



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



For Web site & Newsletter on Line
urbandharma.org/gginterfaith

May 2005

Issue #

From the President . . .

Reflections . . .

As always I am grateful when the unity banquet is over because I can sit back and relax. This year like other years, I felt inspired by many people at the event.

I am encouraged by the words of Kay Lindahl who reminded us how far we have come in growing interfaith relationships. Her closing remarks bring forth the fact that *"We all drink from one water, We all breathe from one air, We rise from one ocean and we live under one sky. Remember, we are one. The newborn baby cries the same, The laughter of children is universal, Everyone's blood is red and our hearts beat the same song. Remember, we are one."* Despite the movement in Interfaith, we

still have work to do, and most of it should be in a spirit of hospitality, searching for ways that we can work to build community.



As I looked over the crowd at the event, I was touched by the youth who participated.
—Those from Garden Grove High School Key Club who came to do service, along with the LDS missionaries
—The four young students from La Quinta who played such beautiful music fitting for a royal feast.

—My heart melted as the young students who had participated in the Art competition received their awards. Although they may not realize it, they are all the face and heart of the Interfaith community.

The *Spirit in Action* awards always remind me of just what a difference one person makes in the world. The awardees this year were no different from other years. They come from different backgrounds, but their hearts are open to being the change they want to see in the world. Sherrel Johnson, who so beautifully represents the Muslim community and so readily speaks out and acts on issues of justice and peace for the whole world. John Seymour, who uses his talents as a writer to show what is good in the world. Finally, Bruce Broadwater who in his ten years as Mayor of Garden Grove encouraged the Interfaith Council to be a viable presence in our community.



Probably, the most amazing part of the Unity Banquet is that we can come together across cultures and religions and genuinely accept each other. It is always wonderful to see people acknowledge each other with a look that suggests *"I am so glad you are in this world because it makes my life so much richer"*. To listen to Fred Curtis play his flute and to feel the connection between the human heart and the heart of mother earth.

As I think of this coming year, I commit myself once again to being a spokesperson for Interfaith partnerships and inter religious dialogues. I hope you too will make that commitment.

Peace,
Ann Nguyen



- May 28th **FSC – Yard Sale**
- June 2nd **Monthly Meeting**
Peter Vidmar –Olympic Gymnast
- June 3rd **Luncheon -Awards of Peace**
- June 3-8 **Buddhist Christian Dialog Conference**
- June 24th **Potluck – St. Anselm Hosting**
- Jun. 11 **Tias's Arms –Fund Raiser**
- Jun. 5th **Fr. Ed Poettgen 25th Anniversary**
- Jun. 25th **Be the Cause "Refuges & Human Trafficking" <http://www.bethecause.org/>**
- No July Meeting**
- Aug. 1st **Monthly Meeting**

Food for Thought . . .

"it is never too late

to be

what you might have been."

George Eliot

Miscellaneous . . .

- Banquet - Auction . . .

We have a few unclaimed items and will offer them to all takers at the next meeting. Last Chance till next year!

IFC Potluck Dinner . . .

St. Anselm Episcopal Church will sponsor an IFC potluck at the home of Fr. Wilfredo just around the corner from the church. See the flyer for more info. Always a lot of fun and a relaxed way to visit with old friends and make new ones. Bring food to share, an appetite, and a friend.

Art Contest Winners . . .

It is the dreams of a child that become our future "Peace and Understanding in the Eyes of a Child". All the artwork was on display it is a wonderful addition to our banquet evening. The prize winners in each category are as follows: Congratulations to our young artists!

Grades 6 to 8:

- First: Michael Zuniga — Grade 6, St. Columban
- Second: Hadiya Quidwai — Grade 7, Orange Crescent
- Third: Francis C. Juego — Grade 7, Blessed Sacrament
- Honorable Mention —
- Grade 6, Jennifer Luong & Casey Shanks, St. Columban
- Layli Nerenberg, Dexter Intermediate Whittier
- Grade 7, Reem Najjra & Pasneem Serhal, Orange Crescent
- Grade 8, Kim Chi Pham, St. Polycarp

Grades 3 to 5:

- First: Gaby Palma — Grade 3, St. Columban
- Second: Caroline Nguyen — Grade 4, St. Columban
- Third: Duy Pham — Grade 5, Family Support Center - Eisenhower School

Honorable Mention —

- Grade 3, Don Pham :
- Grade 5, Kattina Do & Britani Letcher, St. Columban;
- Daniel Almas St. Polycarp
- Natasha Nerenberg, Hoover School Whittier

FSC Yard Sale . . .

Support FSC outreach programs with your gently loved articles. If you have any items such as furniture, books, plants, jewelry or small appliances that you wish to donate please contact Ann Nguyen or Evelyn Corado at 714-890-5203

Please: Drop off your donations ONLY on Thursday/May 26 or Friday/May 27. Come to adopt an item on Sat. May 28, at St. Polycarp, 8100 Chapman, Stanton.

Fr. Ed Poettgen 25th Anniversary . . .

Our past president, ordained 25 years ago, will be celebrating 25 years of priesthood served in here in

Orange County. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving (Spanish) 1:00 p.m., celebrated on Sunday June 5th with a reception following after in the old church. All are invited to drop by.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
1100 Center St. Santa Ana CA 92794
Info: ed_poettgen@msn.com

Our Heartfelt Thanks Update . . .

Thanks for your concern, our son Jerry is recuperating ahead of schedule and can now put 100 lbs of weight on the injured leg and has almost full range of motion. Your support, therapy and prayer seem to be another miracle in progress. Barbara George and Family

Thanks . . .

A big thank you to our May meeting speaker Joanne Baker from Tias Arms. Her passion for her work with the children of South Africa is remarkable. Her determination to educate herself and others throughout the world on the plight of the many affected by Aids is admirable. Please keep up with the efforts of her organization Tias Arms by searching their website Upcoming fund raiser info also.



www.tias_arms.org

Elections . . .

It's time for nominations for the upcoming year. Be thinking about the future and our 10th Banquet. We need those who are dedicated to the vision of Interfaith, willing an able to attend monthly meetings and follow through on projects and goals

Buddhist Christian Dialog Conference ...

LMU — More info: on web & email (<http://www.lmu.edu/pages/11789.asp>) (gakito@gmail.com)

Board of Directors — 2004-2005

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| President: | Ann Nguyen |
| Vice Pres: | Rev. Kusala |
| Secretary: | Barbara George |
| Treasurer: | Neil Hicken |
| Directors at Large: | |
| | Shari Loveland |
| | Steve LaFond |
| | Rudy Torres |
| | Pat Casey |
| | Judy Cobb |
| | Esther Friedman |
| | Naziha Wareh |
| | Harry Krebs |

Next Meeting: June 2nd

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.

Speaker Peter Vidmar Olympic Athlete will tell us about the new LDS Temple and the open house scheduled for July-Aug.

See you there! ! !

