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A Newsletter of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

THE ROUNDTABLE



Turkish Hospitality Extended to Roundtable Luncheon

Pacifica Institute Utah Hosts the Last Meeting of the Interfaith Year

May 15, 2014

This year's meeting opened with a video of a talk delivered by Rabbi Reuben Firestone of the College of Judaism/Hebrew Union College, where he is chair of the Center for Muslim-Jewish dialogue.

In addition, Pam Lloyd of Volunteers of America, Salt Lake City, talked about VOA's new Young Men's Transitional Home. She related how VOA purchased a home in downtown Salt Lake, which they intended to remodel



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Volunteers of America's new Young Men's Transitional Home

for use as a transitional home. However, before work could proceed, the house burned down in September 2012.

Instead, a new building was built, which opened in April. The facility houses up to 14 residents and provides a home for youth ages 18-24 years old who have been homeless for whatever reason. Residents are allowed to stay a maximum of two years, and during this

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Turkish Hospitality Extended to Roundtable Luncheon / *Continued from first page*



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Pam Lloyd of Volunteers of America, Salt Lake City, talked about VOA's new Young Men's Transitional Home

time, they are required to work toward their educational, vocational, and personal goals. The home's staff is available 24 hours a day to support the young men. Residents receive services that help them learn to live independently, and they are encouraged to purchase their own food and prepare it in the facility's large kitchen. They also work toward their independence by contributing to a personal savings account instead of paying rent. And when they transition out of the program, they are given their savings to assist them in obtaining housing and other necessities.

Ellie Anders of the Roundtable's Young Adult Council, also attended the luncheon, and told members about the council's plans for future events. She was followed by Rev. Caryl Marsh of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, who congratulated Libby Hunter on her recent retirement as the church's deacon.



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Rev. Caryl Marsh of St. Mark's Episcopal Church (right), who congratulated Libby Hunter on her recent retirement



© Zeynep Kariparduc

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

Interfaith Evening Picnic at Sugar House Park

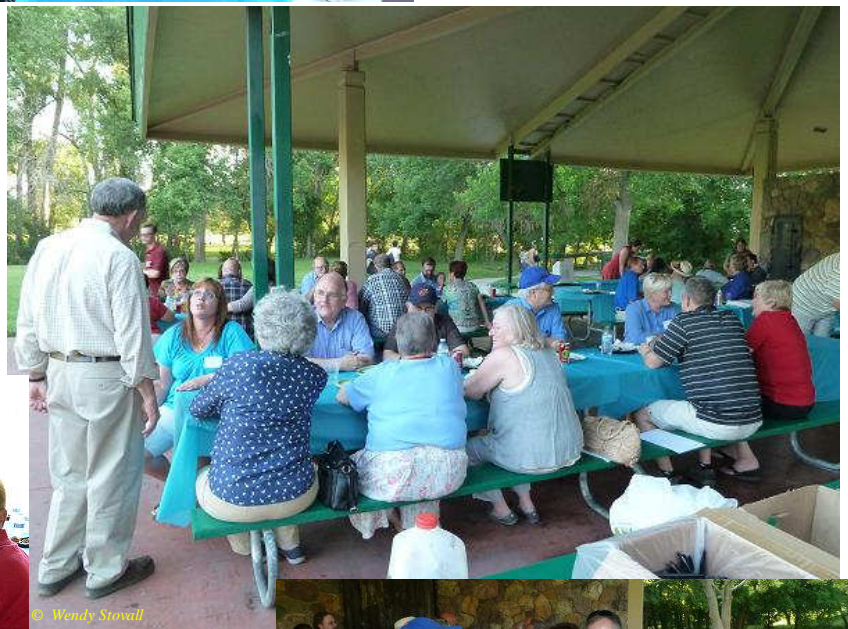
July 17, 2014

Once again, Roundtable Chair Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos welcomed Roundtable members and their families and friends to a picnic in the park's Hidden Grove Pavilion.

