

# Ministering Together

News and Interfaith Events for the  
Religious Community of Contra Costa County

Winter 2023

## Executive Director's Letter



Dear Friends,

As we mark the one year anniversary of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, we are watching the world change before our very eyes.

Since the end of World War 2, the US

has overseen an era of globalization where more and more countries could be a part of a global market that allowed each nation to specialize in what they could do best, sending their products or portions of products toward creating the whole to be traded almost anywhere around the world. The cost the US asked was not participating in the Soviet economic or military systems in order for US military and naval to protect such trade.

Russia said it would start joining this system of trade in a new openness after the fall of the Soviet era, but it now seems that Putin is intent on recreating a new Soviet era. Surely, his system of Oligarchs isn't exactly a welcome of democratic capitalism, but it opened up to a degree not seen before. This war was quite a gamble, as it seems Putin thought that Germany and Europe would side with them in keeping the 40% of their natural gas coming from Russia over standing with Ukraine's desire for a more democratic tilt toward European membership.

Germany sided with democracy, even to the decrease of their industry to survive such a shift. This new era also raises other questions for us as possible conflict with China rises. What are we willing to get less of in order to secure a livable future without the supply system changes the war may bring our way? How can we work for peace in this new normal?



*We belong to each other . . .*

*~ Rev. Will McGarvey*

## 2022: Growth, Dialogs and Dreams

### Interfaith Dialog:

The I4C Board's goal is to facilitate interfaith conversations that build understanding and awareness among the more than 104 faith communities we represent in Contra Costa County. Board members handle administrative tasks so Elected Council members are free to talk, plan and dream together.



### Interfaith Growth:

- The board assists our executive director, Rev. Will, as he organizes monthly meetings with programs geared to spiritual health, growth, knowledge, theological exchange, and enlightenment.
- Throughout the year we work with Rev. Will to set up special programs, guest speakers, seminars, and retreats.
- One of these programs is Meaningful Mondays, which started during Covid when we really needed to share our feelings. The Meaningful Monday group now meets once a month to discuss an inspirational topic or book. Currently we are reading Sufism, *A BRIDGE between RELIGIONS* by Professor Nader Angha. You are invited to join. Details are on our website. [<Link>](#)
- Last year we hosted our first Interfaith Council fundraiser. This successful dinner/auction and concert contributed to our financial stability.
- Big thanks to Christine Nadeau, who found donors who helped us with a \$30,000 matching grant campaign.
- At the end of the year, our board compiled a list of inspirational books, videos and a few Bay Area events recommended by council members. That list is posted on our website. [<Link>](#)
- We are currently compiling inspirational quotes, prayers, and poetry for our first interfaith booklet of prayers. We really would like to know what inspires you

(continued on page 3)



***With ICARE, you not only receive the immense rewards of serving others in need, but you meet people you might not otherwise meet - and learn more about their faith tradition (and yours!) as you serve side-by-side***

ICARE enters 2023 full of optimism and promise. We had another extraordinary year of interfaith service thanks to so many of our faith communities who stepped up and decided that serving people in our community alongside new friends of different faiths was a win-win: an enriching experience of learning more about our neighbors with different faith traditions while improving the lives of people in need. Go to our video [here](#) for a three minute overview of all we accomplished in 2022 thanks to you.

We are always seeking to improve and expand our impact. To do that, here's how you can help in 2023:

- ***We would like every I4C member faith community to co-sponsor an ICARE project.*** We've enriched our calendar and extended it out almost to the end of the year to help you plan. Go to our calendar [\[LINK\]](#) and sign up your community today! If you are the first faith community to sign up, invite a neighboring faith community that you've always wanted to get to know better to join you. Buddy up and learn from one another while serving people in need.
- ***Unsure of what ICARE does and who we are?*** Ask Dave Longhurst [davelonghurst10@gmail.com](mailto:davelonghurst10@gmail.com) or Terri Moss [terri-moss55@gmail.com](mailto:terri-moss55@gmail.com) to speak at a clergy meeting or to your social justice/action committee. We're happy to put a face on ICARE and answer questions. They will surely be inspired to participate!
- ***Add an interfaith service to your ICARE project!*** If you sponsor an ICARE project at your place of worship, you can expose your larger faith community to your interfaith partners' faith traditions before you begin your service

*project. We recently did this at Peace Lutheran Church in Danville and it was inspiring, educational and a wonderful way to begin a Sunday and a service project.*

- ***We are looking for volunteers to serve on our ICARE committee.*** We meet once a month for an hour and discuss ideas for new projects. You'll have the opportunity to help coordinate projects and work with the nonprofits benefiting from the ICARE project. We need you, your ideas, and your passion! ICARE committee members do not need to be on the Elected Council to serve on the Committee, so please share this opportunity with people in your faith community who are passionate about social justice.

