



INTERFAITH CONNECTION

Interfaith Works is an association of congregations, affiliated non-profit organizations and individuals. Our purpose is to promote interfaith understanding, and serve the community through charitable, social and educational endeavors.

FEBRUARY 2012

HOMELESS IN A FOOT OF SNOW

Danny Kadden, Executive Director

The recent snow and ice storm that hit south Puget Sound was especially unforgiving to hundreds of homeless people living on the streets and in wooded areas. Many found they could no longer use their usual nooks and crannies or their vehicles for sleeping. For those in the woods, the heavy snow collapsed tents and makeshift tarp shelters, and falling tree limbs posed a life-threatening danger. As power blinked out across the county, businesses and agencies were forced to shutter their doors, closing off simple necessities like public bathrooms, water fountains and a temporary break from the elements.

To anyone driving through downtown Olympia during and right after the storm, it was clear that homeless people were in distress. Weighted down with possessions and with soaked feet, homeless refugees from the storm, many in ill health and suffering from anxiety or other mental disorders, struggled to traverse short distances in search of an awning or clear patch of ground. With the usual respite

centers closed or curtailed, a great number of people were at heightened risk of hypothermia.

In cooperation with local government and a platoon of volunteers, Interfaith Works was quick to respond. After quickly surveying the situation on Thursday morning, we arranged for Temple Beth Hatfiloh, centrally located across



from Olympia Timberland Library, to open as a warming center. As the afternoon wore on, we heard dire reports of folks literally running out of the woods to escape falling

(Continued on page 2)

Homeless *(Continued from page 1)*

branches, leaving behind their equipment and extra clothing. We also learned with alarm that Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on the west side, current host of our women's overflow shelter, had lost power and was struggling to repair a dodgy generator. Volunteers there were preparing to move forward with battery-powered lanterns and extra blankets if necessary.

It soon became clear that existing shelter resources were inadequate. A new plan quickly began taking shape: open an additional downtown shelter at First Christian Church. A call went out for help through the interfaith network and our friends at Crisis Clinic. The local Red Cross was also receiving dozens of calls from panicked residents without power or heat, and we quickly secured their commitment to deliver cots and blankets that evening. As volunteers made their way downtown, Pastor Amy Walters (out of town but in touch via cell phone) arranged for a key and soon Koinonia Hall was filling with up with people seeking shelter. Most heard about the shelter through word of mouth. The night passed safely for over 50 of our neighbors in need.

Friday brought new challenges. That morning, the regular overflow shelter at Gloria Dei Lutheran was originally scheduled to move to its new location at First United Methodist Church but they too were out of power, so the two

churches improvised. The shelter remained at Gloria Dei that night, but was staffed by Methodist hosts and helpers.

On Friday afternoon, we learned that the Red Cross was relocating to the McLane Black Lake fire station on Delphi Road, far removed from population centers and not served by buses. This action forced many who had found refuge the night before back on the streets in damp clothing and shoes. Several volunteers struggled to arrange an ad hoc shelter downtown but were not successful. They guided people to an evening warming center and hoped for the best.

In the aftermath of the storm, it is clear that religious congregations -- with their large facilities, central locations and dedicated volunteers -- played an indispensable role in responding to the emergency and serving as a hub for action.

But we also need to ask hard and honest questions about the capability of our community to respond to human need not just during extreme weather events, but day in and day out. How can various agencies better coordinate their work and meet the range of needs that exist? How can we best use available resources? Where do gaps exist and how do we fill these? Where do we fall short? Interfaith Works is committed to being a part of the solution.

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STEP UP TO BE A CROP HUNGER WALK RECRUITER



Recruiter Rally!

*Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m.
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia 98501*

Planning for 2012 CROP Hunger Walk (the first Sunday in May, May 6 this year) is well under way. Faith communities, civic and service organizations, and just plain neighbors are all invited to form walker teams this year and help our 32nd annual CROP Walk for Hunger be the biggest and best ever.

Step up this year and be a recruiter -- organize your community, friends, co-workers. A "Recruiter Rally" is scheduled for Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE in Olympia. You can learn about plans for May 6, pick up recruiter packets and all kinds of outreach materials (including this year's crop of CROP t-shirts and caps).

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide, volunteer events organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. We need you to make it a success! For more information, call Interfaith Works at 357-7224, or CROP Hunger Walk Committee Chair Wayne Gruen, 352-9703.