This is the second year the picnic was held at the park, and included several new Roundtable members.

Fr. Elias offered a prayer over an extraordinary catered Greek meal of chicken, vegetarian shish-kabobs, and salad. Guests provided a variety of delicious desserts that rounded out the menu.

The evening gave members the opportunity to mingle and chat with other interfaithers and discover a wide range of common interests. Everyone had an enjoyable experience and expressed their appreciation to Fr. Elias for hosting this wonderful event.



"God's Hope for America" Bus Tour Visits Salt Lake City

Remembering, Reviving, and Re-imagining the Work of Reverend Sun Myung Moon in America

July 31, 2014

Earlier this year, the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification organized a nationwide bus tour that would remember the founding principles of this country, revive these values within our daily lives, and envision America fulfilling its God-given destiny to serve the world.

The FFWPU was founded as the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, commonly called the Unification Church.

The bus tour ignited a national prayer revival as it took to the road, looking for people who wanted to help strengthen America's relationship with God, for the sake of the world. The record-breaking tour spanned 48 states in 43 days. It stopped at Holy Grounds made by Father Moon in 1965, as well as classic spiritual sites, for participants to pray, and to meet and inspire as many people as possible.

Early on the bright, sunny morning of Thursday, July 31, day 40 of the tour, the bus was warmly welcomed by the local church community upon its arrival in Sugar House Park. The original Salt Lake Holy Ground that was established on Ensign Peak is now a housing development. Subsequently, members established a Holy Ground in 1989, in the park, which is near the church.

The Salt Lake Family Church's (the name of the local FFWPU Church) second generation choir of elementary and middle-school children led the group in singing "See Through Children's Eyes" and "Principle Youth March." These were followed by a rousing rendition of the group singing "Down by the Holy Ground" and "By the Spring of Life."

The opening prayer was offered by Salt Lake FFWPU Pastor Mike Stovall. Roundtable Chair Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos of Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church gave a moving interfaith prayer, which asked for God's blessing upon America and people of faith who follow



Above: Rev. Chang Shik Yang, Special Emissary to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, wife of Rev. Sun Myung Moon is greeted by the children's choir.

Right: Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of FFWPU USA is welcomed by the children's choir.

Below: The Salt Lake Family Church children's choir.



His example of work and service to others.

General introductions were made, and people from the tour group shouted out from which part of America they hailed.

Bonnie Nichols of Salt Lake City, who joined the Unification Church in 1973, read a quote from Father Moon's speech "America is God's Hope," which was given at Yankee Stadium on June 1, 1976:

"In your bloodstream many kinds of blood are blended together. Nations that used to be enemies have united in your blood. When the individual and the families that transcend racial and national barriers gather together to create a church, a society and a nation, that nation will become God's ideal nation for all peoples.

"...The people of America have come from every corner of the world. To be an American does not depend upon what race you are, what belief you have, or what cultural background you are from. It is only in this nation that no matter where you are from, you can say this is my country. That is America!"

She was followed by Galen Brooks, who joined the church in 1962. He had traveled from Gloucester, Massachusetts, to Salt Lake to join the tour and to share his experiences of being in Utah with David S.C. Kim, a disciple of Rev. Moon, in the early years.

"Amazing Grace" was sung as a prelude to the unison prayer. Everyone joined in singing the Unification hymn "Tongil," which means "Unity" in Korean, and "God Bless America."

In addition, remarks were given by Roundtable Board Member James Jardine of the Public Affairs Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Roundtable Vice Chair Josie Stone, a member of the St. Mark's Episcopal Church, also offered reflections and encouragement to everyone investing themselves for the tour. Tour leader Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of FFWPU, USA, greeted everyone and thanked them for their great effort to revive the American spirit needed by God to save the world.