## UPCOMING ICARE PROJECTS

### ***Specific Need in March***

**BAY AREA RESCUE MISSION** – March 25th: We Need a Co-Sponsor

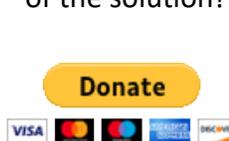
This project involves no fundraising, just volunteers. There is already one cosponsor. Come join them!

### ***Other Future Projects***

Go to our Sign Up Genius to look at and sign up for future projects: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084ea5ab28abff2-future#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084ea5ab28abff2-future#/)

Projects include assembling backpacks and food bags plus food sorting and more. Many projects do not require any fundraising.

Along with serving people in need in our community, ICARE builds networks of friendship and understanding among our various faith communities. In that way, ICARE is a powerful program for diffusing hate and fostering understanding and compassion. Join us! Be part of the solution!



*Opening Hearts—  
through Caring, Diversity  
and Compassion*

## ***Exciting News!***

*We are thrilled that the World Parliament of Religions accepted our proposal to present the ICARE model at their upcoming worldwide conference in August. We hope to inspire interfaith councils throughout the world to initiate similar service initiatives!*

## 2022: Growth, Dialogs and Dreams (continued . . .)

and hope you will contribute to this project. For me, this project was validated when Fr. Tom said, *“Keep gleaming and sharing the quotes and the insights that strike your mind, your heart, and your soul.”*

### Bridge to your Community:

As friends, associates, and elected council members, let your faith community know what I4C is doing AND let us know how we can be of service to you!

Our **SOJA** program works on all forms of social justice issues and partners with social justice groups in the county such as East Bay Housing Opportunity (EBHO), Multi-faith Action Coalition, Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy (FAME), and so many more. Who among you -- or in your community -- are social justice junkies? Who would love to work with our collective activism? We'd love to initiate an introduction.

Our **ICHANGE** program trained several adults to be mentors for youths in Juvenile Hall. We are planning a new training session. If you know someone who is interested in our mentoring program, please send us their contact info.

Do you have a Green Team, an Environment or Climate Committee, Garden Committee, Sustainability Committee, Food Security ministry? If so, please share information about the **Interfaith Sustainable (Food Collective) Faith, Food, and Farms Conference on March 8**. We'd love to put your community in touch with our **ICAN** program!

Be sure to check out the 2023 planned **ICARE** service projects and invite your faith community to cosponsor an event. Click here for more info:

[PICK A PROJECT with Sign Up Genius.](#)

You may even suggest an outreach event that you want us to participate in with YOUR community. Let the ICARE team assist you.

It would be wonderful if every faith community represented on the Elected Council would sign up to sponsor at least one service project during 2023. Many service projects require no financial outlay!

*As a reminder you do not have to be a member of the council to be on one of our committees -- YOU might be the inspiration we need!*

The board is initiating a *“Get to know 5 congregations near you”* campaign. We are looking for more congregations to be represented on the council, especially in the East Country area. Do you have contacts with a faith

organization that might like to be represented on our council? Let us know!

The Interfaith Board would be glad to act as **Ambassadors** to your community. We would consider it an honor and a privilege. Feel free to invite Dave Longhurst, Dennis Wasco, Rev. Julius Van Hook, Rev. Alexandria Spearman, myself, or Rev. Will to speak with your faith community's mission or social justice committee or with your clergy.

Furthermore, the board is asking for financial support to continue the interfaith dialogs, services, and dreams of the Council.

- Do you know people or have connections with organizations that could help us with grants and applications?
- Maybe you know someone who is willing to begin a matching donation campaign for us.
- Is your faith organization currently up to date with its membership?

On a personal note, I joined the council to be more in tune with outreach and social justice programs in the county. I also wanted our small church to be a part of a broader community of faith. Our church budget is tight, but we have found a way to support our I4C membership because of the important work our group does.

