing the SFIC's role as advocate for its constituent congregations, the Director of the SFMTA has initiated a regular, quarterly "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 correlating skyrocketing rents, low paid/middle income workers are being driven out of San Francisco. Their exodus has placed additional stress on the capacity of those public and nonprofit employers to provide essential services upon which our City depends. By developing religious institutions' underutilized parcels for affordable rental housing for this sector of workers, San Francisco's faith communities hope to help stabilize the outmigration and ensure a sufficient residential workforce for essential services.

The San Francisco Interfaith Council 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 local 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; in particular, employees who work in the fields of health care, social services, education and the arts and public safety. As an expression of support, SF Mayor Ed Lee directed key 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 number of parcels are presently under consideration for such development.

San Francisco Pathways to Citizenship

After the 2010 Census, San Francisco learned that approximately 100,000 people living in the City were legal permanent residents who were eligible for citizenship. In 2012, the City's Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA), and several foundations including The San Francisco Foundation, formed the San

Francisco Pathways to Citizenship ("SF Pathways"). SF Pathways is a "one stop shop" designed to encourage citizenship-eligible residents to naturalize. Numerous eligible residents do not apply for citizenship because of costly applications, lack of legal services, communication barriers, and fear. SF Pathways responds to these obstacles by offering innovative, cost-efficient, large group processing workshops for residents.

A recent grant from The San Francisco Foundation enables the SFIC to bolster the work of SF Pathways through its longstanding relationships with faith communities. The SFIC can effectively educate congregations and their citizenship-eligible congregants about SF Pathways, and can readily obtain congregational volunteers to help at the workshops. Last year, the SFIC entered into a partnership with the OCEIA, used its broad network of contacts to promote SF Pathways, devoted an "SFIC Monthly Breakfast" to educating about the workshops, and secured an important workshop venue. More recently, the SFIC is working to identify workshop volunteers with particular skill sets, such as foreign language capability.

"San Francisco Medicine": Journal of the San Francisco Medical Society

The Journal of the San Francisco Medical Society devoted its April 2015 issue to the theme "*End-of-Life Care: Advances and Controversies*." Recognizing the spiritual challenges and pastoral care needs of end-of-life patients and their families, the Medical Society engaged the San Francisco Interfaith Council to solicit religious perspectives on death and dying from a diverse cross section of faiths. In addition to a brief introduction by the SFIC's Executive Director, contributions came from pastoral care experts from the Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Episcopalian and Hindu traditions. Link to article: <http://goo.gl/wY2zNV>

Interfaith Concert

Music and song are central to many faith traditions, and help us share our spirituality and hope for peace. As part of our 25th Anniversary Celebration, the SFIC sponsored an interfaith concert at the historic First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco on November 9, 2014. Performers included the Unitarian Universalist choir, 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 with 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), a vibrant Board of Directors, the tireless volunteer efforts of our Past Chair, Rita R. Semel, and other dedicated volunteers.

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

San Francisco

Interfaith Winter Shelter 2014-2015

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

Meal Providers

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Church Divinity School of the Pacific
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Congregation Sherith Israel
Corpus Christi Church
Episcopal Church of the Incarnation
First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco
Girl Scouts of San Francisco/Morse Lodge
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Knights of St. Francis
Noe Valley Ministry
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St. Stephen's Catholic Church
St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Mary's Cathedral Conference
Trinity+St. Peter's Episcopal Church

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