Above: Roundtable Chair Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos of Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church gave a moving interfaith prayer



Above: (left to right) Rev. Chang Shik Yang, Special Emissary to Mrs. Moon; James Jardine and Scott Trotter, of the Public Affairs Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Roundtable Chair Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos of Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church; Pastor Mike Stovall of the Salt Lake FFWPU; Mrs. Bonnie Nichols.



At the conclusion of the event, Rev. Sung Jo Hwang, the Salt Lake Korean Evangelical Association representative, lead four cheers of "Og Mansei." "Mansei" literally means "ten thousand victories," or less literally, "oneness in ten thousand victories." Attendees then gathered at the park's Big Field Pavilion for refreshments and fellowship.

The tour's morning itinerary included a visit to Temple Square, including the Assembly Hall, the first church built by Mormon pioneers in Salt Lake City. At the Tabernacle, home of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the visitors were given a demonstration of its world-famous acoustics. The bus then departed to continue on to its next stop, Boise, Idaho.

Left top: The GHFA men's choir lead the singing
Left: SLIR Vice Chair Josie Stone with GHFA participant



Interfaith Prayer Vigil For Peace

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

August 15, 2014

The evening opened with "Peace, Salaam, Shalom," sung by Karen Nielson-Anson. Rev. Terri Heyduk, Interim Priest at St. Paul's, then welcomed everyone.

The Christian invocation began with the ringing of the Angelus Bells. It was followed by the Jewish ceremony of the lighting of three Shabbat candles by representatives of the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. Jewish representative Andalin Bachman began the ceremony by lighting the first candle, with Clare Julian Carbone, a Christian, and Zeynep Kariparduc, a Muslim, lighting the second and third candles. A



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Rev. Terri Heyduk, Interim Priest at St. Paul's



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Clare Julian Carbone



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Zeynep Kariparduc

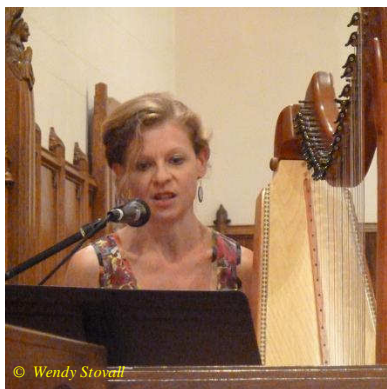


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Desert Wind



© Wendy Stovall



Harpist Heidi Hart

joint lighting of a fourth candle representing the unity desired by all completed the ceremony.

The evening's Muslim call to prayer was given by Coskun Kariparduc of the Pacifica Institute Utah, which preceded readings from scriptures of the three represented faiths: Alan Bachman, from the Jewish scriptures; Zeynep Kariparduc, from the Quran, and also a poem by Sufi mystic Rumi and a reflection from Fethullah Gulen; and Clare Julian Carbone, reading a letter of St. Paul from the New Testament.

Harpist Heidi Hart, a Quaker, performed a meditation on Sibelius' "Finlandia," which preceded a moment of silent prayer for peace. The prayer concluded with the playing of drums and a Native American flute, and a reading of a poem by Hazrat Inayat Khan titled "I am everything and everything is in me." It was specifically chosen because it fulfilled the two main purposes of the vigil: to find a way to pray together and to become a conduit of the peace desired.

As the service drew to a close, audience members were invited to come forward and each light a taper candle, which they placed a sand-filled bowl, a

representation of the person's individual presence and a united prayer for peace and healing. Alan Bachman accompanied the lighting by performing "Peace Song." After the final candle was lit the audience joined in a unison prayer "Adoni, Allah, Lord, make us instruments of your peace," adapted from a prayer of St. Francis.

The evening closed with Heidi Hart, once again on the harp, this time singing a song in the original Nahauatl Aztec language that describes the love of a mother for her children. It was dedicated to the remembrance of deceased loved ones, as well as people who have died in the world's conflicts.

