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Issue
SEVENTEEN

in this issue >>>

*Pacifica Institute Annual Dinner
SLIR Community Service Award
A Celebration of the Life of Nelson Mandela
New LDS Mission Call: Judy and Richard Wight
Monthly Luncheon Meeting
Interfaith Month Calendar
Spotlight on Roundtable Recording Secretary*

A Newsletter of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable



THE ROUNDTABLE



Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner

*Pacifica Institute, Utah Branch
November 11, 2013*

The Pacifica Institute of Utah welcomed Mustafa Akyol, distinguished newspaper columnist from Istanbul, as this year's Dialogue and Friendship Dinner speaker.

He and his wife Riada, a university professor and scholar, were winding up a month-long tour of the United States. They were promoting his recently published book, "ISLAM Without Extremes – A Muslim Case for Liberty." The book is an in-depth presentation of his many years of research, and, as one commentator has expressed, "is a forthright and elegant Muslim defense of freedom."

During his well-received presentation, Mustafa, with great warmth, clarity and charming sense of humor, articulated his understanding that Islam is a religion that fosters the dignity and true freedom of each individual human being.

He opened his talk by sharing an experience that happened during his first visit to the United States as a young adult.

Continued on next page

Roundtable Presents Community Service Award to Congregation Kol Ami Social Action Committee

November 16, 2013

From Betty Yanowitz, Social Action Committee Chair

The Social Action Committee of Congregation Kol Ami truly appreciates the recent recognition it received from the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable for "its work to combat poverty, homelessness, hunger and discrimination, resettle refugee families, promote equality and create interfaith understanding." We are pleased with the many opportunities that we've had in recent years to follow our mission of *Tikkun Olam*.

The Hebrew phrase "*Tikkun Olam*" literally means "repairing or perfecting the world." It is commonly used by Jews to refer to the pursuit of social action that will bring prosperity, health and justice to all. Jews are not only charged with the responsibility of creating a model society among

Continued on fourth page

A Celebration of the Life of Nelson Mandela

*St. Mark's Episcopal Church
December 15, 2013*

A diverse cross-section of the Salt Lake community gathered for this remembrance of Mandela's legacy of personal liberation, political reconciliation, forgiveness, tolerance, and peace.

At the center of it all was a six-foot original oil painting of Mandela by artist Robert McCurdy, brought to the cathedral just for the remembrance ceremony. The painting is from the collection of Ian and Annette Cumming of the Cumming Foundation, Salt Lake City. This was its first public showing.

The service was conducted by the Right Rev. Scott B. Hayashi, 11th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah; Carolyn Tanner Irish, who was the 10th bishop of the diocese; and the Very Rev. Ray Waldon, Dean of the Cathedral. It opened with a tolling of the bells, followed by silent reflection, music, and light, and reading of excerpts from a poem by Maya Angelou. Music was provided by a quartet of musicians from the

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Pacifica Institute Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner



Mustafa Akyol, distinguished newspaper columnist from Istanbul, was this year's Dialogue and Friendship Dinner speaker.



Mustafa Akyol, left, his wife Riada, Pacifica Institute's Utah President Coskun Kariparduc, his wife Zeynep

His American friends had invited him to McDonald's for a pancake breakfast. This was a revelation to him as he had come to believe that McDonald's only served hamburgers. He said that the pertinent aspect of this experience was that it left him presuming that these "delicious pancakes" were an exclusive McDonald's item. It took his next visit to the United State to learn the broader scope of the pancake world!

He used this simple example to emphasize how we make many false assumptions about the world, and how it often takes time and direct experience to reveal a more accurate picture. This is especially applicable when we enter and attempt to assimilate others' religious and cultural arenas.

He explained, that, for many years he had observed what he felt were inconsistencies in the expression of Islam. How could it be, he questioned, that when the core of Islam promoted dignity and liberty for each individual, he so often observed examples, not of liberty, but of coercion.

Coercive practices, he concluded, would only foster hypocrisy and compliance out of fear and not true religious piety. He shared a significant "aha" moment in which he realized that the coercive methods of some expressions of Islam were politically and culturally motivated. They were similar to coercive practices he observed in some expressions of secular society.

He compared, for instance, examples of Saudi Arabia and his native Turkey. Each country utilized authoritative political power to enforce or to forbid a particular Muslim practice.

