

*in this issue >>>*

*2014 Interfaith Musical Tribute*

*Elaine Emmi: FCNL Volunteer*

*Keynote Panelist: Susan Northway*

Issue  
**EIGHTEEN**



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A Newsletter of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

# THE ROUNDTABLE



*Many Faiths – One Family*

## *Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute*

*Sunday, February 23, 2014, Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square*

This year's Tribute was held Sunday evening, February 23. Once again, the LDS Church graciously opened the Tabernacle for the Roundtable's use, including technical support and Tabernacle organist Bonnie Goodliffe, who performed the concert prelude and postlude.

*Continued on next page*



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The University of Utah LDS Institute of Religion Choir



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The Dionysios Greek Dance Group



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The "Wayward Molly" Quartet

## 12th Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute >>> Continued from first page

This was the second year Musical Tribute Chair Dave Sharp served as concert producer. “I want to thank all the members the committee; they greatly contributed to the overall success of the Tribute. Without their advice, guidance, and support, I’d have been completely lost: Roundtable Board Chair Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos; Interfaith Month Planning Committee Chair Josie Stone; Scott Trotter, LDS Public Affairs; Alan Bachman; Leslie Dorius-Jones; and Mary Lou Prince.

“In addition there were many other Roundtable members and Tribute performers who were of tremendous help, and once again, we had the right elements in place. We were also fortunate to have Carol Mikita of KSL Television back this year as our favorite master of ceremonies.”



Carol Mikita of KSL Television was 2014 Tribute emcee

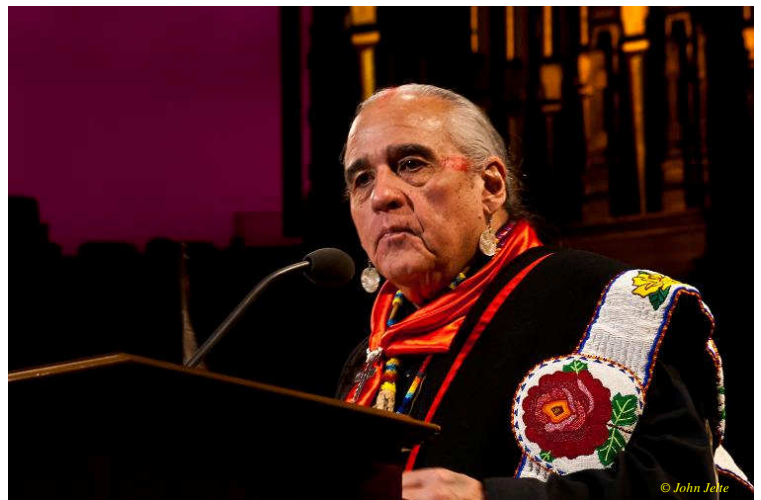


Carol Mikita and Lacee Harris



Call to prayer by a member of the Pacifica Institute Utah

The evening began with a call to prayer by a member of the Pacifica Institute Utah. It was followed by a First Nation’s People blessing by Lacee Harris of the Ute and Piute tribes, and also a Hindu blessing offered by Indra Neelameggham, who are both Roundtable Board Members.



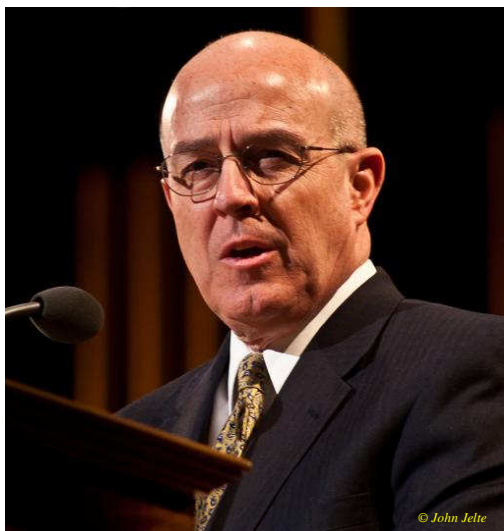
Lacee Harris of the Ute and Piute tribes gave a blessing



Indra Neelameggham offered a Hindu blessing



## 12th Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute >>> Many Faiths – One Family



Elder L. Whitney Clayton offered greetings to everyone on behalf of the LDS Church.