The closing blessing was given by Rev. Trace Browning, followed by the song "Shekhinak B'rucha-at," written and sung by Alan Bachman and accompanied his musical group Desert Windxx



Rev. Trace Browning



Utah Valley University Dedicates Interfaith Reflection Center

Special Guest Speaker Eboo Patel, Founder and President of the Interfaith Youth Core

September 3, 2014



Ribbon cutting ceremony. Linda P. Walton, President, Utah Valley Ministerial Association is on the far left.

Eboo Patel presented “Changing the World through Interfaith Cooperation” and participated in the dedication and ribbon cutting marking the opening of the new reflection center at UVU.

About 20 years ago, when the school was still a community college, it started an interfaith student club and also collaborated with the Utah Valley Ministerial Association. In a short time, the club had over 300 student members, plus an assortment of faculty and staff that were either in the Religious Studies department or that were affiliated with the LDS Institute of Religion.

In those early days, school chaplain Linda P. Walton discovered that the challenges being faced by students were more difficult than she had experienced personally. They were also more than a student club and volunteer chaplain could handle. “So I reached out to other clergy and to campus counselors, depending upon the issue.

“One problem that surfaced quickly was that many students were very religious and liked to meditate, pray or study scriptures throughout the day,



Brian Birch, Director, Religious Studies Program

while on campus. Because there was no space for those activities, students were facing using the restrooms, their vehicles, or other spaces they found.

“I discussed the situation with administration and other resources and we managed to schedule a room each semester that would be accessible for those interested. The LDS Institute volunteered space as well, although it wasn’t quite as convenient as the library or student areas.”

She says that although the other spaces were okay, they varied each semester and were noisy and unsecured. She adds that the current administration, the Interfaith Student Council and other key individuals made the Reflection Center happen.

The Reflection Center is located in the Student Life and Wellness Center, which is funded by student fees and built with the goals of providing for students’ physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. The Reflection Center provides dedicated space for prayer, meditation, group interaction—study and prayer—and other activities.

“For instance,” says Linda, “a group of Indonesian guests, hosted by the Utah Council for Citizen Diplomacy, visited campus recently and spent time not only in discussion with University representatives, but also sharing a time of prayer with UVU Muslim students.”

The center is decorated with artwork, books and comfortable furniture to facilitate a peaceful feeling. Specific items including prayer rugs, scriptures and other items can be stored in locked facilities for use by specific groups.

The center is open Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and Saturdays 8:00 a.m to 8:00 p.m. to anyone on campus: student, faculty, staff or visitor.

uvu.edu/slwc/features/reflectioncenter.html for maps and details



Eboo Patel, Founder and President of the Interfaith Youth Core (left) with UVU President Matthew Holland



Original art in the Reflection Center

"Breaking Every Chain"

Helping Congregations Help Address Criminal Justice Concerns in the Community

September 6, 2014

More than two dozen people from Utah's various faith communities met at Calvary Baptist Church to discuss ways of addressing criminal justice concerns in their congregations and in the community. The audience included members of the Catholic, LDS, and Baptist churches, and Roundtable board members Osman Ahmed of the Salt Lake Islamic community, and Wendy Stovall of the Unification Church.



Jean Hill, the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City government liaison

Speakers were Jean Hill, the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City government liaison, and ACLU of Utah representatives Anna Brower and Kathy Abarca.

They discussed how to interrupt the prison pipeline, which sees more than two-thirds of prisoners returning to their cells because of parole or probation violations.

In addition, two-thirds of Utah prison inmates are sentenced for committing nonviolent crimes. The most common crime is for possession of a controlled substance. Hill said drugs and mental health issues are behind many criminal offenses. She asked the audience if their congregations or com-



munities offered support systems to people who require drug treatment or who are unable to get housing, which is a problem for many parolees, since "Good Landlord" programs prohibit renting to convicted felons.

Matt and Patty Bedel of Ogden's St. Joseph Parish volunteer with the church's diocesan jail ministry. They came looking for ideas about how to help prisoners who have completed their sentences. "The big gap that we have is when they do leave there, we have nothing for them," said Matt, who has ministered at the Weber County Jail for about nine years and sees many people return six months to a year after their release.