In Saudi Arabia, religious police known as the Muttawa'in, strictly enforced the practice of women's head coverings. In Turkey, the government, in an effort to establish a freedom from religion, forbade women to cover their heads in certain public

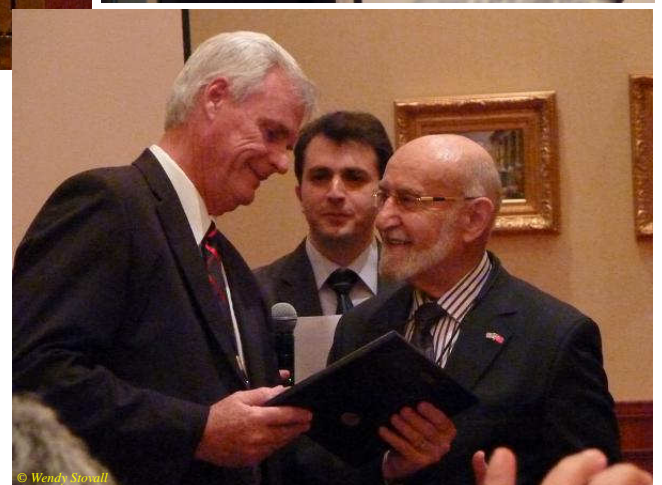
settings. He realized that these authoritative measures were politically and/or culturally motivated and they did not portray or promote the truer intended concepts of real Islam.



Above: Tarik Guney was the evening's emcee



Above right: Coskun Kariparduc presents a plaque to U.S. Air Force Sgt. Robert Tietje



Right: Ibrahim Barlas (right), President of Pacifica Institutes in Western America presents an award to Idaho U.S. Senator Brent Hill (left)

Pacifica Institute Annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner



The Pacific Institute Utah Branch extends its gratitude to Mustafa and Riada for including Salt Lake in their U.S. visit. The city benefited by the many one-on-one exchanges they had with community members, including several filmed interviews for an interfaith documentary on which Riada is currently working.

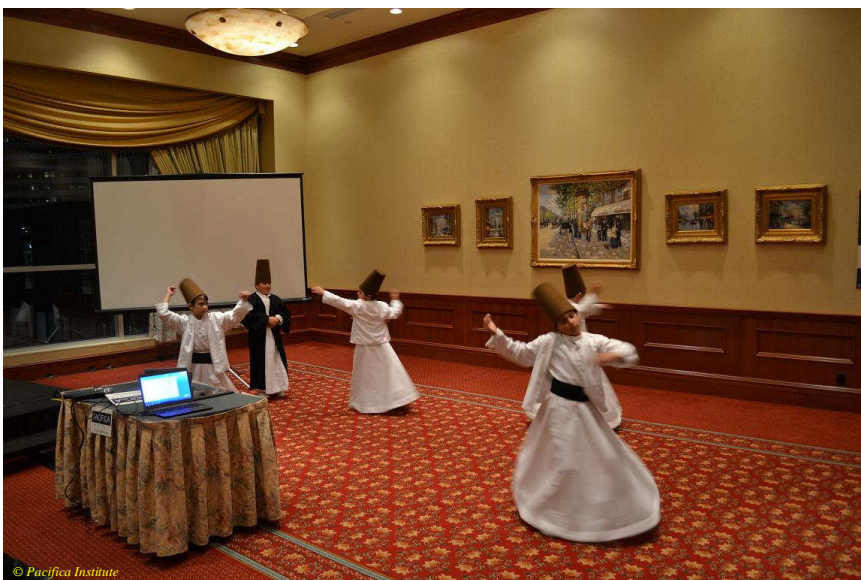
Pacifica Institute wishes both of them every blessing and success as they continue in their courageous and loving labor to promote peace, friendship and understanding in our world.

In addition to Mustafa's talk, the evening's entertainment included being greeted by a musical prelude by the Salt Lake City String Quartet. The youth of Pacifica Utah also gave an extraordinary performance of the dance of the Whirling Dervish.

The evening also included an awards ceremony, which began with the presentation of a plaque honoring Veterans Day, given to U.S. Air Force Sgt. Robert Tietje by Pacifica Institute Utah President Coskun Kariparduc.

In addition, Ibrahim Barlas, President of Pacifica Institutes in Western America presented an award to Idaho U.S. Sen. Brent Hill, who had recently visited Turkey. Celal Afsar received the Turkish-American Friendship Award.

