



Interfaith Council
of
Garden Grove, Stanton & Westminster
8100 Chapman Avenue
Stanton, CA 90680
714-890-5203

Issue #

interfaith.urbandharma.org
<http://interfaith.urbandharma.org>

May 2003

From the President. . .

I want to personally thank. . .

Everyone involved with the Garden Grove, Stanton, and Westminster Interfaith Banquet for making it a night to remember. It was an evening filled with joy, and happiness. the food was great, and the friendship even better.



Even in the uncertain times we find ourselves living in, the Interfaith communities of Garden Grove, Stanton, and Westminster came together creating unity through community.

Peace . . . Rev. Kusala

Banquet Reflections . . .

Kudos to all who worked and made possible our 7th Annual Interfaith Unity Banquet. Kudos to all who chose to be there. For several years now we have engaged in celebrating this event. I believe every time we do this new healing comes, not just to our local community, but also to the entire world. Our sharing in fellowship ignites a spark. That spark reaches the fire of God, God's light grows brighter, and God smiles upon us for recognizing the greatest commandment of all, TO LOVE!!!

We are in
—a time of war and terrorism,
—a time in which people kill and lame each other in the name of God,
—a time in which many commit blasphemy through acts of violence,
but in contrast to this, we chose to honor what is sacred, holy and revered in our various traditions, by reaching out to each other.
By our presence there that evening we recognized that we were all born of the same source of life, that we are all brothers and sisters on the journey and mystery of life.
By our coming together we recognized that we are all called —to build, rather than destroy,

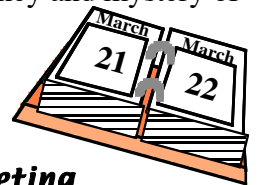


—to understand rather than dispute,
—to embrace rather than exclude.
We were a reflection of God that evening (*to put it in monotheistic terms*) and the Eternal and Infinite Creative Force rejoiced and danced in our midst.

Our coming together in fellowship was an honorable and venerable act. By this simple form of sharing we continued to break down the barriers that divide us. It was wonderful to be there and greet—and be greeted by— so many old friends of so many faith communities. I felt a sense of awe as I greeted my Jewish friends, my Buddhist friends, my Muslim friends, my Bahai friends and so forth. To watch this going on all around me was a special gift. There was a palpable sense of closeness in our midst; we were no longer strangers to each other. That is one of the greatest gifts of all, and one of our greatest accomplishments!!!

May we continue the celebration of our rich diversity. May our example of that evening help to bring about peace in a world torn by terrorism and military conflict. May we witness to the power of love, especially, to those who would use religion to promote hatred, persecution, violence, and terrorism. I celebrate with you the power of love, the gift of compassion, and the joy of building community in our midst. I wish you all many blessing on the journey and mystery of life.

Rev. Wilfredo Benitez
Vice President



May 27th IFC Board Meeting
St. Polycarp Catholic Church
5:15 p.m. All are welcome.

- June 5th Monthly Meeting**
Elections — Speaker Sande Hart
- June 8th Health Screening**
St. Polycarp
- June 20th Workshop on Spirituality and Dementia** Alzheimer's Association
- July 14th — 25th Discovery Summer Camp**
Call Ann: (714) 890-5203
- July 18th Potluck — Hosted by St. Anselms**

Miscellaneous . . .

Elections . . .

It is that time of year again. As school winds to a close, vacations begin, the Interfaith Council looks forward to another year of sharing, learning and growing. According to our charter our officers serve one year terms. The outgoing president automatically becomes a director at large. As we determine our slate of officers for this year's, June 5 election we ask for nominations from the members. Enclosed is a nomination slate. Fax, phone or e-mail your choices for office by the board meeting May 27th. This enables us to verify the willingness of your candidate to have his or her name on the slate.

Ann at 890-5203 or Barbara at 537-2936

Art Competition

"Something very significant is happening here." The words of one of the judges. This year's art work showed the incredible insight of our youth. They looked and envisioned "peace" in the face of the fact of war, saw countries shaking hands, countries on a family tree, children together encompassing the world and noticed that peace will come if we let it. Needless to say judging was difficult, leading to an enlarged honorable mention category. The participating schools were *Blessed Sacrament, St. Columban, St. Paul Lutheran, St. Paul of the Cross, St. Polycarp, Family Support Center, and Magnolia Park Center.*



Speaker . . .

Sande Hart from S.A.R.A.H. will speak to us at the upcoming monthly meeting on June 5th regarding her program encouraging women to make a difference in the world through learning, dialog and appreciating each others spirituality.

Spirituality and Dementia . . .

The Alzheimer's Association of Orange County presents this annual workshop at no cost to the attendee. Explore the ramification of the disease that effects the family and friends as a loved one's memory becomes unreliable, loved ones unrecognizable, and daily living without assistance impossible. Learn of the spiritual life that "is"

and how it may be expressed and touched.

Call: Alzheimer's Association 714-283-1984 ex 302

Interfaith Potluck — St Anselms. . .

Food! Food! Food! Time for a relaxed evening with our community. Rev. Wilfredo will host at his home -

(the blue house) 9471 Larson St., Garden Grove -6:00 p.m., Friday, July 18. Bring your favorite dish and your appetite. Call: Pat Casey (714) 827-1790

Free Health Screenings. . .

Stroke * Glucose * Blood Pressure *

Ask the Doctor

Sponsored by: Coastal Communities Hospital, St. Polycarp Catholic Church & Family Support Center

Sunday June 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This is an incredible opportunity.

(Contact Ann : 714-890-5203)

Discovery Summer Camp. . .

Children of all 4 thru 13 (Grade 7)

\$10.00 per child —\$20.00 per family

Activities include: sports, arts & crafts, entertainment,. 3D show, computer bus, family day and much more.



Volunteers are needed!!! Supplies needed!!!

Arts and crafts supplies especially paper towel and toilet paper cardboard tubes, yogurt containers with lids & flower seeds for planting are needed.

(Contact Ann : 714-890-5203)

Silent Auction . . .

The silent auction was a success both financially and as an opportunity to display our diversity. \$855.00 has been realized from the bids on various treasures. Thanks to all who contributed items and those who befriended them to give them a new home. Special thanks to Linda Kaplan -*Designs by S.I.L.K.* who framed many of the items and conducted the auction.

Board of Directors — 2002

President: Rev. Kusala
Vice Pres: Rev. Wilfredo Benitez
Secretary: Barbara George
Treasurer: Neil Hicken
Directors at Large:

Rev. Ed Poettgen
Steve LaFond
Ann Nguyen
Pat Casey
Rev. Doug Johnstone
Naziha Wareh

Next Meeting: June 5th

Sande Hart will be the guest speaker. Elections for the coming year today!!!

See you there! ! !