Elder L. Whitney Clayton with his wife Kathy and Carol Mikita

Head Priest Gurmeet Singh of the Sikh Temple of Utah led temple members in “Gurbani Kirtan,” a type of chanting accompanied by harmonium, or hand-pump organ, and tabla. The kirtan is the center of the temple’s weekly religious services. The group included Roundtable Board Member J.B. Singh, a member of the Utah Sikh community.

The South Valley Unitarian Choir and String Quartet presented three original contemporary compositions by choral director Mary Lou Prince, with lyrics by Rev. Patty Willis. Her introduction set the story imagery for the music, and the strings echoed many elements of the tenor and bass choral parts, resulting in an unusual and homogenous blend.



Sikh Temple members chanting



Head Priest Gurmeet Singh



South Valley Unitarian Choir and String Quartet



Rev. Patty Willis





## 12th Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute >>> Many Faiths – One Family

The Dionysios Greek Dance Group was founded in 1972, and frequently performs at community celebrations. Members are college-age young adults of Greek descent who attend Holy Trinity Cathedral or Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church of Greater Salt Lake. Traditional costumes and precise and intricate footwork are the hallmarks of this group, whose skills are a way of preserving Greek heritage in America.

The Dionysios Greek Dance Group



The “Leopard in the Temple” vocal and instrumental quintet led the audience in the chant “Va’ani kriavat elohim li tov” (“The nearness of God-that is what is good for me” [Psalm 73:28]), which is a form of prayer and meditation. The audience was asked to maintain silence for several minutes following the chant in order to feel or interpret their own sense of community and God.

“Leopard in the Temple”



The Khemera Cambodian Dance Troupe of Utah is from the Layton Buddhist Temple. Historically, dancers performed for the royal Boung Seng ceremony to help the king pay his respects to the gods, deities, and late ancestors. The troupe’s rendition of “Robaim Apsara,” a dance sometimes used during this ceremony, featured hand gestures and feet placement that are much like the elements of ballet in western culture.

The Khemera Cambodian Dance Troupe of Utah





## 12th Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute >>> Many Faiths – One Family



The University of Utah LDS Institute of Religion Choir conducted by Hal Romrell (left), and the Cathedral of the Madeleine Cathedral Coro Hispano led by Gregory Glenn (right)

The University of Utah LDS Institute of Religion Choir offered sacred music and three soloists, conducted by Hal Romrell. They performed “Distant Land” and “I Will Rise.” Musical Tribute Chair Dave Sharp was a member of this superb choir some 28 years ago while he was working on his graduate degree, and says “they still sound wonderful, joyous.”

Imam Muhammed Mehtar of the Islamic Society of Greater Salt Lake extended an Islamic prayer in both Arabic and English: a gracious message of faith and love to members of all belief traditions.

Imam Muhammed Mehtar



The “Wayward Molly” quartet from the Holladay United Church of Christ

The “Wayward Molly” quartet from the Holladay United Church of Christ had strong three-part harmonies accompanied by folk instruments. This group of professional musicians ad-

mits their musical style is “hard to describe,” but is “definitely acoustic, a little folksy, a touch bluegrass, with some Celtic and more modern influences thrown in for good measure.”



## 12th Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute >>> Many Faiths – One Family



The children's choir and dancers of South Jordan's Sri Ganesha Hindu Temple and India Cultural Center were directed by Swathy Mahassenan. The choir wore ethnic dress and performed "Ganesha Pancharatnam," a prayer in praise of God Ganesha, remover of obstacles, and main deity of the Sri Ganesha Temple. Dancers performed

shudha nrithaym, a pure dance sequence in Bharathanatyam style, a celebration of the Hindu God Lord Shiva. Many dancers in the audience contacted the Tribute committee to say this was one of their favorite offerings of the evening.