Now, after just a few years, my appreciation for the Interfaith Council and its good work has grown into love and admiration. You, the interfaith community, are a part of my life. You are my extended family.



So, with a gleeful heart, let's all go to the [donation page!](#)

*“As you look at the work of the council and what the council is involved in, what attracts you? What are you willing to commit to and most importantly, what is calling you that is not on our list? This is very important to the vitality of the council and any organization. The beauty, uniqueness and the splendor of the people who come to the council, who bring their experiences and intelligence and take us beyond the limits that we may have imposed upon ourselves.”*

-- Fr. Tom Bonacci

**~ Diane Maltester, Chair**





*ICHANGE seeks caring people of faith interested in working in partnership with youth involved in the juvenile justice system.*

## ICHANGE Mentoring Program

Our amazing first cohort of five committed ICHANGE mentors completed their training in March 2022. Unfortunately, the first year of our program met with unforeseen challenges that kept us from fully implementing our program. While we have received great encouragement from the Department of Probation, due to Covid outbreaks in Juvenile Hall, visitations were discontinued. We first met with youth in November, when visitations were reinstated and our mentors were able to meet with their mentees at least once before the holidays. Since then, the Probation Department has again been closed to visitors due to Covid protocols. More recent challenges include the closure of the “Ranch” and resulting changes at Juvenile Hall. We anticipate that we will be able to restart our program in March. Once we are well established, we will schedule training for a second cohort of mentors.

*Join us and make a difference in the life of a justice-involved youth. Become an ICHANGE mentor!*

To be considered as a mentor, you must be 21 years older and be willing to meet with your mentee one hour per week for one year. Other requirements include completion of:

ICHANGE Application including references indicating interest and ability to serve youth.

Forms required for volunteer screening by the Department of Probation.

Orientation and training modules required by ICHANGE (five sessions; 1.5 hours each)

2-hour training on-line in Child Abuse Reporting for Volunteers by State of California.

Orientation and tour of Juvenile Hall.

Provide proof of immunization and valid driver’s license.

ICHANGE mentors receive training from the Interfaith Chaplains serving youth and young adults at

Juvenile Hall and ICHANGE volunteers with experience in the juvenile justice system. Training includes background in the issues and challenges faced by youth and young adults and in health-centered mentoring approaches.

Upon completion of the above, each mentor is matched with a young person and begins meeting with their mentee on a weekly basis. Continued support and additional trainings are offered throughout the mentoring commitment.

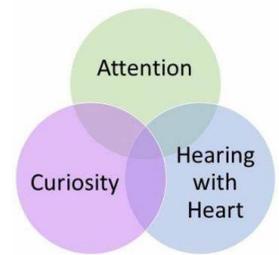
*For more details on becoming a mentor, contact Training Coordinator, **Meg Keeley** at [mek.ichange@gmail.com](mailto:mek.ichange@gmail.com)*

## ROSSMOOR CORNER

The interfaith Council of Rossmoor has gotten off to an energetic start in the new year.

### Generous Listening Workshops

In 2022, Reverend Dan Sturdivant led a series of 6 workshops for about 22 participants attending each session. The workshops are based on the model of Circles of Trust developed by Dr. Parker J.



Palmer, a leading writer and activist in community and teaching issues. The sessions include practice in speaking and listening from the heart. The goal is to open both speaker and listener to their own inner voice by gradually developing trust in one another. This spring the group will host four more workshops in compassionate listening to deepen the experience of those previously attending.

**Diversity Consciousness Committee** has two new coordinators, Mary Taylor and Mimi Leonard. The group will be participating in Acalanes Diversity Fest on March 11 in Civic Park. Last year, the committee hosted a Spring Fling diversity festival, which was attended by approximately 800 people. On April 28, the group will hold this year’s Spring Fling in the Fire-side Room, times to be announced.

**Big Questions Forum** held eight workshops by zoom in 2022, with 16 speakers on world peace. Two common threads were: (1) Peace in the world depends on

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**Rossmoor Corner** (continued . . .)

the inner peace of individuals; and (2) Peace can be radiated in the midst of conflict. In 2023, Big Questions has a new question, "Is human nature basically good or selfish?" The first workshop will be held by zoom on February 20 from 2 to 3:30 with Reverend Rodney from the Unitarian Universalist Church and Susan Shannon, a Buddhist speaker. On March 20, Nazeer Ahmed will represent Islam and Dr. Shanti Rubenstone will represent Ananda. On April 17, Pascal Kaplan will represent Sufism Reoriented.