Pacifica wishes to thank Coskun and Zeynep Kariparduc of the Pacifica Institute Utah Branch for their selfless efforts in planning these enriching community events. Pacifica Utah also recognizes and thanks Tarik Guney, emcee of the 2013 annual Dialogue and Friendship Dinner.



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

Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable Presents Community Service Award to Congregation Kol Ami Social Action Committee

>>> Continued from first page

themselves, but are also asked to be responsible for improving the welfare of all.

At Kol Ami, a congregation with 325 members/families, while we often spoke of our need to live up to the ideals of *Tikkun Olam*, it wasn't until 2010, under the outstanding leadership of congregant Kay Brief, that we stopped talking and started doing. Some of the projects we have engaged in over the last few years include:

Interfaith Outreach: In order to fight discrimination and create understanding both inside and outside of Kol Ami, in addition to increasing our participation in the Coalition of Religious Communities and the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable, we hosted the 2011 Inclusion Center's Interfaith Service, the 2012 Holladay Interfaith Council's Thanksgiving Service, and the 2013 Utah Pride Interfaith Service. With the Islamic Society of Utah, we co-sponsored a "Cooking Together: Traditional Muslim and Jewish Cuisine" event and a "Family-to-Family" get-to-know-you activity. On February 2, 2014, as part of Interfaith Month, we are sponsoring an "In the Shadow of the Holocaust" discussion in which children of Holocaust survivors will tell their parents' stories and share how these events affected their own lives. (Co-chairs: Betty Yanowitz and Sue Prottas)

Coats4Kids and Adults2, our annual warm-clothing drive, enables us to donate coats, jackets and winter gear to the local community. (Chair: Jay Jacobson)

Chanukah for All: For the second year, the Kol Ami community worked together to



Committee Chair Betty Yanowitz Receives SLIR Community Service Award on behalf of Congregation Kol Ami Social Action Committee

ensure that all of our families and children had the opportunity to celebrate Chanukah. After identifying 25 kids and 11 families in need of our assistance, we provided each family with a gift certificate to Smith's, and each child with a gift certificate to either Toys-R-Us or Tutoring Toys. (Chair: David Litvack)

During our fall **High Holiday Food Drive** and our spring **Chometz (Bread) Drive**, we collect non-perishable foods to donate to the Utah Food Bank to help the needy in the local community. (Chair: Bonnie Rokeach)

Through **Family Promise**, three weeks a year, Kol Ami parents and children work

together to provide home-cooked meals and companionship to homeless families who are temporarily housed at the "Inn" located at Millcreek's Christ United Methodist Church. (Chair: Mark Cantor)

GLBT Outreach: In addition to marching in the annual Utah Pride parade in support of our GLBT friends, our committee was privileged to host the Utah Pride "Sacred Embraces the Real" Interfaith Service on May 30, 2013. More than 300 individuals attended this special service, which was highlighted by an inspiring and enthusiastic talk by our own Rabbi Ilana Schwartzman.

Jewish Voice: With other local Jewish agencies, we are working on creating a viable plan to positively impact social issues of concern, including poverty, equality, discrimination and refugees, in the local area. Every year, we particularly look forward to participating in the Coalition of Religious Communities' Interfaith Day at the Utah State Legislature, where we advocate on poverty issues. (Chairs: Kay Brief and David Litvack)

Refuge Initiative: Through our newest project – helping newly arrived refugee families adjust to life in Salt Lake City – Kol Ami is working with Catholic Community Services to mentor refugees. Members of our congregation have already received the necessary training needed to begin integrating the new arrivals in the local community. (Co-chairs: Kris Campbell and David Sonnenreich)

Reach Social Action Committee Chair Betty Yanowitz at bettyyanowitz@mac.com

Roundtable's Judy Wight and Her Husband Receive LDS Mission Call

Judy and her husband, Richard will serve in the Family and Church History Library Headquarters Mission in Salt Lake City. Their mission began January 3 with a two-week training period. At the end of their training, they will be assigned to a specific area or areas. They will serve for nearly one year, with December 19, 2014, designated as

