



Issue  
25

*in this issue >>>*

*Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute  
Utah Council for Crime Prevention Interfaith Day  
Human Rights Interactive Workshop  
“Faith, Science and Climate Action”  
LDS Church History Library Tour*

A Newsletter of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

# THE ROUNDTABLE



*Many Faiths — One Family*

## *Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute*

*Sunday, March 22, 2015, Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square*



The Hilltop Gospel Choir from the Hilltop United Methodist Church, directed by Roberta Shimensky.

This year's Tribute was held on Sunday evening, March 22. Dave Sharp served again as the Musical Tribute's chair. The Roundtable is very grateful to all the members of the committee, the Tribute performers and to the LDS who graciously opened up the Tabernacle for this event. They also appreciate all the technical support given including the Tabernacle organist Linda Margetts, who performed the concert prelude and postlude. Carol Mikita of KSL Television was the Master of Ceremonies.

Carol invited the following to open the program with a variety of invocations: a call to prayer was given by Masood Ul-Hasan, Vice President of the Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake; a Native American Blessing was given by Lacey Harris; a Sikh prayer by J.B. Singh, member of the Sikh Temple of Utah and a Jewish prayer by Alan Bachman accompanied by Shofar players, Josh Lipman and Larry Green.

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## Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute >>> Continued from first page



A Jewish prayer by Alan Bachman accompanied by Shofar players, Josh Lipman and Larry Green.



Carol Mikita of KSL Television was the Master of Ceremonies.



A Sikh prayer by J.B. Singh, member of the Sikh Temple of Utah.



Masood Ul-Hasan, Vice President of the Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake gives a call to prayer.



A Native American Blessing was given by Lacey Harris of the Ute and Piute tribes.

# Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute

Elder Lynn Summerhays welcomed everyone on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Carol Mikita proceeded to lead us through the musical presentations which began with a resounding performance by the Ogden Buddhist Temple Taiko drummers directed by Stan Hirei. Taiko drum playing in Buddhism is related as being the world of enlightenment of the world of “Buddha” and the player as the world or delusion of the world of man. The link between the two worlds is the drum sticks, which represent Buddha’s teachings. So when the player hits the drums with their sticks they are trying to become one with the drum or with “Buddha.” One could feel the rise and fall of the throbbing drums throughout the Tabernacle as the performers altered their drumming through their skillful performance.

Kopo Crawford represented the International Society for Krishna Consciousness by playing a medley mantra called “Maha Mantra Tumare Darshan,” which means “The names of Krishna and Dancing with the Divine feminine and masculine energy of God.” He was accompanied by singer, Diana Fawn.

The children’s choir of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification sang two songs “The Principle Youth March” and a traditional Korean



Elder Lynn Summerhays



The Ogden Buddhist Temple Taiko mers



## Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute



Left: Kopo Crawford of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness  
Above: Diana Fawn

song “Urie So Wonun Tongil,” in which “tongil” means unity. Erin O’Connor conducted and choir director, Mrs. Eiko Takeda accompanied them on the piano.

Imam Muhammed S. Mehtar of the Khadeeja Mosque and the Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake gave a prayer and talk in Arabic and English on “Unity, Kindness and Humanity,” in which he spoke about the need to work together in peace and harmony.

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification children’s choir.



Imam Muhammed S. Mehtar of the Khadeeja Mosque and the Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake



## Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute

The Mount Tabor Lutheran Church choir performed “Psalm 141” from Holden Evening Prayer, by the Lutheran composer Marty Haugen. The choir was directed by Harry Heightman and accompanied by Gordon Smith on the piano, Rebecca Sue and Stephanie Wilson on the flute, Rev. David Nichols and Erin Faehling playing the violin and Rachel Becker the cello.

The Lux Singers, an elite religious choral ensemble, in residence at Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church in Provo sang two pieces, “I Stand All Amazed” arranged by John Leavitt, and “Prayer” by Rene Clausen. Leland Spindler conducted. Their mission is to sing great works of all religious denominations and sects; to sing for religious faiths in their places of worship.

