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Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
© Wendy Stovall

A Newsletter of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

THE ROUNDTABLE



Interfaith Month 2013

Prayer Breakfast

2013 Roundtable Service Awards



J.B. Singh, President of the Utah Sikh Temple, offered the morning prayer

The Roundtable officially kicked off Interfaith Month 2013 with a special breakfast meeting Thursday, January 31, at the Salt Lake Downtown Marriott Hotel, which also recognized the annual World Interfaith Harmony Week, February 1-7.

Interfaith Month is the highlight of the Roundtable's year, and an important part of

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First Nations Blessing Ceremony

*Commemoration at the
Utah State Capitol*



Lacey Harris holding eagle wing

This blessing ceremony on February 1 was a first-of-its-kind event for the Roundtable. "We have never done [this] before,"

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Utah Council for Crime Prevention

Training for Clergy and Lay People

Area interfaith communities gathered on Saturday, February 2, at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center to discuss critical issues in light of terrorism in our schools.

The six-hour conference focused on a wide range of issues, including technology and cyber bullying, Internet safety, the impact of pornography on children and youth, and civil discourse. In addition, a resource panel offered information about to go within our community for services and help with these issues. www.utahcrimeprevention.org

*"...from time to time, we need
outside help and guidance
beyond our human abilities."*

— Governor Gary R. Herbert

Annual Interfaith Month Prayer Breakfast >>> Continued from first page

meeting its goal of fostering understanding and cooperation among faiths. "This is a wonderful opportunity to view area faiths from their perspective, as opposed to misinformation or rumor," says Roundtable Board Chair Alan Bachman.

Roundtable Board Member J.B. Singh, President of the Utah Sikh Temple, offered the morning prayer in both Punjab and English. He was followed by the presentation of the Roundtable's 2013 Interfaith Awards:

Media Awards for excellent coverage of our diverse community

Joseph Walker, Deseret News faith and religion reporter

Colleen M. Scott, Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable Media & Education Chair, for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Roundtable in getting our media coverage in place for all the events.

Awards for excellent service to the Roundtable

Wendy and Michael Stovall, editors of "The Roundtable" newsletter, for their dedication to promoting harmony, understanding, and inclusion through the written word, presented by Josie Stone, Chair of the Interfaith Month 2013 Committee.

Judy Wight, Interfaith Musical Tribute Chair, for her dedication to promoting harmony, understanding, and inclusion through the diverse world of music, presented by Elaine Emmi, Roundtable Secretary.

The guest speaker was Dr. David A. Parker, a nationally recognized anti-bullying advocate. He is a professor of teacher education at the University of Utah, and associate director of the U's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Center for Community of Caring Institute.

Dr. Parker related his personal experiences with bullying while growing up in New York City, and credits his mother with teaching him to find the positive, rather than negative, in trying circumstances. He asked everyone to look at each other as a human being who deserves respect and friendship.

He also announced that the National Center for Community of Caring will close on June 30. He said that he enjoys living in Utah, and wants very much to find a position that will allow him to continue his mission to eradicate bullying.

The Roundtable thanks the staff of the Marriott Salt Lake Downtown at City Creek for the excellent service and food they have provided at this and other Interfaith Month events over the years.



Alan Bachman, Roundtable Chair, and Colleen M. Scott, Roundtable Media & Education Chair, present media award to Joe Walker, Deseret News reporter



Wendy Stovall, far left, received on behalf of Mike Stovall and herself a service award for their work as editors of "The Roundtable" newsletter



Dr. David A. Parker



Judy Wight, far left, received a service award for her work as Interfaith Musical Tribute Chair

First Nations Blessing Ceremony in Utah State Capitol Rotunda >>> Continued

Governor Gary R. Herbert Joins Roundtable in Commemorating Interfaith Month



Lacee Harris, a member of Utah's Northern Ute and Northern Paiute tribes, welcomed attendees with a smile "...to my land."

Continued from first page

says Josie Stone, Interfaith Month Chair. As she told the Daily Herald newspaper, the idea came up in Interfaith Month event meetings, and committee members decided to give it a try. "I made some calls, and to my surprise, we got the rotunda."

Roundtable Board Member Lacee Harris conducted the ceremony, asking for peace and understanding among all creation. He is a member of Utah's Northern Ute and Northern Paiute tribes, and has also conducted prayers for the world during the annual Interfaith Musical Tribute and other Roundtable functions.