More information is available at www.cropwalkonline.org/olympiawa

ZUMBA CLASS HOSTS SIDEWALK BENEFIT

On January 5, Zumba 360 hosted a free zumba class open to everyone where all donations went to SideWalk Homeless Advocacy and Support Center. A dance exercise class, Zumba is a fun way to get in shape. The class was full and lots of fun, and we raised almost \$200 for SideWalk doing what we do anyway. They also raffled off a punch card for ten free classes.

Zumba 360 has classes Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Olympia Ballroom, above the Urban Onion Restaurant. Anyone is welcome to drop in and try it. Visit their website, www.zumba360.com/

Special thanks to Erin Moore, of Zumba 360!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR LITERARY-MINDED

We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate the "Perspective" column, our long-running feature in the Saturday Olympian.

The job involves lining up diverse local writers from different faith perspectives and keeping writers on schedule for their weekly column. Good organizing and communication skills are desirable, and there is much opportunity for you to work creatively with writers to turn out interesting, timely columns that help promote interfaith understanding in our community.

If you are interested, contact the Interfaith Works office at 357-7224, or office@interfaith-works.org. Samples of past Perspectives columns can be read on-line at The Olympian website, www.theolympian.com.

THURSTON COUNTY HEALTHY HOMES/ VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM

Thursdays, January 26 - March 22, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Dept.,
412 Lilly Rd NE, Olympia, 98506

Healthy Homes will train volunteers and provide free healthy home visits to homes and to child care centers in Thurston County. A pair of volunteers meets with the resident and walks with them through their home, addressing ways the resident can reduce their exposure to toxins, asthma triggers, mold, lead, and other housing-related health risks.

Healthy Homes volunteers participate in 30 hours of training and then complete 30 hours of Healthy Homes community service. To learn more call 360-867-2674 (TDD 360-867-2603) or e-mail HealthyHomes@co.thurston.wa.us.

SIDEWALK VOLUNTEER BASIC TRAINING

Tuesday, Feb. 21 (eve)
Thursday, Feb. 23 (eve)
Saturday Feb. 25 (all day)

SideWalk – our new homeless advocacy center -- is again offering a one week Basic Training course for prospective volunteers. The 11-hour training is scheduled across two evenings and one Saturday.

Volunteers who complete basic training serve shifts as Greeters at the SideWalk office. They are responsible for welcoming clients at the door, introducing new clients to advocates, screening clients into overnight shelters, and providing support to staff and volunteers with light office duties including data entry, photocopying, and filing. Selected clients may serve as greeters.

Register today by e-mailing emma@interfaith-works.org, or calling 360-515-5587.



Walk Together
Walk Strong

Save the Date!
InterFaith Advocacy Day
February 14, 2012

United Churches of Olympia
110 11th Ave. SE, Olympia, WA

***Uniting Hearts & Minds:
Raising Revenue
for the Common Good***



All faith communities are welcome to participate in an interfaith gathering, attend workshops, and advocate in Olympia. Let's unite our hearts and minds, and call on our legislators to raise revenue for the common good.

Online registration begins December 10, 2011, at fanwa.org. Mail-in registration forms are also available.

Registration Rates:

\$20 by 5pm on January 31, 2012
\$25 beginning February 1, 2012

Questions? Email fan@fanwa.org or call 206-625-9790.

Interfaith Advocacy Day 2012 Registration

Uniting Hearts & Minds: Raising Revenue for the Common Good

Tuesday, February 14, 2012—8:30am-3:30pm—110 11th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501—fanwa.org—206-625-9790

Name(s): _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Faith Community: _____ Legislative District: _____ Vegetarian Meal? (Y/N): _____

An appointment with your legislators will be set for you and others from your district unless you check this box indicating you do not want to participate in a legislative meeting.

Transportation:

I am interested in riding in a van from my area, if one is available. (Gas costs will be shared.)

My faith community has a van we can use, and I will confirm it and arrange for a driver.

I am interested in carpooling. You may share my email address with others from my district.

I am interested in coordinating transportation from my area. You may share my email with others from my district.

I will provide my own transportation.

Still have questions? Contact Faith Action Network:
206-625-9790 or fan@fanwa.org

Early registration is highly encouraged to help us with planning and setting appointments!

\$20/person registration fee (\$25 starting 2/1/12) includes advocacy packet, continental breakfast, lunch, and meetings with your legislators. Contact FAN for scholarship requests: fan@fanwa.org or 206-625-9790.