"Having people like the Bedels meet with others who are working on prison



reform issues at different levels was a positive outcome of the meeting," said Brower, an ACLU public policy advocate.

The meeting was organized by the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City, the Utah Prisoners' Advocate Network and Calvary Baptist Church.



Pacifica Institute Utah Launches Community Service Group

"Talk in Action 2.0"

The creation of "Talk in Action 2.0" is a result of an address delivered by Dr. Turan Kayaoglu at the Pacifica Institute's Interfaith Month dinner in February. He is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the University of Washington in Tacoma.

In his address, he shared his hope that the popularity of interfaith dialogue would eventually involve the prospect of interfaith community service. He calls such an endeavor "Dialogue 2.0."

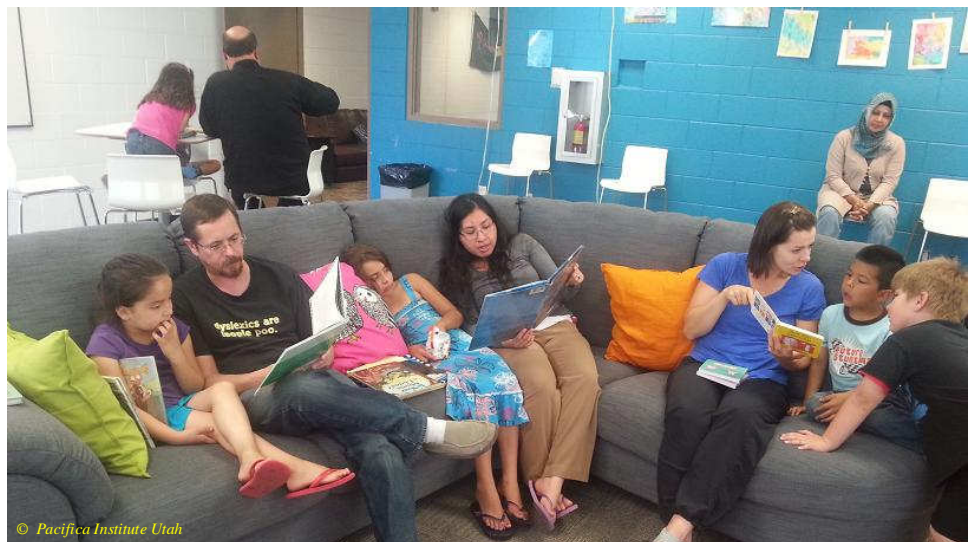
He described ways in which members of the interfaith community could work together on humanitarian projects, and suggested that the Roundtable go beyond interfaith dialogue, to engaging in service to others.

His vision for "Dialogue 2.0" was very well received, and resulted in inspiring "Talk in Action 2.0."

Zeynep Kariparduc, wife of Pacifica Institute Utah President Coskun Kariparduc, arranges the service opportunities. She invites anyone who is interested to participate, and says that members of the group want to share the message that, regardless of religion or background, people have more in common than they think, which is often clearly revealed through interfaith community service.



Libby Hunter shares a story with a young learner



Clare Julian Carbone with a young reader





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Volunteers of the Arts Service Project



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Volunteers at Pacifica Institute Utah

The group's first community service project was in May at Salt Lake City's Women's Shelter.

The goal was to engage the children living at the shelter in an hour or so of arts and crafts. The group's artist, Jean, gave volunteers a variety of paints, brushes, construction paper, and materials to make puppets and mobiles; even shaving cream was used for an abstract art activity. Volunteers were also able to spend time engaging with the children's mothers and other family members who were staying at the shelter.

After the activity, volunteers met at the Pacifica Institute to share their experience over a meal. Many related the new understanding they gained after meeting and talking to members of Salt Lake's homeless community.

