

Interfaith

Works



Annual Report

May 2009—April 2010



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Richard Miles, President
- Kathleen Peppard, Secretary
- Alexa Johnson, Treasurer
- Marge Johnson
- Barnett Kalikow
- Mustafa Mohamedali
- Dan Ryan
- Jan Spiller
- Rich Young

STAFF

- Executive Director
- Kathy Erlandson
- Daniel Kadden (April '10)
- Office Manager
- Yvonne Wilhelmsen

From the Executive Director

Interfaith Works celebrated its 36th anniversary during 2010. Our membership, structure and methods (along with the name, formerly "Associated Ministries of Thurston County") have profoundly shifted over the years but our commitment to focusing on "important issues confronting our community" – originally expressed in 1974 – remains undiminished.

Our programs continue to reflect a remarkable combination of purposes: a direct response to human needs, raising up the community, building partnerships and deepening ties between diverse faiths. Interfaith Works fills an indispensable role, helping to channel and coordinate the energies of faith communities to address community-wide concerns.

Our work over the past year could not have been done without the extraordinary contributions of hundreds of committed volunteers, who gave thousands of hours of their time and energy to

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large and small tasks alike: program committee work, newsletter folding, Board leadership, overnight hosting and support for our winter homeless shelter, event coordination, attending Program Council meetings – this is truly what has sustained Interfaith Works.

In Thurston County, we are blessed with a tradition of mutual respect and friendship between faith communities. Yet, our nation is experiencing an alarming rise of religious intolerance and bigotry. We have been unsettled by the rising tide of anti-Muslim hatred and

xenophobia, knowing we are not immune from the ugly trends around us.

Our mission of interfaith respect and cooperation takes on new urgency and importance in this disturbing climate. Many look to Interfaith Works for leadership in this area, recognizing that we are uniquely positioned to create channels of understanding. In the coming year, we will focus on confronting intolerance and the environment that breeds it.

As we proudly engage in this important work, we are acutely aware of the financial constraints impacting non-profit organizations everywhere, including faith communities, during this challenging period of economic downturn. But Interfaith Works only supports a half-time staff to begin with—there is nothing to cut back. Simply put, it is clear we must expand and diversify our funding base if we are to continue doing our work effectively.

I am inspired by the diversity of faiths that make up our membership, and even more by the key ingredient that makes our work possible: a spirit of kindness, respect and openness to others. At Interfaith Works, we work to spread that compassionate vision to the wider community. With the generous support of our members and friends, we look forward to energetically continuing on that path...just when it's needed most.



Danny Kadden

TRANSITIONS

This past year saw an important internal transition: **Kathy Erlandson** retired after nine years as our Executive Director and many more in dedicated service to the organization. Under Kathy's leadership, Interfaith Works became more diverse, attracting a cadre of talented and committed lay leaders.

We welcomed as members two new Affiliate Organizations: **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Olympia Stake**, and the **Plum Mountain Buddhist Community**.

We also gratefully thanked two outgoing Board members for their leadership, **Kathleen Peppard** of the Community for Interfaith Celebration and **Marge Johnson** of Lacey Faith Assembly.

Interfaith Works promotes interfaith understanding, and serves the community through charitable, social, and educational endeavors.



INTERFAITH WORKS

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Interfaith Works is a non-profit 501©(3) organization, since 1974. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Programs



Understanding and Respect

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

In 2009, we held our 26th annual Thanksgiving event before a full house of 300 in the sanctuary of Temple Beth Hatfiloh. Our event focused on the theme: "A Celebration of Thanks, A Celebration of Giving." Choirs, musicians, clergy and lay leaders representing the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, Ba'hai, Unitarian and Interfaith communities shared inspiring words and music. The offering benefited Interfaith Works and the Thurston County Food Bank.

PERSPECTIVE COLUMN

Our regular Saturday column in The Olympian continued to serve as a unique forum for interfaith dialogue. Dan Ryan, Interfaith Works Board member from the South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship, did a masterful job of coordinating a steady stream of contributing writers from every walk of life and faith tradition.

WORLD SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL

In April, we sponsored a memorable performance of Portland-based Al-Andalus Ensemble at the Capitol Theater, featuring a merging of music cultures, East and West, as well as the Classical and World Music genres. After five years of successful growth, the Festival scaled back in 2009-10 to assess our strengths and consider options for sustainability.

PUGET SOUND INTERFAITH YOUTH CAMP

The popular summer camp, a partnership between Interfaith Works and Associated Ministries of Pierce County, was on hiatus this year as we explored dedicated funding that will support staff and curriculum.