Check made payable to FAN (IFAD in memo) enclosed

Charge my Visa/Mastercard: Exp. _____ Security# _____

Card# _____

Name on card (if different) _____

Billing address (if different) _____

Mail form with check/credit card info to:

**Faith Action Network
766 John St., Suite B
Seattle, WA 98109**

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**Faith Action Network
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Seattle, WA 98109**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

A listing of some of the activities and events of Interfaith Works members, affiliated organizations, and of general interest. IW does not necessarily endorse these events. More details and events at www.Interfaith-Works.org.

Jan26-Mar 22 Thursdays 6 pm - 9 pm	Thurston County Healthy Homes/Volunteer Training Program Learn how to reduce exposure to toxins, asthma triggers, mold and other housing-related health risks. Free. TC Public Health, 412 Lilly Rd NE, 98506. info: 867-2674; healthyhomes@co.thurston.wa.us
January 28 Saturday 9:15am-3 pm	Lectio Divina: Feasting on the Word. A feast of reading, meditation, prayer. Includes background on lectio. Cost: \$50. Bring lunch, Bible, journal. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; spiritualityctr@stplacid.org; www.stplacid.org .
February 4 Saturday 7pm—10 pm	Winter Dance at Unity. DJ Dave spins tunes. Dance lessons 7-7:30pm. Singles or couples. Wear festive clothes and have fun! Unity Church of Olympia, 1335 Fern St SW, Olympia 98502. \$10 Suggested donation. Info: Nancy 491-0704. www.unityofolympia.org
Feb 9-15 Thu-Wed 9am-5pm	Marriage Equality March. From Vancouver, WA to Olympia, culminating in Rally at the State Capitol steps on Feb. 15. Sponsored by a Coalition of Faith Communities in SW WA. March a few miles, or 100! Info at http://vanucc.net/?p=2677
February 11 Saturday 9:15am-3pm	Easing into Contemplation. A workshop with tools for finding more time for God. Four prayer styles explored. Cost: \$50. Bring sack lunch & journal. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; spiritualityctr@stplacid.org; www.stplacid.org .
February 14 Tuesday 8:30am-3:30	Interfaith Advocacy Day—Uniting Hearts & Minds. Join people of faith from around the state for workshops on social justice issues and advocacy. The United Churches, 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia. \$20 early bird inc. lunch, etc. Info: www.fanwa.org , 206-625-9790.
February 14 Tuesday 9am-noon	Haiku & Tanka: Love Notes in Linked Verse. An ancient approach to writing poetry in creative relationship. Cost: \$60, includes materials. Priory Spirituality Center, 500 College St NE, 98516, 438-2595; spiritualityctr@stplacid.org; www.stplacid.org .
February 15 Wednesday 4 pm/5:30 pm	Rally & Potluck Celebration for Marriage Equality March. (see Feb 9) Marchers & supporters gather at The United Churches, 110 11th Ave SE, at 3:30 then process to Capitol for rally. Then, return to The United Churches for celebratory potluck at 5:30.
Feb.16-18 Thu/Fri/Sat 5-9/8:30-5:30	Collaborative Negotiations Training. A 20-hour fun, interactive training to learn respectful, mutually beneficial decision making. Sponsored by Dispute Resolution Center. \$315. Info: 956-1155; onlewis@mediatethurston.org. www.mediatethurston.org .
February 25 Saturday 9am - 3:30pm	Books - Brownies - Beans Fundraiser. Great bargains on used books, CDs, DVDs. Enjoy Bistro refreshments. All proceeds benefit Out of the Woods Homeless Family Shelter. Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2300 East End St NW, 98502. www.ouuc.org
Feb. 21,23,25 Tue/Thu/Sat 2-5/10-5	Homeless Prevention Partnership Basic Training. Basic volunteer training by for SideWalk Homeless Advocacy Center, or Rosie's Place (youth), or Family Support Center. Free; info & registration emma@interfaith-works.org; 360-515-5587. www.walkthurston.org/volunteer



Since 197*

Interfaith Works
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www.interfaith-works.org

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February 2012

2012 LEGISLATURE SEEKS CHAPLAINS

January 9—March 8, 10 am

The Washington State House of Representatives is seeking local chaplains to deliver the opening prayer for the 2012 Washington State Legislature.

Floor sessions generally start at 10:00 a.m. and begin with presentation of flags, the pledge of allegiance and opening prayer, usually 1 -2 minutes in length. Recognizing the diversity of faiths among those present, the prayer should be interfaith.

For anyone interested in participating, contact Patty Moore in the Chief Clerk's office. Call 360-786-7176 e-mail patty.moore@leg.wa.gov.

For questions about the legislative chaplain program, please feel free to contact Jim Erlandson at 360-754-6230 or jimerlandson@yahoo.com

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