



*Interfaith Council*  
of  
*Garden Grove, Stanton & Westminster*  
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For Web site & Newsletter on Line  
<http://www.InterfaithCouncil.info>

April 2006

## From the President . . .

### Balancing Act . . .



The title this month is taken from an article in April's "Context" by historian Martin Marty. He uses the term "*balancing act*" to speak about the radically different areas which he straddles in his personal and professional life. One friend commented to him that it was a good way to get a hernia. Since he didn't think that was the best description to use in scholarly journals, he changed the image to tightrope-walking and gave it a more scholarly ring by calling his an "*equilibristic stance*."

As I laughed about his "*equilibristic stance*," it occurred to me that those of us involved in the Interfaith Council tend to do a lot of tightrope-walking with our best *equilibristic stance*.

\*Just knowing when to listen carefully and when it is necessary to speak out can be a crucial balancing act.

\*Keeping an "equilibristic stance" of searching for some way to live in peace with people of other faiths, and at the same time giving a clear expression to our own faith is a challenging balancing act.

\*Keeping a firm hold of the values taught by our parents within a changed, complex community is a perplexing balancing act.

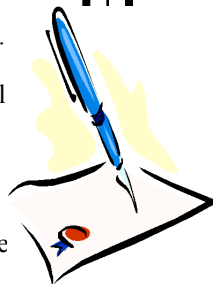
\*Finding ways to introduce healthy change in the attitudes and prejudices of our own faith communities while maintaining a firm linkage to them is a dangerous balancing act.

\*Meeting the desires for a more activist approach to issues of justice and peace while maintaining a high proportion of diverse participation is a frustratingly fragile balancing act.

\*Understanding and working appropriately with the different sets of values, priorities, and customs for the diverse ethnicities we represent is a mind-boggling balancing act.

\*Meeting the unending possibilities as a person concerned about the community and also as an individual with work and family responsibilities is a joyful balancing act.

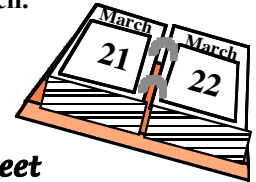
\*Well, I could go on, but you get the idea. Most often we approach our lives as an either/or proposition. Certainly we can't be wishy-washy about what we believe in our community of faith, but we also want to live in peace with people who think differently. So often our personal balancing act is simply trying to find the posture of stability in a both/and world-- not leaning too far toward the abyss in either direction. Most often our involvement in Interfaith activities and discussions is a balancing act. Finding that equilibristic stance is difficult. With some frequency we offend and violate



one another's sensibilities. Developing the trust and the resiliency to maintain the equilibristic stance is difficult. We do not always succeed.

\*Today, I am simply grateful for all of you who at least make the attempt to maintain a balance. Maybe our new name should be the **Equilibristic Interfaith Council**.

Peace . . .  
Doug Johnstone



**Apr. 22nd FSC – Swap Meet**

**Apr. 26th Human Trafficking  
Brainstorming Session**

**Apr. 29th YWCA Encore Plus  
Free Mammograms**

**Apr. 28 - 30th Ahimsa Quality of Life  
Conference (See Flyer)**

**May 3rd Joint Service Org Luncheon Garden  
Grove 50th Anniversary (See: Steve LaFond)**

**May 4th 2 Interfaith Breakfasts  
Greater Huntington Beach & Central OC.  
(See Flyers)**

**May. 4th Monthly Meeting  
Homelessness – Bob Cerince – Anaheim  
Community Services**

**May 6th Tenth Annual  
Interfaith Unity Banquet**

**May 11th Sikh Center Open House  
(See flyer)**

**Jun. 4th AIDS Walk**

**June 6th Monthly Meeting**

## Food for Thought . . .

*When the mind knows we call it  
knowledge;*

*When the heart knows we call it love;*

*When the being knows we call it  
meditation.*

**Unknown.**

# Miscellaneous . . .

## Tenth Annual Unity Banquet . . . . . . Tickets Available Now !!!

Two people can't even go to a bad movie for this little expense! Without junk food at outrageous prices, you can have a full dinner, entertainment, meet new people, have an opportunity for at least a little enlightenment. If you'd rather go shopping try our silent auction!!!

Tickets (only \$20.00) Call Ann: 890-5203  
Saturday, May 6th, 2006.  
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## Getting There With Joy . . .

Lissa Coffey offers an approach to modern day issues. She is an author & broadcast host. This promises to be an exciting evening. There will be an opportunity to meet the author.  
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## Silent Auction . . .

Please hurry! Hope to be able to organize this ahead of time this year. All donations are appreciated

Call: Ann — 890-5203 or Barbara — 943-2290  
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## Human Trafficking . . .

What can we do to help those in captivity? Join a brainstorming session on Apr. 26, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Called to make a difference. We can do something. St. Columban Community, 10801 Stanford Ave. GG  
Call: Barbara : 943-2290 — See you there!!!  
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## Banquet Display Tables. .

Reserve one now — last chance

The faith community displays are always fascinating, especially, to the new attendees. It is usually their first experience of the diversity that is ours. Reserve your space now. Show us the breath of your outreach or community activities or beliefs.  
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## Unity Table . . .

Remember to bring your item for the "Unity Table" and be prepared to give a 1 minute or less explanation of the object and it's significance. This is always a special part of this evening.  
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## Many Thanks to . . .

Steve LaFond for his presentation on the state of preparedness — What to do — where to go.? Be prepared to go the first week on your own. Have food, water and basic first aid for your own family/organization.  
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## Free Mammograms . . .

YWCA sponsored — free to women 40+ with no insurance. Tell your community... spread the word. Call Ann or Evelyn at 890-5203 — By appointment  
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## Swap Meet . . .

Rent-a-space — \$20.00 a booth

Support Center will be hosting its Swap Meet on Saturday, Apr. 22 from 8 to 3 p.m. Please drop by if you have a chance. If you would like to donate any of your small gently loved items (jewelry, trinkets, kitchen items, plants, videos, linen) we will gratefully accept them. Just call us to arrange a time to drop off at 890-5203  
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## Spirit in Action Award Winners . .

The four people closed by our group for the award this year are giving back to our community in diverse ways.

**Joanne Baker:** Founder of "Tias Arms" a nonprofit group that supports children in her native country of South Africa who have been affected by the AIDS epidemic. Here many are young orphans raising families.

**Ty Rose:** Community Outreach Chaplain for ASF here in Orange County providing service, education and support.

**Nitasha K. Sawhney, Esq:** For her work promoting Interfaith/ Intercultural Understanding and outreach to numerous organization within our community and abroad.

**Andres Psaras:** Owner — Harry's Cafe for his community outreach and caring. Long standing project of feeding all who come on Thanksgiving thus providing a caring connection.  
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## Membership . . .

Thanks to our members for 2006. See our list in next month's newsletter  
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## For Complete Recovery . . .

Remember both Steve LaFond and Lourdes Guterrez in your thoughts and prayers in the coming months as they move through some trying medical times. May their doctors be inspired and the medicines work as expected with minimal unpleasant side effects. We look forward to continued work with them — and soon.  
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## Board of Directors — 2005-2006

- |                     |                                     |
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## Next Meeting: May 4th

Garden Grove Community Center  
11300 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, 714-741-5262.  
12:00 — Bring your own lunch & meet new friends.  
Meeting 12:30 — 1:30 p.m.

Homelessness . . .Who, What, When, Where, Why??? Bob Cerince —Homeless & Motel Outreach

# See you there! ! !