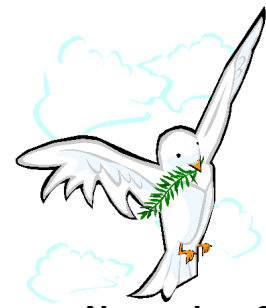




*Interfaith Council*  
of  
*Garden Grove, Stanton & Westminster*  
11912 Gary Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92840



For Web site & Newsletter on Line  
[interfaithcouncil.info](http://interfaithcouncil.info)

November 2006

Issue #

**From the President . . .**

**I was very pleased . . .**

with the celebration of our Thanksgiving Observance and the wonderful spirit in our midst as we came together to give thanks for the blessings in our lives and share the beauty our sacred traditions represent. We had a very wide array of interfaith representation which added color and flavor to the event, our musical contributions were inspirational, and our fellowship following the event was inviting and brought us all together for an opportunity to visit and build community. All in all it was a great way to begin the new holiday season, and further promote the mission of our interfaith council.



Holidays (or holy days) exist throughout the calendar year. A little over a month ago we came to the end of Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar. During the month of Ramadan which began on Sept. 23rd, Muslims fasted daily for the entire month. During our current holiday season, at least in this part of the world we will be celebrating Chanukah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. For many in the Christian world, next Sunday will mark the beginning of the Advent Season -- these are the four Sundays before the birth of Christ on Christmas Day.

Advent in the Church is a time of preparation for the coming birth of the Prince of Peace. In actuality, the Christmas season does not begin for Christians until the birth of baby Jesus, but the consumer world is not aware of that (some things get lost in the zeal to buy).

It is my hope and prayer that the holidays bring us all closer to our source, our Creator, and each other. I would also like to caution us not to make these holy days a time for blind consumerism, but more importantly a time to share love of family in meaningful ways, build community, and continually move toward building a just and better world free from exploitation,

and the oppression of the weak.

On behalf of our interfaith council, I wish you all a blessed holiday season and a Merry Christmas!!!

In Peace,

The Rev. Wilfredo Benitez,



**Dec. 7th Monthly Meeting**  
*Skirball a Museum for everyone*

**Dec. 8th Bodhi Day**

**Dec. 14th Chanukah Begins**

**Dec. 17th Kwanzaa Celebration**  
Anaheim (714)-692-1125

**Dec. 22nd Chanukah Ends**

**Dec. 25th Christmas**

**Jan. 4th Monthly Meeting**

**May 5th Eleventh Annual Interfaith Banquet**



**Food for Thought . . .**

**"Even though it is difficult to try to bring about peace through inner transformation, that is the only way of establishing sustainable peace in the world."**

Dalai Lama

# Miscellaneous . . .

## Faith & Fullerton . . .

*“Golden States of Grace, Prayers of the Disinherited.”*  
Fr. Wilfredo was the presenter and the art work (black & white photography) was a thought provoking depiction of prayer in places with people not readily associated with prayer.  
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## R.I.P. David Lewis . . .

David was an early participant and light for our fledgling interfaith community. He provided help and encouragement for all during his active time here as President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and representative to the Council. He brought his community squarely into each event and will be greatly missed. To his family friends and Faith Community we extend our heart felt condolences. He remains truly a blessing to each of us.  
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## Skirball a Museum for All . . .

Sandra Lipschultz, informed & articulate Skirball docent.  
Digital slide show. Very entertaining, instructive & illuminating. Beautiful & illustrative images of rare objects & documents from the Skirball Museum collection, and other archival sources. Sandra will distribute some Judaica artifacts related to our program.  
Come, for a nice surprise.  
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## Celebration of Thanks . . .

*This was truly a beautiful experience of thankfulness and a wonderful opportunity for us to gather as a community in a way unheard of in other parts of our world. Those who could not make it really missed an amazing evening and many wonderful people...*  
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## The Battle for Jerusalem . . .

*Many thanks to our panel for the enlightenment about the possibilities and the difficulties in the middle east and Jerusalem. Hope is possible, solutions are not easy. Hard work and perseverance and vision can set the ground work.*  
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## WalMart . . .

Clergy and Laity united for Economic Justice provide a moral framework for economic debate. What is the “cost” to our communities? Low wages, low prices, fairness, being a good corporate citizen, hidden costs of low price/wage. What perspective can the faith community bring to the table? (626) 506-0825  
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## Web Sites . . .

*Does your faith community have one? Send us the address and we will post it on the Interfaith site. Another chance to increase our awareness of the activities and outreach of each of our communities.*  
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## Get well . . .

### Pat Casey . . .

*Pat is home at last very weak and easily tired. Hopefully she will be able to return to our meetings soon.*

### Ed George . . .

*Back to the hospital this recovery is prone to multiple detours & etc. Home again (Sunday) weak but improving Thanks for your continued support we really appreciate it!*

### Steve LaFond . . .

*Recovering and working part time. Able to make it to the Thanksgiving Celebration. Way to go Steve! Don't over do it. . .*  
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*Note the New number and address for the Interfaith Council on the letterhead.*  
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## Interfaith Calendars . . .

*A few new calendars will be available for purchase at the next meeting. They are wonderful artistic expressions of 14 faith communities from Dec. 06 to Jan. 07. Major feasts and celebrations are shown with a designation of the community celebrating. A great way to learn about your neighbors. Surprise your friends with ready answers to “When is tet?” and many others.*  
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## Board of Directors — 2006-2007

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Vice Pres:	Rev. Kusala
Secretary:	Barbara George
Treasurer:	Neil Hicken
Directors at Large:	
	Pastor Doug Johnstone      Ann Nguyen
	Steve LaFond                      Pastor Rudy Torres
	Pat Casey                          Judy Cobb
	Harry Krebs                      Pastor Cheryl Raine
	Joyce McFadden                Esther Friedman

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## Next Meeting: Dec. 7th

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.

## Skirball Museum — Sandra Lipschultz

*Great opportunity to see some of history up close and personal.*

# See you there! ! !