The concert finale was the Cathedral of the Madeleine Cathedral Coro Hispano, led by Gregory Glenn. The choir featured many instrumental accompanists, including classical guitar, mandolins, and trumpet, as well as piano. The choir was formed in 2007 to help minister to Salt Lake's growing Hispanic community, and regularly assists with the Sunday afternoon Mass in Spanish.

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





## 12th Annual Interfaith Musical Tribute >>> *Many Faiths – One Family*



Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos

Roundtable Board Chair Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos extended closing remarks. He was followed by Jan Saeed of the Baha'í faith who offered the benediction.



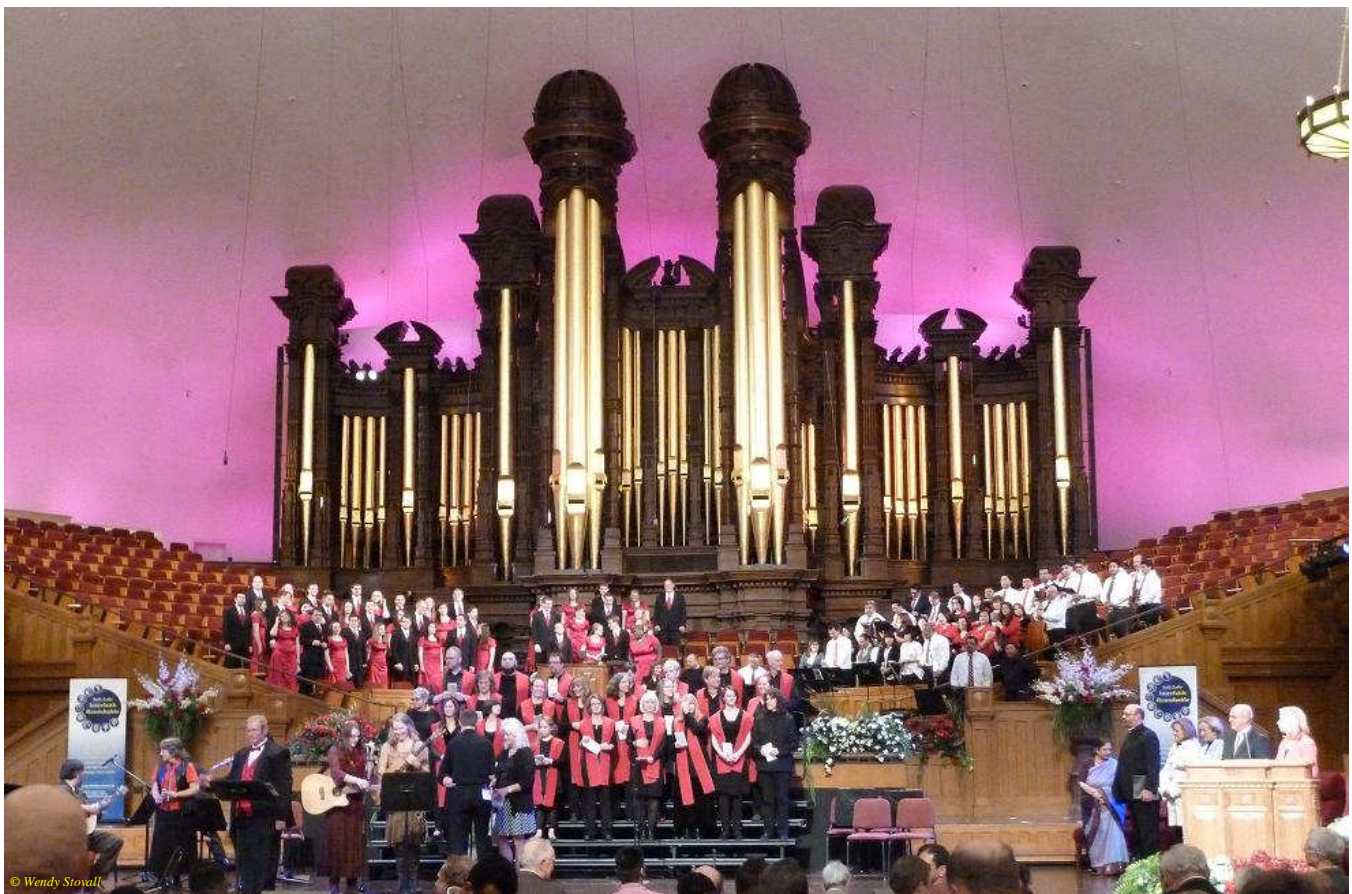
Jan Saeed

The evening's entertainment closed on a high note as the audience joined together for the traditional sing along of "Let There Be Peace on Earth," which was accompanied by



Flower presentation to emcee Carol Mikita

the Tribute's combined choirs and conducted by Hal Romrell, the director of the University of Utah LDS Institute of Religion Choir.



Audience sing along with all choirs



## Roundtable Founding Member Elaine Emmi to Volunteer with the Friends Committee on National Legislation

Elaine Emmi is a founding member of the Roundtable. She moved to Salt Lake City in 1983 when her husband Phil accepted a teaching position at the University of Utah. Elaine started working with the 2002 Winter Olympics Interfaith Committee as it was being formed in the years prior to the Olympics. On this foundation the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable began. Elaine has served as Chair and Secretary of the Roundtable, and now sends out the email blasts. She also is a member of the Salt Lake Monthly Meeting, Religious Society of Friends, or Salt Lake Quakers.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) was founded in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Its nonpartisan, multi-issue advocacy connects historic Quaker testimonies on peace, equality, simplicity, and truth with peace and social justice issues.

So what are Quakers? Known as Children of the Light, Friends of the Truth, and later as just Friends, the society was founded by George Fox and Margaret Fell in the mid-1600s. Most of the world knows Friends as Quakers, which was actually a derogatory term used by a judge who was sentencing early Friends to prison.