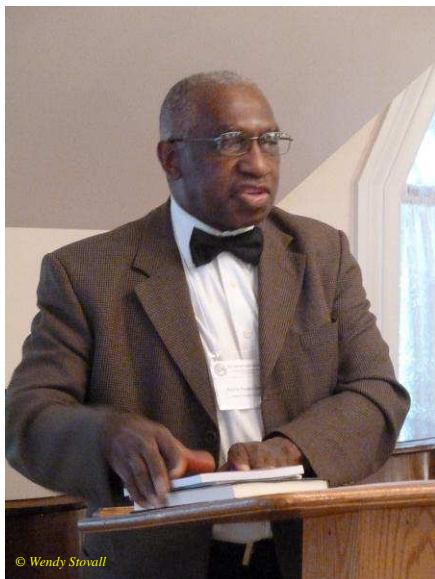
their release date, which they have the option of extending. Judy says that the missionary presidency is encouraging her to continue her involvement with the Roundtable during this new assignment. We wish Judy and Richard much satisfaction in their missionary work.



Roundtable January Monthly Luncheon

Guest Speaker is The Reverend France Davis of Calvary Baptist Church

January 8, 2014



© Wendy Stovall
The Reverend France Davis of Calvary Baptist Church

The Roundtable welcomed Rev. Davis as the first luncheon speaker of the new year.

He opened his talk by relating the history of Calvary Baptist, including the events leading to its founding in 1892, four years before Utah became a state.

Calvary is the “Mother Church” of all Utah African-American churches. Each church is congregationally self governed, self funded, and is autonomous in its appointment of clergy and other leadership. At Calvary, women may hold any position except pastor.

Calvary bases its tenets on a triune God and the Bible. Members practice the sacrament of marriage and the Lord’s Supper. Membership is accomplished by expressing a wish to commit oneself to the church, receive baptism by immersion, and partake of the Lord’s Supper. Infants are blessed, rather than baptized, as they are believed to be born innocent and pure. Members are encouraged to practice all things in moderation, including behavior and dress. The church does not place restrictions on members’ diets, but again, recommends moderation.

He especially emphasized Calvary’s strong tradition as a church that administers to the spiritual and physical welfare of all its

people. The congregation has built elderly, low-income housing; educated the community on AIDS/HIV; and provided literacy training for inner-city children. As a church and community leader, Rev. Davis is an advocate for equal opportunities and equities in higher education, Boy Scouts, and in the treatment of diverse churches.

Salt Lake’s Rowland Hall school was Utah’s first school to establish The Reverend France Davis Scholarship for students in grades K-5. It honors and acknowledges his contributions to Salt Lake City and the state, particularly in the areas of civil rights and diversity, and in his role of community builder at Calvary.

Twenty-one pastors have served Calvary, but Rev. Davis has pastored the longest, since April 1974. He was licensed in 1966 and ordained in 1971 for ministry. He came to Salt Lake in 1972 as a teaching fellow and graduate student at the University of Utah, where he was appointed instructor in communication and ethnic studies. He continues to teach, in the university’s Honors and Ethnic Studies Program as Adjunct Associate Professor.

He said that, of Calvary’s 21 pastors, many have left Salt Lake because of the absence of a theological seminary, and also because of the lack of upward mobility in the job. When the time comes to select a new pastor, a national recruitment drive is conducted. The top ten applicants are reviewed and finalists are invited to Calvary to demonstrate their skills. They are then voted on by the congregation and its committee on clearance.

Rev. Davis talked about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and marching with him from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965. He was 16 years old when he stood before Washington’s Lincoln Memorial in August 1963 and listened Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. He led the successful effort to create the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday in Utah

Rev. Davis was born and reared Georgia. He attended the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, home of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, where he became an Air Force jet mechanic. He later earned degrees from Merritt College; Laney College; University of California at Berkeley; Westminster College; University of Utah; and Northwest Nazarene College.

February 28, 2005, he delivered the sermon as guest preacher at Utah State Day in the Washington National Cathedral, held as part of the Cathedral’s outreach to all states and faiths and an honor he credits to Utah 10th Episcopal Church Bishop Carolyn Tanner Irish.

On December 10, 2013, Rev. Davis received the year’s FBI Director’s Community Leadership Award for the Salt Lake City Division. The FBI said in a press release that Rev. Davis “has been making a difference in the Salt Lake City community for over 41 years.... His selfless acts of service and dedication to the community are expressed in his efforts to provide spirituality, social understanding, educational opportunities, housing, and friendship to those in need.”