Social Issues and Action



EARTH STEWARDSHIP

In partnership with Earth Care Catholics of Olympia, Interfaith Works Earth Stewardship Committee organized an eight-program "Earth Care" series in 2009-10, featuring guest speakers, poetry readings, videos and engaged discussion. Topics included sustainable food and farming, climate change, water issues, and exploring the religious-environmental movement in America. Our Earth Stewardship committee brings together lay leaders active in environmental and sustainability issues in their own congregations and in the wider community.

EMERGENCY OVERFLOW SHELTER

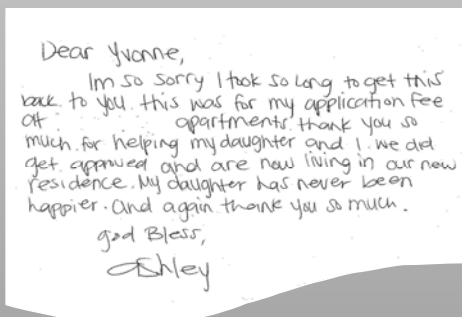
For two decades, Interfaith Works has operated a winter shelter for homeless women and families with nowhere else to go. From November 2009 to March 2010, twelve of our member faith community congregations hosted the shelter for two-week shifts, providing 940 bed-nights for over 100 homeless adults and children. More than 300 incredible volunteers served as overnight hosts or helped with support tasks behind the scenes.

MOMENTS OF BLESSING

Initiated in 2005 by Rev. Carol McKinley and Barbara Gibson, this ministry of healing helps reclaim places of violence as places of life and peace, and brings support and comfort to family, friends and neighbors of homicide victims in Thurston County. In 2009-10, ceremonies were held in response to six homicides in our community.

NANCY HOFF HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUND

The cost of a tenant background screening check is often a final hurdle faced by a homeless person seeking to secure housing. Our Housing Assistance Fund, named in memory of the late Nancy Hoff, Executive Director of Associated Ministries from 1974 to 1989, assisted 17 families transitioning to permanent housing.



THURSTON COUNTY CROP WALK 2009

The 29th annual Crop Walk held May 3, 2009 raised \$44,600. Although a drop-off from the previous year, participation and enthusiasm remained high with 450 walkers, including 27 participating groups. Our dedicated leadership team led by Wayne Gruen once again did an outstanding job, assisted by about 40 volunteers. The local share of funds raised in the 2009 Walk went to:

- Thurston County Food Bank
- Salvation Army
– Community Kitchen
- Senior Services for South Sound
– Meals on Wheels program
- St. Michael Catholic Parish
– St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Out of the Woods Shelter
- First Baptist Church
– Sunday Dinner Feeding Ministry
- Garden Raised Bounty (GRuB)
- St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
– Community Dinner Program.

Members of Interfaith Works

FAITH COMMUNITIES

- All Souls Unitarian Universalist Community
- Baha'i Assembly of Olympia
- Baha'i Assembly of Thurston Co. East
- Center for Spiritual Awakening
- Community for Interfaith Celebration
- Community of Christ
- Congregation B'Nai Torah
- First Christian Church
- First Church of Christ, Scientist
- First United Methodist Church
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
- Islamic Center of Olympia (Masjid al-Nur)
- Lacey Community Church
- Lacey Presbyterian Church
- Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
- Nalanda Institute
- Olympia Friends Meeting
- Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation
- Open Gate Zendo
- St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
- St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
- St. Ephrem Orthodox Mission
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- St. Michael Catholic Parish
- Temple Beth Hatfiloh
- Tumwater United Methodist Church
- United Churches of Olympia (The)
- Unity Church of Olympia
- Westminster Presbyterian Church

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

- Dispute Resolution Center
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Olympia Washington Stake
- Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation
- Plum Mountain Buddhist Community
- Priory Spirituality Center
- Providence Spiritual Care Network
- South Sound Buddhist Peace Fellowship
- Thurston Co. Ministries in Higher Education
- United Communities AIDS Network

Operating Revenue and Expenses

Our financial support comes primarily from member organizations and individual donors. Although our small budget has a large portion allocated to administration, the majority of those expenses and staff time are used to directly administer and manage programs.

Fiscal Year May 1, 2009—April 30, 2010

OPERATING REVENUE

Member and Individual Contributions	\$ 34,524
Grants and Other	13,171
Program	6,465
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 54,160

OPERATING EXPENSES

Administration	\$ 41,353
Program	5,481
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 46,834