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A Newsletter of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

# THE ROUNDTABLE



## Interfaith Leaders Luncheon

*Juan Diego Catholic High School  
February 10, 2015*

As part of the luncheon, several JDCHS seniors and one junior talked about their perspectives as students from different faith backgrounds attending a Catholic high school. For one non-Catholic, it has been a life-changing experience that has strengthened her own faith; for a student from China, her theology classes have been a source of learning about social justice and human rights. And for another student, attending a Catholic school has made her more willing to understand others' religions.

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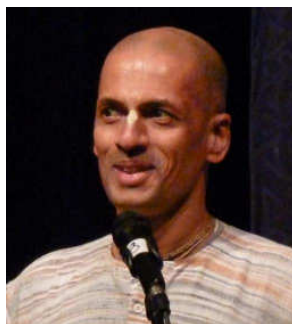


## "Unconditional Love"

*Deeksha Utah Krishna Temple  
February 12, 2015*

Guests and members of the Interfaith Roundtable were warmly welcomed by Deeksha Utah to the Salt Lake Krishna Temple where a delicious dinner was served followed by a service.

*Continued on next page*



Monk Subhakt

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

*St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral  
February 17, 2015*

The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word "shrive," which means to "confess." Also called "Pancake Day," it marks the beginning of the Christian Lenten season. During Lent, Christians give up something of value for 40 days as a way of

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## Interfaith Leaders Luncheon >>> Continued from first page

Principal Galey Colosimo said that were he to find a theme in what the students said, it is that Juan Diego does not try to proselytize students. "But we do try to evangelize all the students."

The student speakers were: Rachel Kuhr, Senior, Seventh Day Adventist; Ellie Merrill, Junior, LDS; Megah Kindra, Senior, Origin NYC, Hindu, Kyle Rauterkaus, Senior, Catholic; Zimo Wang, Senior, Chinese, Agnostic; Esther Kasue, Senior, LDS, Kenyan and Tabatha Amani, Senior, Congo, Nazarine Christian/Baptist

For a full article by Nash Elder, Online Editor for The Speaking Eagle <https://thespeakingeagle.wordpress.com/2015/02/16/interfaith-luncheon-at-jdchs-demonstrates-students-love-for-catholic-school/>



Principal Galey Colosimo



Ellie Merrill



Tabatha Amani

## Unconditional Love >>> Continued from first page



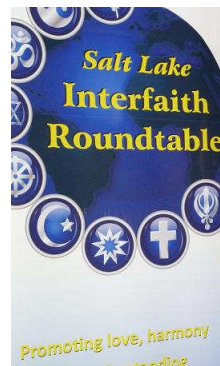
Diana Fawn



Linda Beal



Debbie Coleman - Deeksha Trainer



Alan Naumann



Diana Fawn began the evening program by singing "Moola Mantra", an ancient Sanskrit prayer. Monk Subhakrt, Property Coordinator for the Krishna Temple spoke briefly about Krishna beliefs.

The program continued with the Deeksha Blessing Givers prayerfully moving around the room offering blessings to the audience while a variety of peaceful music played in the background.

Following the Blessings several Deeksha Givers spoke about Deeksha and how it has helped them in their lives.



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## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper >>> *Continued from first page*

recalling Jesus Christ's 40-day fast in the wilderness when he was tempted by the Devil. This is often reflected on Shrove Tuesday by the eating up of rich, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season.



The evening included not only all the fixings that go into making the perfect pancake dinner (or breakfast), but also a children's Mardi Gras parade,

complete with costumes and decorated tables, wagons and shoebox floats. Prizes were awarded. Rev. Ray Waldon also offered a tour of the Cathedral.

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## "Many Lamps One Light"

### *An Evening with Rumi and Sufi Teachings*

#### *Anderson-Foothill Library*

*February 19, 2015*

"Many Lamps One Light....an evening with Rumi and Sufi teachings" became a beautiful spiritual gathering of 45 open hearts at the Anderson-Foothill Library.

The evening was filled with a sacred teaching from Rasoul Shams, founding director of Rumi Poetry Club and the translator of "Rumi: The Art of Loving." This was followed by amazing questions from the diverse audience. The sharing was woven with a variety of readings from Rumi's poetry including a lovely Persian lullaby and ending with a prayerful whirling dervish! Warm hospitality and refreshments followed!

