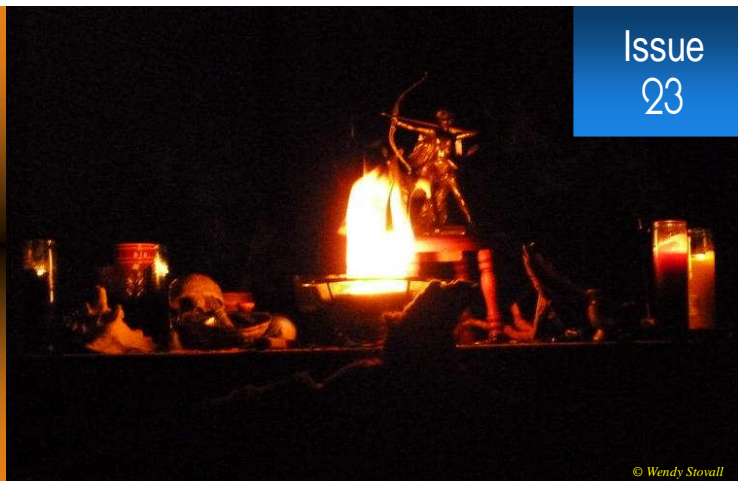


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Issue  
23



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A Newsletter of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

# THE ROUNDTABLE



## *New Moon Ritual to Artemis*

*Salt Lake Pagan Society  
January 16, 2015*

This educational event at Dancing Cranes Imports coincided with the January new moon and offered an opportunity to learn about Wicca, Paganism and the Goddess Artemis. The early evening ceremony included a drum circle and fire meditation. SLPS President Daniel Cureton and April Love explained the items on the altar and answered questions about differences between Pagan and non-Pagan traditions.

*Continued on next page*

## *Episcopal Church Ordains New Deacon*

*St. Mark's Cathedral  
January 22, 2015*

Chaplain Susan Roberts was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons at St. Mark's Cathedral. Bishop Scott Hiyashi performed the ceremony, which was a sacred and solemn confirmation, as well as a time of joy and happiness for Susan and her family. It was an opportunity for many to see how responsibility as a deacon is accepted by the ordained, and learn how the new role will direct their lives.

*Continued on next page*

## *"Pope Francis and Reform of the Church"*

*Annual Aquinas Lecture  
St. Catherine of Siena/Newman Center  
January 25, 2015*

Jesuit Fr. Thomas J. Reese presented this year's lecture "Pope Francis and Reform of the Church," a focus on the positive changes occurring within the church.

Fr. Reese is a senior analyst at the National Catholic Reporter. He also serves on the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent, bipartisan, federal government

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## *Hindu Temple Tour*

*January 29, 2015*

The Hindu Temple once again participated in the Interfaith Season events by offering a tour and an explanation of ritual being performed by the Temple Priests.

The Temple was undergoing renovations and so the shrines were all

*Continued on next page*

## *Family Promise Open House and Tour*

*February 2, 2015*

Tony Milner, Executive Director of The Family Promise shelter located at 814 W. 800 S. welcomed guests to the facility where they given a tour and were able to ask questions of the staff.

*Continued on third page*

## *Roundtable Annual Prayer Breakfast*

*Hellenic Cultural Center  
February 5, 2015*

This annual event was the official start to the 2015 Interfaith Season, January through March. In welcoming 70 area religious leaders, Interfaith

*Continued on third page*

## New Moon Ritual >>> Continued from first page

A question that came up right away was “What is the difference between Wicca and Paganism?” President Cureton commented that they are the same thing: “Paganism is the umbrella term for anything non-Abrahamic.”

Following the question and answer time, there was drumming and guided meditation. A smokeless fire was used as the focus point, and the beating of the drum and the shaking of the percussion instruments helped people to transcend. Offerings were given to the Goddess, and afterwards, everyone shared cookies and apple juice. Artemis blessed everyone present.



## New Deacon Ordained >>> Continued from first page



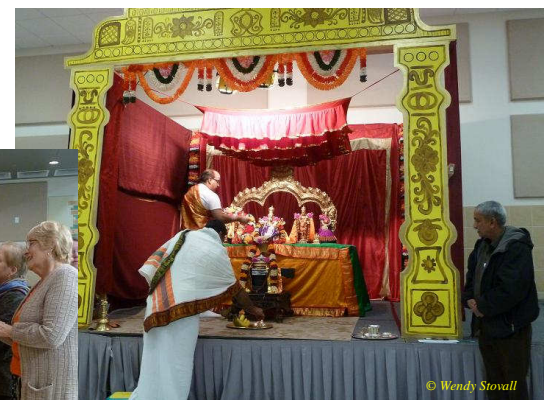
Susan Roberts responds to questions from Right Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah, during the ordination ceremony.



Newly ordained Deacon Reverend Susan Roberts greets family and audience members.