For information about the Big Questions, email Sara Blackstock at [blackstocksara7@gmail.com](mailto:blackstocksara7@gmail.com).

~ Susie Kohl



**Help to Iraqi Poor**

by Dr. Amer Araim, President

Islamic Community Outreach of California.

More than twenty years ago, the faith communities in the Bay Area were able to send school and health kits to Iraqi children. Since then wars and terrorist attacks prevented us from sending more aid to Iraq. Now the situation is better than before and I would like to begin new efforts to help Iraqi poor. Ramadan, the Holy month for Muslims, is also the special month of giving to the poor and the needy. Please send your donations to the Islamic Community Outreach of California, which is a nonprofit organization, and receipts will be sent to the donors.

[www.islamicoutreach.org](http://www.islamicoutreach.org)

**Islamic Community Outreach of California,  
31 Midvale Court, Walnut Creek, CA, 94597**



**2023 Interfaith Council Retreats!**  
**Expanding the Beloved Community.**

**ANCESTRAL VOICE**  
INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS LIFEWAYS

*"Emerging and Flourishing in the New Season."*

**Next Retreat is on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 pm.**  
**Led by Chief Phillip Scott from Ancestral Voice.**

**June 4th Retreat Leader is Father Tom Bonacci, Executive Director of the Interfaith Peace Project, when we will continue the conversation.**

**September 10th Retreat Leader will be shared once confirmed.**

**All retreats at San Damiano Retreat Center  
710 Highland Dr., Danville, CA**

**Registration through I4C online will conclude the Friday before each retreat. \$20-40 sliding scale.**

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/ChiefPhillipScottRetreatMarch2023>  
After Friday, March 10th, please email [interfaithcicc@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithcicc@gmail.com) to register.

Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County  
Promoting Peace

All are invited to participate. Handouts are included in the fee. A bibliography will be available at the event for further study. We are thrilled to be able to be back at San Damiano Retreat Center for our 2023 retreats!

Sliding scale and scholarships available for the regular program. Questions can be answered by email at [interfaithcicc@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithcicc@gmail.com) or by calling Rev. Will McGarvey, Exec Dir. of the Interfaith Council at 925-933-6030.

**Neighbor to Neighbor Presents:**  
**"People of Faith Respond:  
The Supreme Court and Us"**  
Sunday, March 5 from 4-5:30pm  
at LOPC and on Zoom

Join us as we focus on the historic 2022 Supreme Court cases relating to abortion and prayer in public schools, and their impact on our religious freedom and the doctrine of Separation of Church and State.

Scriptural passages on which each of our faiths base their traditions and beliefs will be discussed in the context of how the Court's decisions impact our freedom to practice our faiths.

Panelists representing our three Abrahamic faiths are:

- Sheik Hassan Maseehullah, San Ramon Valley Islamic Center
- Rabbi Jill Perlman, Temple Isaiah
- Pastor Peter Whitlock, Lafayette Orinda Presbyterian Church

The presentation will be facilitated by Elder and Lawyer Terry Clark, LOPC, with ample time for audience questions and panelists' responses.

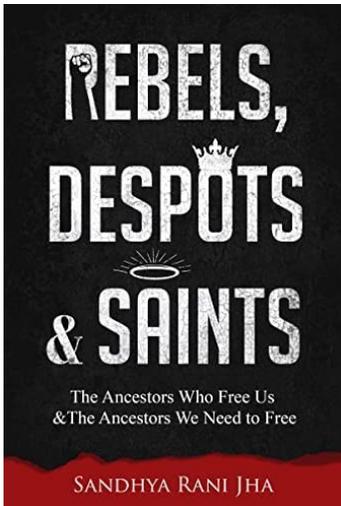
Participants are strongly encouraged to attend in person, but those with health concerns may also join us on Zoom. Please indicate your preferences with your RSVP. The Zoom link will be sent with your confirmation email.

Questions? Contact Elder Terry Clark at [terence.clark08@gmail.com](mailto:terence.clark08@gmail.com)

R.S.V.P. at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DAFAD2AA5F49-people>

Sponsored by Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N), an East Bay partnership among Christians, Jews and Muslims whose mission is to grow understanding, respect and appreciation for the religions of the world, via social initiatives that promote deep inter-relationships among individuals of all ages, generations, cultures and beliefs.