In August, the second "Talk in Action" visited the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salt Lake's Lied Club on Concord Street, to spend an afternoon reading to preschoolers, some in English and some in Spanish. The kids responded eagerly to the individual attention of caring adults. They became read-

ily engaged in the stories about animals, other children, and heroic characters. In addition, volunteers brought books of their own to read and leave at the club, and a few of the children were able to take books home.

The "Talk in Action 2.0" service activities are held about every other month. To participate in future service projects contact Zeynep at

zeynep.g.ardic@gmail.com



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Volunteers at the Women's Shelter

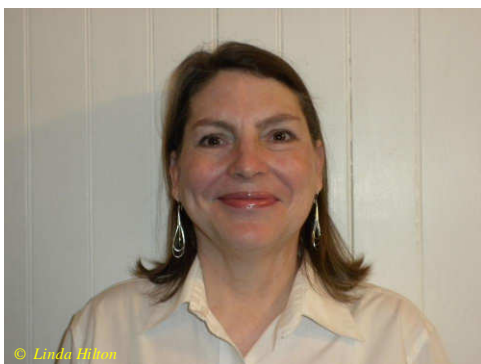


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Volunteers for Reading

Meet the Board Members ~ The Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

Linda Hilton



Linda is a founding member of the Interfaith Roundtable. When the 2002 Olympics ended, a group of nine, including Linda, who had helped put together the Olympic chaplaincy program, an interfaith guide to faith communities, and the Musical Tribute concert, decided that the friendships and synergy that had developed during the four-year planning process shouldn't end. After approximately eighteen months of work, the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable was born as an official 501 (c) 3 organization, complete with bylaws and a board. Linda served as board treasurer for many years, passing the job on to Indra Neelameggham two years ago, who she thanks for taking it on.

Linda was born and raised in Salt Lake City by parents who came to Utah from West Virginia and Arizona. They met while working at Dugway, Utah in the west desert. Her father and paternal grandparents were Methodists; and her mother was raised in the Congregational church by an uncle who was ordained both as a Congregational and a Presbyterian minister. Upon moving to Utah, Linda's parents started attending, and later joined, the Presbyterian Church.

Linda, who was baptized a Presbyterian, attended a youth group at St. Mark's Episcopal Church during high school and spent Sunday afternoons during junior and senior high participating in programs at the Jewish Community Center. She attended Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, which was founded by Presbyterians, and where she earned a BS in geology. Her first career was as a hard-rock exploration geologist. That lasted until the early 1980's when the bottom dropped out of the market and there were no jobs to be had in the field.

She changed careers and went into marketing and non-profit development. Along the way to Crossroads Urban Center, she owned a small business; worked in radio, helping non-profit groups raise money and get their causes on air; oversaw the Girl Scout cookie sales in Utah; and self-published an annotated map of the Salt Lake City, B'nai Israel, and Montefiore Cemeteries in Salt Lake's historic Avenues district, among other things.

When the opportunity came nearly 17 years ago to become the director of Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC), "it seemed a great fit." Over the years the coalition has grown and strengthened, but stayed true to its founding mission: to advocate for low income and homeless people who have no voice in the political system. CORC'S issues focus primarily on economic social justice and its founding issue of removing the sales tax on food purchases in Utah. Today, as that project continues, more than half of the state's "food tax" has been removed. Linda sees this as one of the legacies of

her time with CORC. The coalition will turn 20 years old next year and is continuing on with a new director who will soon be in place.

Linda is taking her leave from Crossroads and CORC at the end of October. She will continue to serve on the Roundtable board as a representative of her faith community, Holladay United Church of Christ, where she enjoys "an open and affirming faith" that is vital to her.

Linda is the mother of a grown son, has an interesting Corgi-mix dog named "Eeyore." Together they share a house in Murray with three dogs who are "all basket cases and currently on Prozac." She enjoys putting in her yard and growing vegetables. She eats what the dogs don't get to first.



**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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