## Hindu Temple Tour >>> Continued from first page

placed in the Cultural Hall. Light refreshments and further discussion took place especially with the college students who attended. Roundtable member Neale Neelameggham helped answer questions from those in attendance and explained many of the actions performed during the ritual blessings.





## Family Promise >>> Continued from first page

Family Promise is a non-profit inter-faith alliance that helps homeless families achieve lasting stability and self-sufficiency. Since 1995, it has provided a supportive environment for over 700 families during a stressful time of upheaval and trauma.

This unique shelter is comprised of a day center which has a children's playground and as well as basic supplies for the families at the center. A network of area faith congregations host shelter families at night on a weekly rotation. This faith-community response to homelessness utilizes the many resources congregations have to offer and provides a refuge for families in need.



Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of each member or member organization. The Roundtable encourages open discussion and dialogue.

## "Heretics and Infidels, the Changing Landscape of Religious Diversity"

### Third Annual Neale Nelson Memorial Lecture

#### University of Utah Memorial Library

February 2, 2015

Guest speaker Brian Birch, director of Utah Valley University's Religious Studies program and the school's Center for the Study of Ethics, spoke on "Heretics and Infidels, the Changing Landscape of Religious Diversity."

His interests in religious diversity and comparative studies led to completion of Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion and Theology program at Claremont Graduate University, California. He has worked for several years with the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy and serves as Senior Research Fellow. He

has written and collaborated on a number of papers and articles in the area of religious studies

Dr. Birch is a member of both the Interfaith Roundtable and the board of the Parliament of the World's Religions.

The annual lecture series recognizes the contributions of the Rev. Neale Nelson, Salt Lake Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church pastor, University of Utah teacher and student, and professor at Regis University, Denver.



Dr. Brian Birch





Roundtable Chair Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos

Roundtable Board Chair Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos said Interfaith Season was a way to reach out to individual communities and the community we share as a whole. "We can bring people together to share and learn and grow in knowl-



Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes

edge, in faith, so we can respect and love each other."

Guest speaker Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes told the audience that his team faces "some really dark forces," which underscores "the great need our nation, our state and our community has for wonderful people of faith like you."

"I think [the Interfaith Roundtable] has created one of the most positive dynamics in our community to have people caring about each other and ex-



Jim Jardine (center) and Brian Farr (right) accept the service award from Rev. Fr. Koucos.

ercising and looking to find commonalities."

In addition, the 2015 Interfaith Awards were presented:

Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos presented the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, with the Outstanding Service Award, for their constant support of the Interfaith Roundtable. Jim Jardine and

Brian Farr received the award on behalf of the church.

Alan Bachman presented the Individual Award to David Sharp for his considerable work with the Musical Tributes and his ongoing support of interfaith activities in general.

Josie Stone presented a Community



Alan Bachman presents the individual award to David Sharp.



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Following the awards, Dave Sharp and Janet Healy gave a brief summary of the Interfaith Season events and the Musical Tribute.

“The unity of the water symbolizes the harmony and love of our faiths here together,” according to Interfaith

A group of people, including men in suits and a woman in a red sari, standing around a small round table covered with a white cloth. A man in a blue turban is also present. A woman in the foreground is taking a photo with a smartphone. A banner on the right reads "Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable" and lists sponsors like the Utah Winter Games.

The water blessing ceremony symbolized the harmony and love of the gathered faiths.



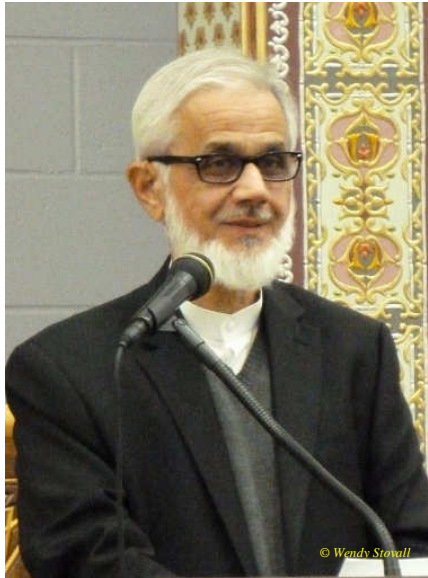
# "Muslim Voices Against Extremism"

## Khadeeja Islamic Center

February 7, 2015

The Khadeeja Islamic Center welcomed Roundtable members and guests to hear guest speaker Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi speak on the topic "Muslim Voices against Extremism."

The evenings event began with a reception followed evening prayers. Everyone was invited to gather for a panel discussion, prior to which Imam Mumin recited the Koran from memory. Dr. Salman Masud, President of the Islamic Society and Zuhaib, Secretary General of the Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake welcomed everyone. The panelist spoke on the topic beginning with Fr. Elias Koucos, followed in turn by Alan Bachman, Jim Jardine, and West Valley Mayor Ron Bigelow.