The hour-long program began with a greeting from Gov. Herbert. "I appreciate what you (Roundtable) stand for and what you represent. You have no idea how much it means to me to know that you care about me and you care about each other enough to pray for the governor and for the state. ...from time to time, we need outside help and guidance beyond our human abilities."

Roundtable Chair Alan Bachman followed the governor's welcome with a brief history of the Roundtable and also an explanation of the purpose of Interfaith Month. He then turned over the remaining time to Lacee to conduct the blessing.

Lacee wore ceremonial dress and decoration and welcomed attendees with a smile "...to my land. ...You were visitors, but you stayed. You are welcome anyway." He chanted the blessing in his native Ute language and waved an eagle wing fan as Roundtable members passed an unlit peace pipe around the circle.

His prayer asked his four brothers – the north, south, east, and west – to give their gifts to us. He explained that praying in the four directions was symbolic of the gathering of many faiths that morning. He also said that the pipe ceremony symbolizes our existence on Earth and ties to the Creator: "Spirituality has no boundaries. ...We are one."

The Roundtable Board thanks Gov. Herbert for taking time from his full schedule to participate in this event, and acknowledge the valuable assistance of his office staff.



Governor Gary R. Herbert



Left to right, Roundtable Secretary Elaine Emmi, Roundtable Chair Alan Bachman, Gov. Gary R. Herbert, Lacee Harris, and Pamela Atkinson

Houses of Worship Bus Tour

This first-time evening bus tour on February 5 was a big success. Interfaith Month Chair Josie Stone led about 35 participants on enriching, informative visits to the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple; Cathedral of the Madeleine, Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake; Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral; and the historic LDS Meetinghouse.

Participants left their vehicles and boarded a sightseeing bus at the LDS Church lot, 142 A Street. The tour was scheduled to last from 6 to 8 p.m., but easily ran over the allotted time because of the immense amount of interest everyone took in learning more about each place of worship.

Places visited were:

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
211 West 100 South

Cathedral of the Madeleine
331 E. South Temple

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
279 South 300 West

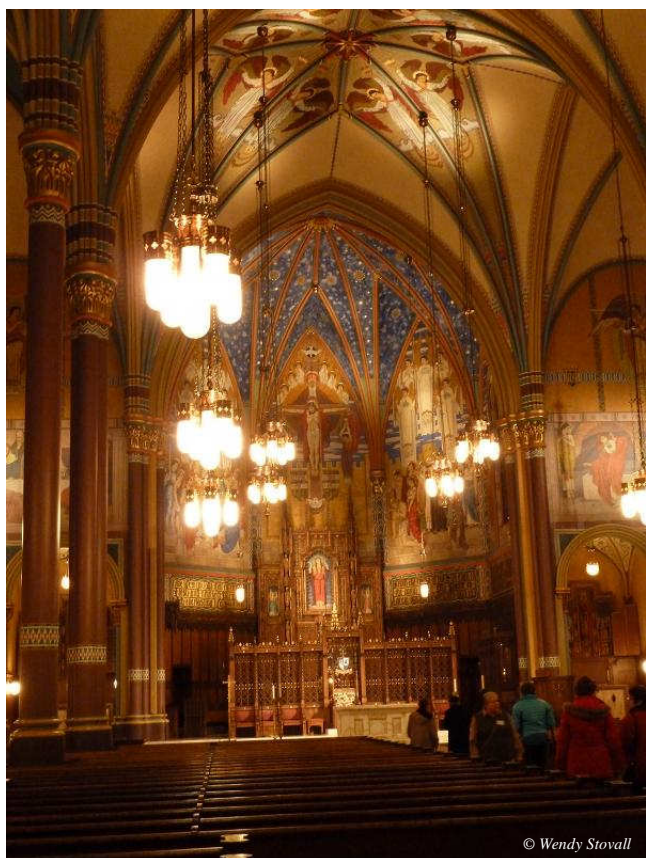
LDS Meetinghouse
142 A Street



Salt Lake Buddhist Temple



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral



Cathedral of the Madeleine



LDS Meetinghouse

"Women and Islam"

Pacifica Institute

On Friday, February 8, a dinner and special lecture on "Women and Islam" was presented at the Pacifica Institute.