Young girls from the Kargi Kala Kendra Indian Classical Dance School performed a dance “Krsihna Nee Begane” which literally means “Krishna come quickly!”



The Mount Tabor Lutheran Church choir



The Lux Singers



Young girls from the Kargi Kala Kendra Indian Classical Dance School

## Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute

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The Hilltop Band

The dance was specially choreographed for the Musical Tribute. The song by "Colonial Cousins," was composed by Padmashri Hariharan and Leslie Lewis and accompanied the dance, which featured aspects of both Indian Classical and Western music. It was a wonderful addition to the interfaith aspect of the Tribute, especially as the girls captured the eyes of the audience as they danced so gracefully in the colorful traditional clothing.

The final group to perform was the Hilltop Gospel Choir from the Hilltop United Methodist Church, directed by

Roberta Shimensky. The choir embraces the entire community connecting diverse faiths and cultures sharing the love of singing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The choir performed "All the Glory" by Richard Smallwood, "Forever You shall Reign" by Carla L. Sanders and "Thou, O Lord" by Thomas Klassen. They were accompanied by the following musicians; Dan Waldis, piano; Richie Vasquez, bass; Max Meyer, drums; Rodney Strong, keys; Matt Wennergren, guitar.



Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Salt Lake City and Chair of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church of Salt Lake City and Chair of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable gave the concluding remarks and the benediction. He invited the audience to rise and join in the singing of the traditional closing song "Let there be Peace on Earth."

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865624657/United-through-music-Members-of-various-faiths-to-perform-in-annual-Salt-Lake-Interfaith-Musical.html?pg=all>

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## Utah Council for Crime Prevention Interfaith Day

*Utah Cultural Celebration Center*  
*March 7, 2015*

Local faith leaders attended this critical issues conference to discuss possible solutions to the issues facing Utah's youth, churches, families, schools, neighborhoods and communities. They were encouraged to become part of the solution through the "Power of Prevention."

Speakers included Dr. Bill Beacham who presented "The Surviving Family,"

a discussion of helping clergy, spouses and family members deal with depression, anxiety and suicide, and included the warning signs and available resources for help.

Other afternoon presentations included the myths and realities of marijuana, human trafficking and pornography.

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

# Human Rights Interactive Workshop

St. Mark's Cathedral  
March 24, 2015



Carla Kelly

HREC facilitator Carla Kelly led a highly interactive morning workshop on “Gifts of Gratitude: Compassion” where all voices were welcomed and respected as a means to encourage each other to be more loving human beings. Participants joined in a conversation across differing belief systems and discovered those places where we are called to be more compassionate and civil in our daily lives. They explored the need to be able to disagree without demonizing, debate without demeaning, and discuss without degrading. “Our world view is shaped by our values, beliefs, assumptions, attitudes and ideas, and impacts how we respond to others. Multiple perspectives declare that each is the only ‘right’ way. How do we respectfully agree to disagree?”



Dr Katharine Hayhoe

## “Faith, Science and Climate Action”

First Presbyterian Church  
March 23, 2015

The lecture was presented by Dr Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist and an evangelical Christian whose faith influences her science and her science influences her faith. She combined these two often-strained topics into what she calls a convincing presentation about caring for creation and the need to act now on climate change.

Dr. Hayhoe was named as one of the 100 most influential people of 2014 by TIME magazine

The lecture was sponsored Utah Interfaith Power & Light, The Nature Conservancy and First Presbyterian Church.

# LDS Church History Library Tour

March 5, 2015

This special “behind the scenes” tour was conducted by the director of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Church History Library. It included areas of the collection not normally open to the public, such as the “Foundations of Faith exhibit,” which houses a first-edition Book of Mormon, an original Book of Mormon handwritten manuscript, an original Book of Commandments, a letter written by Joseph Smith from the Liberty, Missouri Jail, and other historical LDS documents.



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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.

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