



MultiFaith Council News

Drawing together diverse faiths in mutual respect, friendship and service.

Editor: Judy Trautman

December 2013

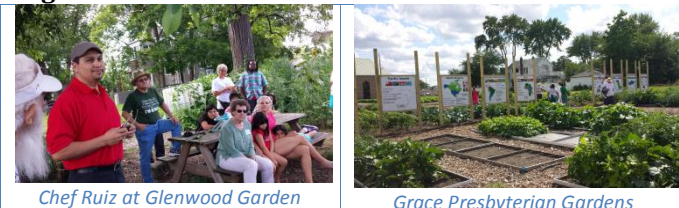
Note from the Co-Chairs

This newsletter shares with our members and friends a summary of our recent, current, and near-future programming. Many thanks to all who support our work and participate in our activities and events.
Judy and Woody Trautman

MultiFaith GROWS

MultiFaith GROWS is an outreach program of the MultiFaith Council to encourage all faith groups with access to land to plant community gardens. We provide web resources and periodic workshops. Intern Penny Bolen mapped and surveyed many of the gardens this year.

August Garden Tours



Chef Ruiz at Glenwood Garden

Grace Presbyterian Gardens

On Sunday August 4, we hosted with the First Unitarian Church Green Sanctuary program, a self-drive tour of faith-based gardens. A garden host at each location answered questions. Gardens included were at the Masjid Saad Foundation, Congregation B'nai Israel, Glenwood Community Garden, Grace Presbyterian Church, the Padua Center, and First Unitarian Church, where refreshments were served.

Peace Day / 5th Annual MultiFaith Harvest Festival



Unitarian Universalist – Rev. Beth Marshall; Protestant Christian – Rev. Ed Heilman; Islamic – Imam Farooq Abo Elzahab; Sikh – Sardar Kuldeep Singh; Hindu – Kamala Nanda; Buddhist – Paul Laffartha; Jewish – Joyce Moran; Roman Catholic – Sr. Paulette Schroeder, OSF; Bahá'í - Jennifer Hill

We celebrated the United Nations Peace Day at The University Church on September 21. The observance included MultiFaith expressions of Peace, music from Melissa Jeter "I've got peace like a river", Planting of Peace Tree and dedication of an eight language Peace Pole, informational displays, and live-streaming of Peace One Day events.



Bryan Ellis and Leaders Plant Tree

Peace Pole



Gardening presentations were made by Hayavadhan Thuppall of the University Church Garden, Allie Osmun of Toledo GROWS, and Keith Sadler of United Way. A delicious shared meal and tours of the extensive gardens at the University Church followed.

Annual MultiFaith Banquet



Erase the Hate Youth Workshop

Heroes of Compassion

Our 12th Annual MultiFaith Banquet, the *Power of Compassion* was held Sunday April 28 at The Franciscan Center at Lourdes University. The banquet was combined with an Erase the Hate Youth Service Learning project on compassion.

Guided Campus Tours and a mixer with informational faith displays were held for adults during the youth program. Eight Heroes of Compassion were inducted into our gallery: Joe Balderas, Sofia Quintero Art & Cultural; Wanda Butts, The Josh Project; Liz Facey, Youth Advocate; Charlie Johnson, CITE Program (Community Integration & Training for Employment); Sara Mattson, Read for Literacy/Creating Young Readers; Rev Melissa Micham, Glenwood Lutheran Church Giving Store; John Shousher, MultiFaith and Multi-Cultural Ambassador; and Lisa Strawbridge, UU Kids Care Club and Good Night Bags.

As part of the program, Valerie Garforth and John Krochmalny presented video results of their committee to establish data that we are indeed a compassionate community. Other committee members were David Longacre, Joe Zielinski, and Sherre Smith. Using a compassion rubric, they studied a representative sample of 150 organizations (Academic, Arts, Civic / Social Welfare, Economic / Business, Environment, Food Security, Government / Justice, Non-Government). The average score was 29 out of 30. The video may be seen at <http://youtu.be/onkzotvBNNg>

The banquet meal, catered by Chris Loe, Café Lourdes, was delicious. Table discussion was facilitated by TK Barger, the new religion editor at *The Blade*. We had a full house with about 330 attendees.