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INTERFAITH MONTH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS / February 2014

DATE	TIME	TITLE	SPONSORING FACILITY	ADDRESS
Sat, Feb 1	9:00am-5:00pm	Film Festival 2014 "Dharma in Cinema"	Salt Lake Buddhist Temple	211 West 100 South Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Sun, Feb 2	10:00am-12 Noon	Spotlight on the Community "In the Shadow of the Holocaust" Participatory Workshop	Congregation Kol Ami	2425 Heritage Way Salt Lake City, UT 84109
Tue, Feb 4	7:00pm-8:30pm	Musical Presentation and Discussion on History of Greek Orthodox Church in Utah	Holy Trinity Cathedral Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church	279 South 300 West Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Wed, Feb 5	6:00pm	Reception and Lecture Children's Choir	FFWPU (Formerly Unification Church)	1969 View Street Salt Lake City, UT 84105
Sat, Feb 8	9:00am-1:00pm	Interactive Workshop "Let's Talk about Compassion"	Human Rights Education Center of Utah	St. Mark's Cathedral Dean's Hall 231 East 100 South Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Sat, Feb 8	8:15am-2:15pm	Power of Prevention Conference Interfaith Community Event	Utah Council of Crime Prevention	Utah Cultural Celebration Center 1355 West 3100 South West Valley City, UT 84119
Mon, Feb 10	6:30pm-8:00pm	"Peace, Justice and Climate Change" Youth Event – All Welcome	Utah Interfaith Power & Light, Catho- lic Diocese and the Newman Center	U of U Campus –Newman Center 170 University Street Salt Lake City, UT 84102
Tue, Feb 11	12:00 Noon	Interfaith Youth Committee Luncheon (RSVP Required) Call Kirsten Jansen 801.984.7661 or Molly Dumas 801.984.7604 to RSVP	Juan Diego Catholic High School	300 East 11800 South Draper, UT 84020
Tue, Feb 11	8:00pm	Coexist Café and Speed Faithing	Westminster College	1840 South 1300 East Salt Lake City, UT 84105
Wed, Feb 12	8:45-10:00am	Indian Nation Interfaith Blessing Ceremony Special Guest: Governor Herbert	State Capitol Rotunda	120 State Capitol Salt Lake City, UT 84114
Wed, Feb 12	11:30am	LDS Bishop's Storehouse Guided Tour	LDS Church	5415 West 300 South Salt Lake City, UT 84104
Thu, Feb 13	7:00pm	"Unconditional Loving" Giving and Receiving Blessings	Deeksha	Salt Lake City Krishna Temple 965 East 3370 South Salt Lake City, UT 84106
Sat, Feb 15	2:00pm	"We Love Our Youth" Tour of Young-Men's Transition Home	Volunteers of America	556 South 500 East Salt Lake City, UT 84102

INTERFAITH MONTH SCHEDULE OF EVENTS / February 2014

DATE	TIME	TITLE	SPONSORING FACILITY	ADDRESS
Wed, Feb 19	7:00pm-9:00pm	<i>"This Land was Your Land: Examining the Doctrine of Discovery and its enduring impact on America's Native Peoples"</i>	Salt Lake Quakers	Quaker Meeting House 171 East 4800 South Salt Lake City, UT 84107
Wed, Feb 19	7:00pm-9:00pm	Yoga Rave Youth Event	Art of Living and Interfaith Roundtable Young Adult Committee	University of Utah Union Ballroom 200 South Central Campus Salt Lake City, UT 84112
Thu, Feb 20	6:15pm	"Dialogue 2.0: A Call for Interfaith Service and Action"	Pacifica Institute of Utah	363 West 2720 South Suite A Salt Lake City, UT 84115
Fri, Feb 21	5:30pm-7:30pm	"Evening Prayer and Kirtan" (chanting) Followed by refreshments	Sikh Temple	4897 South Redwood Road Salt Lake City, UT 84123
Sat, Feb 22	8:00-10:00pm	Film: "Jerusalem" Panel Discussion to follow Light refreshments	Interfaith Roundtable Young Adult Committee	Clark Planetarium 110 S 400 W Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Sun, Feb 23	6:00pm-7:30pm	<i>Musical Tribute</i>	Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable	Salt Lake Tabernacle on Temple Square 50 W North Temple, SLC, UT 84150
Tue, Feb 27	6:00pm-8:00pm	Guided Bus Tour of (3) Local Places of Worship – Downtown Salt Lake City Sign up to be available online	LDS Church and Interfaith Roundtable	Meeting place TBA
Wed, Feb 28	5:30pm-8:00pm	Prayers, Lecture and Q&A	Islamic Society—Khadeeja Islamic Center	1019 West Parkway Avenue West Valley City, UT 84119
Sat, Mar 1	12:30pm-6:00pm	<i>"We Will Sing and not be Silent: Women, Faith Traditions and Leadership"</i> Conference Keynote Speaker and Multi-faith Panel	University of Utah Religious Studies, Salt Lake Library and College of Social Work	Salt Lake City Main Library 210 East 400 South Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Tue, Mar 4	5:30pm-7:30pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Cathedral Tour	St. Mark's Cathedral	Dean's Hall 231 East 100 South Salt Lake City, UT 84111
Mar 20-22	TBD	<i>"Man from Magdalena"</i>	Universal Unitarian Church	TBD

