



Winter 2016

Newsletter

AZFaithNetwork.org

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145 Arizona Faith Leaders Sign “Uniting Faiths of America” Statement



In response to a significant rise in hate crimes and hate-filled rhetoric taking place across our country and appearing on social media over the past 18 months, as reported by the FBI and law enforcement, 144 Arizona faith leaders signed a statement of solidarity to promote peace, respect, and understanding, entitled “Uniting Faiths of America”

The statement was written by members of the “Faith in Solidarity” group organized by the Arizona Faith Network (AFN) under the leadership of executive director Rev. Erin Tamayo. Signatories come from across the religious, political, and racial-ethnic landscape of Arizona to promote the value of diversity and understanding, working for peace, and standing against hate.

Rev. Tamayo, said, “We are at a key time in our country’s history where we must come together in solidarity and demonstrate that as people of different faiths, we stand together in our

diversity. While the lack of understanding has led to hate and violence, we choose to express our commitment to stand with one another in order to promote understanding and peace. No one of us should have to face hate or inequity alone. For this reason, we have chosen to prayerfully respond in a way that we covenant together in mutual support.”

Under the “Uniting Faiths of America” banner, faith communities will also be coming together for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Walk in Phoenix on January 16, 2017.

Article by: The Rev. Eric Ledermann



Jews, Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, Unitarian Universalists, Buddhists, Native Religions, Bahai’s and others joined at Tovrea Castle for a group prayer and picture for Inter-faith Solidarity.

Special thanks: Tovrea Carraro Society

Arizona Faith Network Spring 2017



January 16th- “Uniting Faiths” march together at the Martin Luther King Jr. Walk starting at Pilgrims’ Rest at 8:15am– Look for our “Uniting Faiths” Banner.

-1401 E Jefferson St, Phx, AZ 85034

February 9th– A Community Conversation on the Exploitation of Immigrant Labor in Arizona– - 2401 North Central Ave. Phx, AZ 85004

February 28th– AFN Mission Focus– Economic Inequality and Health–

Location TBD

March 30th– Buddhism 101 - Arizona Buddhist Temple-4142 W Clarendon Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85019

****Check our FB and Website for updates on Times and Places**

>>Don’t Forget Arizona Faith Network in Your Year End Giving<<



“Being Together, Talking Together, Acting Together”

Meet Our New Board Members

Arizona Faith Network wishes to welcome our newest Board Members who will begin in January.



Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette serves as the Senior Minister at Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Chandler, Arizona.

Randy Bowman joins AFN as our new treasurer. He currently serves the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Rev. Sue Ringler is the Vicar of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion Southwest Region.

Joan Crawford is in formation to be ordained a Deacon in the Ecumenical Catholic Communion. She serves as the ECC Alternate Board Member.



Raising the Minimum Wage in AZ



On Nov 8th, Arizonans voted to give minimum wage earners a raise by approving the Minimum Wage and Paid Time Off Initiative, or Proposition 206. The proposition effectively raises the minimum wage to \$10 in 2017 and then incrementally to \$12 by 2020.* The voter-approved initiative goes into effect in January and will ensure that more families can meet their basic needs, lead healthier lives, decrease poverty, and provide more opportunities for working-class families.

26 organizations, including ARIZONA FAITH NETWORK, worked together to pass the wage hike initiative by sponsoring petition drives, hosting community education events, writing op-eds for local newspapers and scheduling presentations at faith communities in the Phoenix Metro Area and in Flagstaff. Anabel Maldonado, Regional Field Director for the AZ Healthy Families Campaign stated, “The partnership between AZ Faith Network and the AZ Healthy Working Families Campaign was vital to our work by providing necessary spaces to talk about issues of income inequality in our state. What was truly powerful for us was the understanding that justice for our working families is rooted in all kinds of faiths. That notion is what helped us win by such a large margin.”

In a letter to AFN’s partners, Executive Director Rev. Erin Tamayo outlined the organization’s reasons for supporting the proposition: “The faith traditions currently represented in the Arizona Faith Network express a high regard for the dignity of work and workers. This understanding is built upon principles held by AFN faith communities including the intrinsic worth of the human person, the interconnectedness of persons in community, the dignity of work as a human endeavor and the just distribution of resources for that work.”

We celebrate this win for Arizona families and congratulate the leadership of the AZ Working Families Campaign, thanking them for their leadership and allowing us as people of faith to participate.

Article by: Sarah King

Introduction to the Sikh Faith 101

On October 5th, the AFN Theological Dialogue Commission sponsored a learning experience called *Sikh Faith 101* at the Nishkam Seva Gurdwara in Glendale. Mrs. Rangji, a member of the Gurdwara, arranged a program of introduction to the Sikh Faith complete with an informative presentation, question and answer session, a langar meal, and an invitation to observe/participate in the Wednesday prayer service. The members of the Gurdwara were especially hospitable in sharing with attendees



The Sikh Langar Meal is served on the ground from a common pot to signify the principle of equality among all people.



in sharing with attendees Sikh Faith traditions, food from the same bowl (langar meal) and translating the prayer service. People from various faith traditions were in attendance and were blessed by the generosity and welcome received from our Sikh brothers and sisters. We were both enriched and blessed as we joined peacefully in community together. Our next Faith 101 event will be held at the Arizona Buddhist Temple on March 30th. Please check our website for more details. Article By Rev. Kega Nasios