The evening's guest speaker was Prof. Sophia Pandya, who spoke before a packed room that included members of most of Salt Lake's faith communities. She is a Fulbright scholar who has researched Muslim women's changing religious practices in Bahrain; specifically the impact of education on women's religious activities, the topic of her new book.

Dr. Pandya is on the faculty of California State University at Long Beach, where she specializes in women, religion, and globalization. She holds a BA in Near Eastern Studies/Arabic from the University of California at Berkeley. She received her MA and Ph.D. from California State University in Religious Studies, with a focus on women and Islam.

Pacifica Institute, 363 West 2720 South, Suite A, SLC; www.pacificautah.org



Pacifica Institute Utah Branch President Coskun Kariparduc and Professor Sophia Pandya



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

“A Convening Conversation”

Human Rights Education Center of Utah

An interactive workshop, “A Convening Conversation: What could be possible across all faith traditions to relieve the chaos and uncertainty in our world?,” was held Saturday, February 9, at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. Organizers Carla Kelley and Glen Brown of the Human Rights Education Center of Utah (HREC) led a dozen participants in this four-hour morning workshop in the church’s Dean’s Hall.

Activities included exercises intended to teach them how to transcend their differences. They also discussed faith and hope, and their perceptions of themselves and others, including their thoughts on finding common ground and becoming, as one person said, “...a voice for good.”

The HREC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by Carla Kelley in 1999. Human Rights Education Center of Utah; www.hrecutah.org



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Carla Kelley



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“When ‘Impossibilities’ Happen”

Third Church of Christ, Scientist

A Christian Science lecture on “When ‘Impossibilities’ Happen, What’s Behind It?” was presented on Tuesday, February 19.

According to Jon Benson, Christian Science lecturer and practitioner, people are looking for reliable healing that brings inspiration and meaning to their lives. “I’ve learned through personal experience that healing through prayer is reliable and life-changing, even if the situation seems impossible.”

Salt Lake’s Christian Science Third Church sponsored his interactive talk, which was held at the Columbus Community Center. He explored two personal healings with

outcomes thought impossible. “Investigating these healings reveals a Bible-based Science of God and man (you!) as His image. This Science, central to Jesus’ healing ministry, is one you can put into practice in your own life.”

Benson has served as a U.S. Army officer, university instructor, and managing director of a non-profit organization providing planning and management facilitation for governments and volunteer organizations in the developing world.

Third Church of Christ, Scientist, 1306 Spring Lane, SLC

Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake

On Friday, February 15, the Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake presented “The Importance of Respecting People with Different Faith.”

Interfaith Month visitors to the Khadeeja Islamic Center enjoyed a full evening of opportunities to interact with members of various faith groups in the interest of fostering harmony, shared values, and peaceful coexistence.

Khadeeja’s Imam Mohammed Mehtar conducted the evening program, which began with a call to prayer at 5:30. Afterwards, there was a break to socialize and enjoy ethnic refreshments, followed by a 20-minute presentation and a question and answer period.

Khadeeja Islamic Center, 1019 W. Parkway Avenue, West Valley City; www.utahmuslims.com

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Cathedral Tour

St. Mark's Episcopal Church



Traditionally Shrove Tuesday falls on the Tuesday preceding Ash Wednesday, which this year was February 12, the beginning of the 40-day Lenten season. It represents the period of fasting and meditation Jesus Christ underwent in the wilderness, the time when the devil tempted him. Adherents observe fasting and/or penitence in preparation for Easter and also as a way to empathize with Jesus' time of trial.

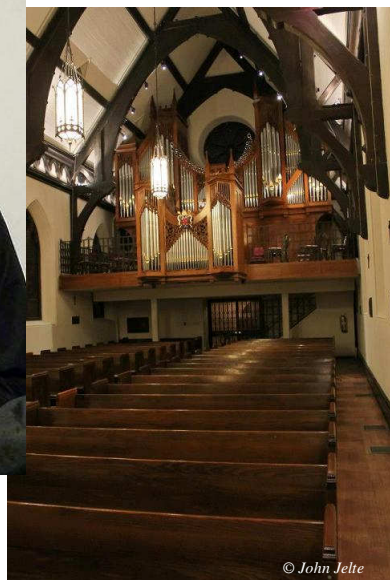
The supper was served in the Dean's Hall. Diners indulged in homemade pancakes, link sausages, a variety of syrups, and Josie Stone's authentic English lemon crepes, prepared just for the event. And, as this was Mardi Gras time, the children of St. Mark's decided to hold their own indoor Mardi Gras parade, with plenty of candy, prizes and traditional beaded necklaces for everyone. Dean Ray Waldon followed the parade with a tour of the Cathedral for both the adults and the kids. St. Marks Episcopal Church, 231 East 100 South, SLC: www.stmarkscathedral-ut.org