## Winter Reading



Sandhya Jha is no stranger to our community, and the Disciples of Christ pastor's new book, **Rebels, Despots, and Saints: The Ancestors Who Free Us and the Ancestors We Need to Free**. The social justice movement needs sources of encouragement and sustainability, and Sandhya's 25 years of organizing have helped them recognize some patterns that pointed

them back to how activists and organizations grounded in the gifts and power of their ancestors tend to be more resilient in the face of the ups and downs of movement work. This led Sandhya on a journey to deepen their connections with their own ancestors in India and Scotland, and to connect with many people, people of color and white people, who are wrestling with whether and how to connect with ancestors. Sandhya recognizes that our ancestors can be messy, and takes that on directly. Sandhya also looks at our non-biological ancestors and the gifts they have to offer, and then looks at how we can integrate the practices from throughout the book in order to be the ancestors our descendants will need. Sandhya also addresses that some of us were taught that it was unholy to have connections to our ancestors, and they help us untangle those myths from what can be powerful for us as people of faith to connect more deeply with that great cloud of witnesses also known as ancestors. Ultimately a book about how the work we do with ancestors can equip us for the work of dismantling white supremacy, this is a book for this moment in the social justice movement. You can find it through [Chalice Press](#) or at your local bookstore, and you can read the intro [here](#) if you're interested!

There are discussion questions at the end of each chapter, so it might be a valuable group study book in your community come the spring or fall! Sandhya pretty much always come to virtual book groups if her schedule aligns with the group's. Her colleague Nash can work with you on scheduling when you get to that point: [support@sandhyajha.com](mailto:support@sandhyajha.com)



Rev. Heather Leslie Hammer has a new book published of interest to our faith communities: "Shetland Mist: A Shetland Family in the Methodist Movement." It is historical fiction based on the story of the author's great-great-grandmother who lived in the Shetland Islands (Scotland) in the 1800s.

It's a story of hardship, faith, and resilience. There is a study guide on the website and how to "buy the book": <https://www.heatherlesliehammer.com/>.

**Interfaith Books, Movies, Documentaries and Plays recommended by the Elected Council of ICCCC.**

<https://www.interfaithccc.org/2022-2023-interfaith-books-movies-documentaries-and-plays-recommended-by-the-interfaith-elected-council-of-contra-costa-2022/>

### Monthly Meaningful Mondays

a Monthly Online Chat and Check-in  
NOW on First Monday of each Month

*For those that are able to join, we can share some best practices, support one another, and share the needs of the community together.*

**Topic: ICCCC Meaningful Mondays**

**Time: [March 6, 12:00 PM Pacific Time](#)**

We will discuss chapters 5 & 6 of "Sufism: A Bridge Between Religions" by Professor Nader Angha, available [here](#).

**Register in advance for this meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdOmprijlHdOupoM17uzGXXnmgljlyDgr>

After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. That link will work on any future meetings, so save the link, which will be unique to you.

## Winter Events



- **Neighbor to Neighbor Presents: “People of Faith Respond, the Supreme Court and Us”, Sunday, March 5, 3-4:30 pm, at LOPC and Zoom.** Focusing on the historic 2022 Supreme Court cases relating to abortion and prayer in public schools and their impact on our religious freedom and the doctrine of Separation of Church and State. RSVP at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DAFAD2AA5F49-people>. For more information, see page 5.
- **Interfaith Sustainable Food Collective: Faith, Food, and Farms Conference, March 8, 3-7 pm, Oakland.** If you have a Green Team, an Environment or Climate Committee, Garden Committee, Sustainability Committee, Food Security ministry or similar, share this conference information. To learn more or to register, go to <https://www.interfaithccc.org/event/interfaith-sustainable-food-collective-faith-food-and-farms-conference-a-m>, or contact Steve Schwartz Executive Director: [steve@interfaithfood.org](mailto:steve@interfaithfood.org) or (707) 634-4672.
- **Bigger Impact Together: Communities of Faith Building Synergy to Provide Affordable Housing to the Vulnerable, March 9, 11 am-1 pm,** sponsored by **Hope Solutions**, at Hillcrest Congregational Church, 404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. *Lunch provided.* Join our Faith colleagues to hear about innovative ways our communities can come together to respond to God’s call to help needy and work to address our county’s affordable housing crisis. Questions, contact **Jasmine Tarkoff** at [jtarkoff@hopesolutions.org](mailto:jtarkoff@hopesolutions.org).
- **Expanding the Beloved Community Retreat, “Emerging and Flourishing in the New Season”, Sunday, March 12, 3-6 pm,** San Damiano Retreat Center, 710 Highland Dr., Danville, Led by Chief Phillip Scott, from Ancestral Voice. Register at <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/ChiefPhillipScottRetreatMarch2023>, after March 10, email [interfaithcccc@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithcccc@gmail.com) to register. For more information, see page 5.