Interfaith Musical Tribute



Sunday, February 23
Tabernacle
LDS Temple Square
6 p.m.

Be sure to check our website at
www.interfaithroundtable.org
for any changes and additional
events!

Utah Symphony Orchestra.

In 1964, Mandela was sentenced to life imprisonment for his leadership in the South African justice movement. While in prison, he started plans for meetings between the African National Congress and the apartheid government. Then, after serving nearly 30 years of a life sentence, he was released. In 1993, he and President F.W. de Klerk were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1994, Mandela became South Africa's first democratically elected president,

and served one five-year term. He led the country through a delicate transition to democracy when many South Africans feared the country collapse into all-out racial conflict; amazingly, when he emerged from prison, he was not filled with bitterness. As Bishop Hayashi pointed out, Mandela even invited the prison guards to the front row of his inauguration.

Afterwards, guests were invited to take a closer look at the painting, which, as Dean Waldon commented, "...looks like a photo-

graph." And indeed it does, right down to the pen in Mandela's pocket.

As one person remarked, you'd almost expect Mandela to blink, the painting is so lifelike.

Another person attending the service felt that Mandela was an international model in how people should elevate human dignity, and that the service left people resolving "to do better and to be better."

The Roundtable Board Recognizes the Many Contributions of Leslie Dorius-Jones

As Recording Secretary, Leslie is responsible for keeping account of minutes, motions, etc., of Roundtable committee meetings and monthly luncheons, then submitting reports into the Roundtable record. Her schedule becomes especially demanding in the three or four months leading to Interfaith Month, when there are up to six or seven committee meetings a month. She has consistently proved up to the task of being a conscientious minute taker, and her insights, maturity and wisdom are greatly valued and welcomed.

For several years, Leslie has gone beyond her responsibilities as Recording Secretary, traveling far and wide across the Salt Lake Valley, distributing Interfaith Month posters to help ensure the maximum exposure possible.

Leslie is proud to be of Scots-Irish descent, and is of Danish Jewish descent on her father's side. In the early 1990s, she made the decision to convert to Judaism; she later found out from a maternal cousin that their family had always been crypto (or hidden) Jews.

While Leslie was raised in Great Britain, she was actually born in Salt Lake City, the result of an interesting series of events.

Her parents were in the Intermountain Area attending a conference at the head office of her father's company. Her mother was two weeks late giving birth, and while here, went into labor and delivered at Salt Lake's LDS Hospital. Her dad returned home to Great Britain, and three weeks later baby Leslie and her mother joined him.

Early on, Leslie was involved in spiritual interests. At age 12, she began training



Leslie Dorius-Jones continues as Recording Secretary.

as a Celtic seanachaie, or legend keeper, and genealogist. She has developed a strong interest in Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism).

Her love of history and cultures, as well as the experience of the traveling and moving required by her father's job with Standard Oil (later Chevron), taught her to appreciate all traditions, religions and cultures.

She became interested in the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable when she participated as a storyteller at Washington Square during the 2002 Utah Olympic Winter Games activities.

Later, during an event at Congregation Kol Ami, she approached Alan Bachman about her interest in the Roundtable. She wanted to know about joining even though she was not a rabbi. Alan encouraged her to get involved and had her contact Elaine Emmi, which was the beginning of her participation. While it is that easy to get involved with the Roundtable, in Leslie's case,

she has gone an extra mile, including taking care of many of the details that go on behind the scenes of organizing events and helping keep the Roundtable functioning.

The Roundtable is very grateful for Leslie and looks forward to her smile on every occasion.



**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: Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable, P.O. Box 112016, Salt Lake City, UT 84147



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