Phil and Elaine Emmi outside their temporary residence in Washington, D.C.

Quakers have no formal creed, rituals, dogma, or liturgy; rather, they are bound together believing in the sacred that lies beyond all scripture, dogma, words, and thought, and is available within to all. They have no paid clergy; the process of governance is through group unity (consensus). Testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality tie Quakers together as they actively 'witness' for peace, justice, and equality.

The FCNL is one of the outward manifestations of that testimony through what they call: *The world we seek*

- \* We seek a world free of war and the threat of war
  - \* We seek a society with equity and justice for all
  - \* We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled
  - \* We seek an earth restored
- [www.fcnl.org/about/govern/policy/](http://www.fcnl.org/about/govern/policy/)

### Roundtable Board Member Susan Northway Named to Keynote Panel at April Convention of Utah Catholic Women

Susan is one of four women in diocesan leadership roles who will serve on the panel at the 86th annual convention of the Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

This year's convention theme is "A Voice in the Desert: Utah's Catholic Women." It will be held April 26 and 27 at the Sheraton Salt Lake City Hotel.

Since 2006, Susan has been Diocesan Director of Religious Education and Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation. In addition, she serves on the Bishop's Curia, the Liturgical Commission, and is coordinator of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan Steering Committee. She is also a member of the Advocacy Committee for the National Association for Lay Ministry.

Susan has a degree in music education, and has taught at Saint Vincent de Paul



School and Judge Memorial Catholic High School. She also holds a Master of Religious Education degree from Loyola University, and has taught in the theology departments of Judge and Juan Diego Catholic High School.

She is a member of Saint Ambrose Parish, and she and her husband are parents of three children.



### 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



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