The poetry club regularly meets to study the mystical and interfaith philosophy of 13th century Persian Sufi Poet Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi and his teachings on Sufi spiritual tradition.





# Kids Feeding Kids

*"Talk in Action"*

*Gateway Mall Former Old Navy Store*

*February 21, 2015*



On Saturday, February 21 over a 1000 people from all faiths, businesses, and organizations throughout the valley came together at the Gateway Mall in the Former Old Navy Store to prepare bags of food to feed starving children throughout the world. Thirty-one people represented the Interfaith Roundtable, organized through Zeynep Kariparduc's "Talk in Action" group.

Maureen B Evans, Kids Feeding Kids Host Coordinator said that when she first signed on to do this project, the minimum commitment was 100,000 meals at a cost of \$22,000. She had no idea where all those funds would come from but felt led to proceed. Before achieving this lofty goal, Feed My Starving Children asked if she could prayerfully consider increasing the

number of meals. As global tensions rose, there had been a dramatic increase in the demand for meals. In December, the total meals FMSC had shipped to West Africa for Ebola victims totaled 8.1 million. Cautiously and prayerfully, it took a great deal of time to actually commit to the 200,000 meal pack. She really believed God would work through them.







Our Roundtable group participated in the afternoon session. We first met for an orientation. Our group was split into two units; each unit was divided into two packing and bagging units per table. We all had fun while carefully measuring the ingredients into bags, which were then weighed, sealed and stacked, ready for transportation. In 3 shifts 209,952 meals or 9 full pallets were packed and made ready ready for shipment. By 7 pm that evening, the trailer was loaded with all the meals and on its way. The total meals packed equates to 575 children receiving a meal every day for the next year.



We have made a difference! Hopefully, we can be instrumental in changing the sad statistic that every 7 seconds 1 child dies in the world from starvation. This could not have been done without the assistance of your donations of both time and money to make it such an overwhelming success! Maureen thanks everyone for joining the effort.





# Pre-Parliament Langar and Guest Speaker Satjeet Kaur

## Sikh Temple of Utah

February 21, 2015

Guests were warmly welcomed to the Sikh Temple and helped with donning a headscarf, if we did not already have one. We were invited to the “Langar” (kitchen/canteen) to share a vegetarian meal. This tradition was instituted by the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak, to uphold the principle of equality regardless of religion, caste, color, creed, age, gender or social status. Generally people are seated side by side on long rows of carpet to help to emphasize everyone’s equality. The tradition of “Langar” expresses the ethics of sharing, community, inclusiveness and oneness of all humankind. The Sikh’s will be setting-up a Langar during the Parliament of World’s Religions in October.

Following the sharing of food we were invited upstairs to join in the chanting and prayers. Mr. Jagdish Gill, a member of the Interfaith Roundtable, welcomed everyone to the service. Mr. Gill welcomed Satjeet Gaur, a young lady from New York to speak to us about Sikhism. After she spoke other speakers were invited up, including Brian Farr from the Roundtable. The event concluded with everyone moving downstairs to the Langar to once again enjoy the delicious vegetarian food.



Mr. Jagdish Gill



Satjeet Kaur





# Interfaith Guided Bus Tour to Three Houses of Worship

February 24, 2015

Around 50 riders boarded the bus at Congregation Kol Ami Tuesday evening, then visited St. Ambrose Catholic Church and Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church. They returned to Kol Ami for a presentation and refreshments. The group also included 10 or so younger participants, the first year younger people were aboard.

Josie Stone, Interfaith Roundtable vice chair and host of the bus tour, says it was an immediate success its first year. "People enjoy the event because there isn't any pressure or proselytizing, the relaxed and open atmosphere also gives church leaders an opportunity to 'showcase.'"

Highlights of the evening included:

At St. Ambrose, the Rev. Andrzej Skrzypiec explained the symbolism in the stained glass windows as the sun set: the windows have cooler colors at the back of the church that gradually get warmer the closer they are to the altar, symbolizing the warmth found in God's love. A young student organist also performed for us as a closure to our visit.