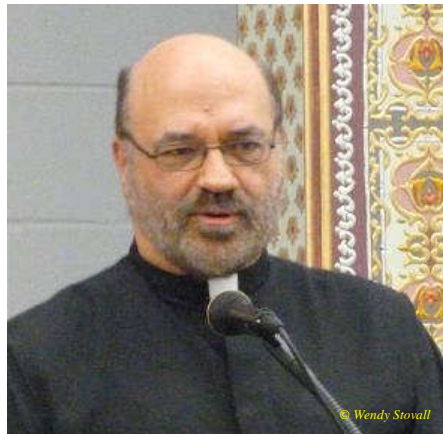
Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi



Imam Mumin



Dr. Salman Masud



Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos



Alan Bachman



Jim Jardine



West Valley Mayor Ron Bigelow





Dr. Iqbal Hossein



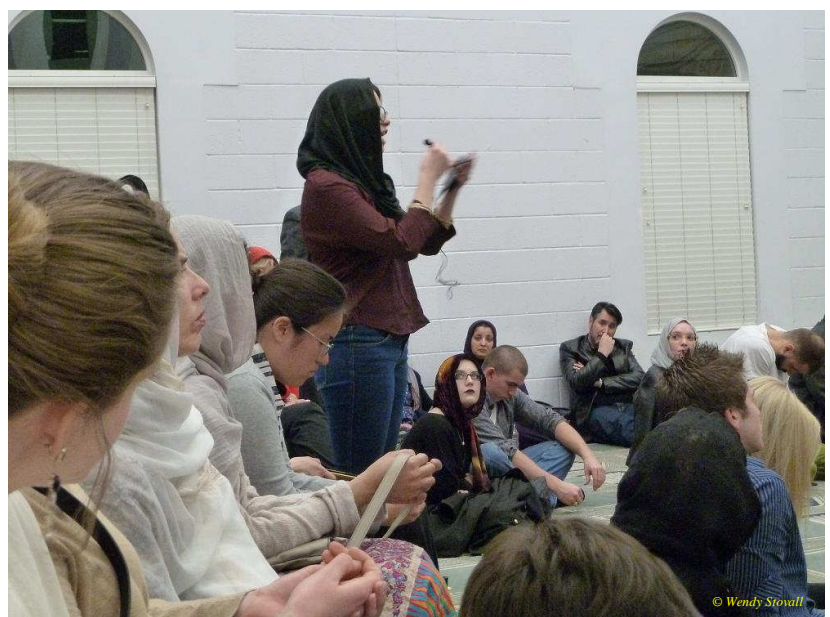
Imam Muhammed Mehtar



Osman Ahmed

Dr. Iqbal Hossein introduced Imam Muhammed Mehtar of the Khadeeja Mosque who in turn introduced Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi, a well known Islamic leader, who has travelled widely, lecturing at universities, academic and religious institutions around the world. He is currently the Imam at the Islamic Society of Orange County in Garden Grove. He is also the Director of the community and chairman of the Fiqh Council of North America. He also is a teacher at Chapman University. He has participated in many interfaith programs.

Questions from the audience were answered by the panelists. Osman Ahmed concluded the program."





## "Jews in Utah? Not an Oxymoron!"

Congregation Kol Ami  
February 8, 2015



Rochelle Kaplan

Jewish historian Rochelle Kaplan has been researching Utah's earliest Jewish history for a number of years and has discovered interesting new information about the state's Jewish "pioneering" forbearers. Her talk included many original photos, diaries and newspaper articles illustrating the important contributions of Utah's first Jewish immigrants. The Jews contributed much to the efforts of mining, butchering, retail, humanitarian efforts and the sciences, particularly health. They also contributed greatly to the political scene; one of the governors, several house representatives and a mayor or two were Jewish. Currently there are 2 Jewish representatives in the legisla-

ture. The Jews also established the Alta Club, Lagoon amusement park, The Odd Fellows and the Masonic Hall. Lastly, many of the prominent theaters and symphony venues in Salt Lake were directly attributed to the Jews like the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center, the Abravanel Hall and others.

Mention was made of how Brigham Young played a part in the setting up of some of the major retail establishments in Salt Lake City and the establishments of the then major synagogues in Salt Lake and Ogden.

This original presentation was featured at the 2014 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.


## "Muslim Voices Against Extremism" >>> Continued from previous page



Audience listens to Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi



Reception at the Khajeeda Islamic Center



**Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable**

**THE ROUNDTABLE**

**Increasing Harmony and Understanding in our Communities**

The **Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable** is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your tax deductible contributions are very much appreciated and help to make our work of faith cooperation and event planning possible. We could also use donations of office supplies, such as stamps and copy paper.

Go to [www.interfaithroundtable.org](http://www.interfaithroundtable.org) and click on the "Donations" tab to pay through PayPal™ or mail your check or money order to: Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable, P.O. Box 112016, Salt Lake City, UT 84147

## Annual Aquinas Lecture >>> Continued from first page

commission that reviews the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations and makes policy recommendations to the president, secretary of state and Congress.



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