Rev. Carolyn Marsh and Josie Stone



Dean Ray Waldon



Pan Orthodox Vespers

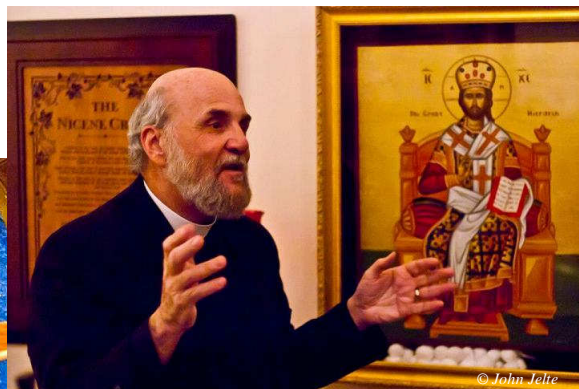
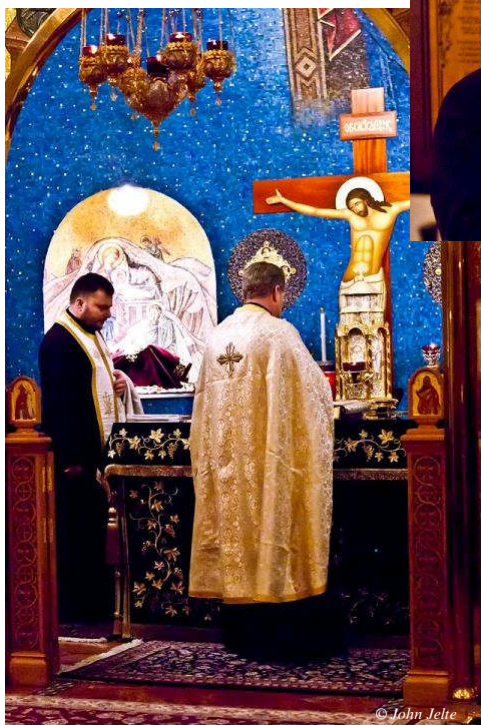
Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church

Pan Orthodox Vespers and social hour were held at Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, February 10.

Vespers is a traditional Orthodox evening worship service that marks the start of the liturgical day at the setting of the sun. It is intended to prepare all for the night's sleep and the dawning of the new day.

Three members of Salt Lake's Pan Orthodox clergy jointly conducted the service: Fr. Predrag Bojovic, St. Michael Archangel, Serbian Orthodox Church; Fr. Matthew Gilbert, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church; and Roundtable Board Member Fr. Elias Koucos of Prophet Elias. After the service, they conducted a question and answer session about Orthodox Christianity, then welcomed everyone in the church social hall to enjoy fellowship and Greek cuisine favorites.

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church, 5335 South Highland Drive, Holladay; www.gocslc.org



Fr. Michael Kouremetis



Fr. Elias Koucos

Roundtable Members Honored for Interfaith Work

On Tuesday, February 26, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints hosted a luncheon honoring long-time Roundtable members Scott Parker and John T. Nielsen.

For more than eight years, Scott and John have worked with the Roundtable Board in their positions as Chair and Vice Chair of the LDS Church Salt Lake City Area Public Affairs Council. The church recently released them from their service in these official capacities.

The luncheon was held at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building, and attended by representatives of many of the area's faiths. The event allowed them the opportunity to recognize Scott and John's accomplishments in promoting love and understanding in the community. In fact, several people mentioned the love and friendship that filled the room.

In addition, both men shared fond memories of the many interfaith activities they were privileged to attend and participate in over the last eight years. Each pointed out that we all have much more in common than we do differences, and that it is the sincere friendships they have fostered with individuals of various faiths that they treasure most.



Scott Parker



John T. Nielsen

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**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 and click on the "Donations" tab to pay through PayPal or mail your check or money order to:

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