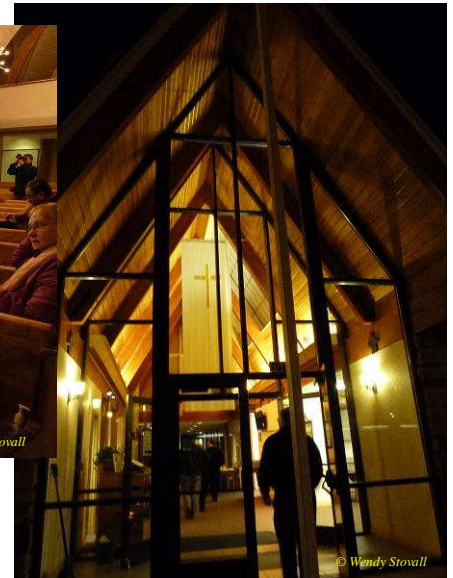


Reverend Steve Klemz

Steve Klemz, pastor of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (ZELC) welcomed participants at the front door and pointed out additions to the building. "We had a vision that as salvation goes, there's a sense of making room and expanse..." Pastor Klemz led us into the chapel where he explained the meaning of the features in the chapel and a little about ZELC's beliefs. He also allowed us a sneak visit to his office to view his wall of small crosses.

At Congregation Kol Ami, Rabbi Emeritus Frederick Wenger and mem-

ber Betty Yanowitz related the 130-year history of the Jewish faith in Salt Lake City and the origins of the synagogue. Rabbi Wenger then invited us up to the stage area where he showed us where the Torahs were kept and showed us how handled them. He concluded by reading from the Torah. The tour concluded with delicious snacks and refreshments.



Left:  
Reverend  
Andrzej Skrzypiec



Right:  
Rabbi Emeritus  
Frederick Wenger





# "Women of Faith Sharing Their Spiritual Journeys"

## Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

March 10, 2015

The Salt Lake Family Federation for World Peace and Unification welcomed a capacity crowd to its event titled "Women of Faith Sharing Their Spiritual Journeys," which was organized by Unificationist Wendy Stovall, co-pastor of the Salt Lake FFWPU, and Secretary to the Interfaith Roundtable Board.

The evening began with the church's youth choir giving their debut performance, and delighting the audience as they presented songs which they would be singing for the upcoming Musical Tribute. Pamela Kuhlmann, a long time FFWPU member, emceed the event, and invited Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos, chair of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable to give a few welcoming remarks. Six women from different faiths were invited to share their spiritual journeys.

Carmela Javellana-Hirano was raised in the Philippines as a Catholic but converted to Buddhism after she came to America. Last year she was ordained in Japan as a Buddhist priest, and acts in this capacity together with her husband Jerry Hirano at the downtown Buddhist Temple. She said that she began to search for religion only after experiencing the death of her mother and feeling extremely alone because of this loss. She discovered the Buddhist faith, and began to understand what compassion meant, and no longer felt alone.

Christine Myers-Tegeder, referred to as "Pastor Chris," is an associate pastor in the First Presbyterian Church. She also volunteers as a chaplain for Primary Children's Hospital. She was originally a professional musician who taught music and conducted orchestras. Pastor Chris shared her experience of her call to ministry by saying, "Personally, I would have loved a big, obvious message from God. Sky-writing would have been nice, a few bolts of lightning would have been appreciated," Myers-Tegeder said. "But God doesn't always work that way. Sometimes it's in the quiet, personal messages."



Pamela Kuhlman





Virginia Hecker grew up in Detroit in a family that was not very religious, but mainly Jewish by culture. She said her faith developed when she moved from a Jewish majority in Detroit to a Jewish minority in Salt Lake City. She found a book on Judaism and she decided to study it. In doing so she began to put her new-found beliefs into practice. She is now a member of Congregation Kol Ami and a member of their choir.

Jenny Pulsipher began by saying that she felt that her journey of faith was a bit different from the other stories which had been shared. She said that her life of faith started out as Mormon; she still is a Mormon; and has never stopped believing. She said that contrary to one's belief about Mormon's in Utah, who have a very strong community, she feels that she has to make a daily strong effort to maintain her faith especially as she teaches at BYU. She said that her journey has been more about building on the faith she developed as a young child.