MultiFaith Picnic

The 10th annual Family Picnic, chaired by Emmett Kadri, was held on June 30, at United Church of Christ (UCC) in Sylvania, very gracious hosts. Kamala Nanda led colorful New Games for all ages.



New Games

Shared Meal

The potluck meal featured appetizers, Kosher / Halal / vegetarian hotdogs, salads and sides. A delicious dessert competition was judged by a group of clergy and faith leaders. The event was attended by over 130.

Clergy/Faith Leader Breakfast

We hosted a faith leader breakfast on February 7, to acquaint clergy and faith leaders with the goals of the MultiFaith Council and to outline our initiative to officially designate Greater Toledo and NW Ohio as a Compassionate Community in the Compassionate Cities Campaign. The consensus of the fifty attendees was that the leaders would like to meet again.

Greater Toledo Compassionate Community



On September 17, Toledo City Council unanimously passed, and Mayor Bell signed, a Resolution in favor of our Compassionate City initiative.

The Lucas County Commissioners passed a similar Resolution on December 17.

We are planning a grand Designation Weekend April 25-27, 2014.

Friday the 25th will start with a signing ceremony, press conference and reception at Government Center. Then we will hold a Compassion Networking Convention at Seagate Convention Center. The goal of the convention is to showcase organizations doing compassionate work in our community and to facilitate networking towards collaborative projects to address critical community needs.



Saturday and Sunday will offer community service opportunities. The weekend will conclude with the 13th MultiFaith Banquet at the Franciscan Center.

Details will be forthcoming by email, on our website and on our Facebook page. Please consider becoming a Compassion Ambassador and helping with these events.

<http://compassionatetoledo.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CompassionateToledo>

Men's Group and Women's Group

The MultiFaith Men's Group has been meeting monthly since August, 2007. The men have discussed a wide range of topics. The group has supported our picnics and banquets with promotion and set up. As a service project, they prepare a meal and serve quarterly at St. Paul's Community Center.

On February 4, the MultiFaith Women met at Dragonfly Artisan Tea Cottage for High Tea. In October a group of the women met for two Saturdays to learn Turkish cooking. The resulting Peace Meals were very successful. The women will discuss further meetings in January.



Peace Meals

Tables of 8

There are plans to resume Tables of 8, small MultiFaith dinner groups, starting in January. If you are interested, please contact us.

North American Interfaith Network

The MultiFaith Council is a member of the North American Interfaith Network, which helps us to share our interfaith experiences with representatives from interfaith groups across the continent. Judy and Woody are members of the Board of Directors of NAIN.

NAINConnect 2013 was held in Toronto. Next year's Connect will be in Detroit. Details may be found at www.nain.org

25th Annual Interfaith Blood Drive



The MultiFaith Council is a sponsor of the Interfaith Blood Drive, which is also an Erase the Hate Event. The 25th Anniversary drive was held Sat/Sun June 22/23, 2013 at Grace Lutheran Church from 9-3. The Celebration of Life Service was also at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 23, at 7PM. This is the oldest and longest standing interfaith blood drive in the nation. Chair and contact is Devorah Shulamit 419 841 4652.

Membership and Sponsorships

The MultiFaith Council is a tax-exempt 501c3 organization, with no paid staff, and depends solely on the generosity of our members and volunteers. We offer our **deepest thanks** to our supporters. Names of the sponsors and a membership / sponsorship form are available on our website. We have received an anonymous \$5000 matching grant to raise funds for the sustainability of our organization. We hope you will consider making a donation to this effort.

You may donate online at www.multifaithcouncil.org using the donate button to donate by credit card or PayPal. Or you may send contributions to our Treasurer Jim Morford. Make checks payable to MultiFaith Council of NW OH and mail to Jim Morford, MFC treasurer, MultiFaith Council, 8005 Kingsboro Ct, Temperance, MI 48182. Please write Membership, Compassion, Sustainability or General Sponsorship in the memo portion of your check.

See our website: <www.multifaithcouncil.org>. Contact Judy or Woody Trautman <info@multifaithcouncil.org>, 419-475-6535.