## ICAN Corner

**We are changing the ICAN meeting date and time we meet on Zoom!**



**Register with the same link below, so you can get the login information by email.**

**Every monthly meeting: You are invited to a Zoom meeting.**

**New Time — Fourth Mondays at 2:00 PM PT (US and Canada)**

*New! Register in advance for this meeting:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlc-CurjwoGtNR5PcZIGQWcLWx2O-zs6Gb>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. We send out the unique urls of those who have registered 5-15 minutes before the meeting.

**Next ICAN Meeting: March 27, 2:00 pm**

## SOCIAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE (SOJA)

**Meets the second Wednesday of each month from 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm.**

**\*\*All meetings now on Zoom due to COVID-19\*\***

WHAT WE DO:

- Speak out collectively on issues of conscience
- Advocate for social justice at the policy-making level
- Act when speaking out and advocacy fails
- Organize community forums to address critical issues
- Arrange time for interfaith worship, dialog, community and understanding

**All are welcome !**

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/94533838950?pwd=WEEwZGNVcFpobS9qazNIbG5EYS9EZz09>

Meeting ID: 945 3383 8950

Password: 5878423

One tap mobile:

+16699009128,,94533838950#,,1#,5878423#



## ICCCC YouTube Channel

Be sure to watch new videos, including the **Big Questions videos on Is Peace Possible in Today’s World**, at the ICCCC YouTube Channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/InterfaithCouncilOfContraCostaCounty>

# The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

404 Gregory Lane  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
www.interfaithccc.org

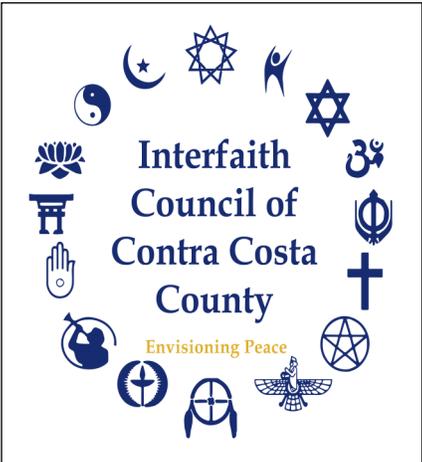
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Bookkeeper.....Christina Shih

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Interfaith Council Newsletter, 404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
Office: (925) 822-3744 Mobile: (925) 933-6030 E-Mail: [eye4ceeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:eye4ceeoffice@gmail.com)  
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To request a paperless newsletter and to receive our bi-weekly E-Blasts,  
E-mail Charlotte Ginn at [eye4ceeoffice@gmail.com](mailto:eye4ceeoffice@gmail.com)**

The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County depends on contributions from member congregations and individuals who support our mission of promoting interfaith understanding. To make a tax-deductible donation, please make your check to I4C or Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County and mail it to our office at our new address!  
404 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. For credit card donations, visit our website: [interfaithccc.org](http://interfaithccc.org). Thank you!



**PLEASE PRAY FOR ... (in our rotating circle of prayer):**  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hill; St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pleasant Hill; Hillcrest Congregational Church, Pleasant Hill; Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, Pleasant Hill; Baha'is of Danville, Danville; First Church of Christ, Scientist, Danville; St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Danville; Danville Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Danville; Danville Congregational Church, Danville; Community Presbyterian Church, Danville; St. Isidore Catholic Church, Danville. For those that experience Islamophobia or Anti-Semitism; Black Lives Matter leaders around the country; congregations going through clergy transition; the volunteers who deliver Meals on Wheels; those seeking employment; those living without shelter; those who are ill; families separated at the border or with members detained in the US; those detained during COVID-19; refugees and asylum seekers from Afghanistan; an end to Russia's war on Ukraine; an end to nuclear weapons.