Maysa Kergaye's exuberant personality and wonderful smile changed the dynamic in the room. She was a Professor of Mathematics at Salt Lake Community College and is a member of the Islamic Speakers Bureau. She shared her story of growing up overseas and attending a Catholic boarding school. She said neither she nor her father was very religious, although her mother was. She left the Catholic school at the age of 15 to join her mother in America. Maysa's mother didn't try to change her beliefs, but rather prayed for her. Maysa felt that God changed her, as there were too many experiences for her not to believe that God was playing a role in all that was taking place in her life. She attended an Islamic youth camp, after which she had a change of heart and decided to practice her new found belief to the fullest. She and her husband founded an Islamic School of which she was a Principal for several years.

Wendy Stovall also shared her journey. She was raised on a farm in Zimbabwe where she only knew black people as laborers. She did not know them as personal friends. After a very brief marriage she began questioning why marriage was the way that it was. A



Carmela Javellana-Hirano



Christine Myers-Tegeder



Virginia Hecker

while later she was selected to go to London on a government scholarship. In the second week there she met an Unificationist. She found that the teachings of Rev. Sun Myung Moon answered her questions. In addition, she



Jenny Pulsipher



Maysa Kergaye



Wendy Stovall

was also the only white person in her international class and learned that we all laughed and cried at the same things. Her Unificationist faith has helped her to be more accepting of all people. She has been an Unificationist for 40 years.



# "Love Is a Verb"

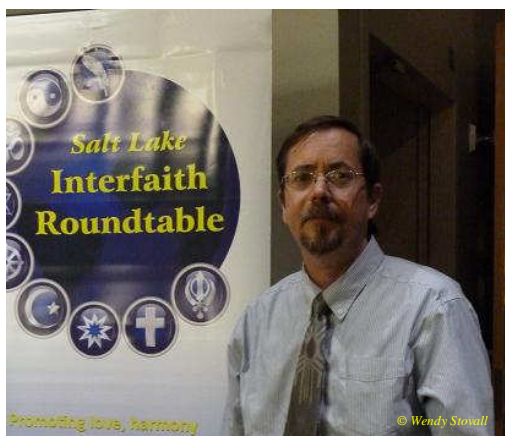
*Pacifica Foundation Utah*

*February 23, 2015*

The evening began with introductory to the film "Love is a Verb" given by Andrew Korosok. He explained about his own spiritual search after 9/11 and said that the Pacifica Foundation was the one of the first groups he contacted at the start of his search.

In addition, he also came across the tradition of Asma al-Husna or the "99 Most Beautiful Names of God" which are traits of divinity which help us appreciate God and the best portions of ourselves—names like Forgiving, Healer, and Knower. He began the 99 Names Project to share his growing understanding and appreciation, wherein he has built glass sculptures responding to each of these Most Beautiful Names of God from his Christian perspective. Andrew is now well known for these beautiful glass sculptures. He went on to explain in his own words of what he has come to know about the Gulen movement as shown in the documentary film "Love is a Verb."

The documentary details the life and teachings of Turkish Islamic scholar and teacher Fethullah Gulen, founder of the "Hizmet" (Turkish word for service) social movement.



Andrew Korosok

It examines the movement's followers, who are living the idea of love as a verb through their work in Hizmet, often called the Gulen movement. This work is centered primarily on education, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and humanitarian outreach.

Through a co-operation with the people inspired by Gulen, director Terry Spencer Hesser had unprecedented access to the ideas and actions of the movement around the world, including teachers who crawled through a tunnel to open a school in Sarajevo during the war; interfaith work the movement provides in Turkey; and Hizmet schools in Turkey, Somalia and Iraq. In Somalia the crew follows two Turkish doctors

who risk their lives working in a place other relief organizations have deemed too dangerous, and sleep under armed guard.

The first Gulen-inspired educational institute opened in 1980. As of 2009, an estimated two-million students attended the 1,300 Gulen-inspired schools worldwide.



**Increasing Harmony and Understanding  
in our Communities**



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Zeynep and Coskun Kariparduc