

Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

Website: sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org Email: sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com

Wednesday, October 28, 2020, 12pm - 1pm

Zoom Meeting

Present: Steve Finley, Jim Thomas, Curran Reichert, Manette Fairmont, Peadar Dalton, Donna Thomas, Scott Pryor, Kathryn Stark and Jan Reynolds.

Welcome and Call to Order - The group shares thoughts on how to maintain a sense of awe with so many distractions in these times. Some thoughts: take time to be aware of the sights, sounds and smells of Autumn/nature, the divine appreciation for breathing and it's benefits, and the inspiration we see daily of human spirit as a God given gift to endure and rise above our trials.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - This year's service will be held on **Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00pm**. It will be live streamed from Trinity Episcopal Church via YouTube, there will also be some pre-recordings shared. Our group of faith leaders are invited to be present and participate, wearing masks and social distancing of course. We will take turns at the podium with our parts. If you have something you would like to add please reach out to Rabbi Steve at rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com.

Guests:

Whitney Evans of Care Partners Initiative <https://carepartnersinitiative.org/about-us/>

Daphne Johnston of Respite for All <https://www.respiteforall.org/who-we-are>

Whitney reports that there are 1000 people, one in ten, over the age of 65 in Sonoma living with some form of cognitive decline. They are being cared for by family and/or friends and nearly 60% of those caregivers report high emotional stress having little to no time for themselves to replenish their needs.

Whitney and Daphne are looking to begin a respite ministry community program here in Sonoma in Fall 2021 with support from the Council On Aging (Vintage House currently offers a program but is limited on space and can't serve the large numbers in need). This is not just a daycare program but a program offering ministry and activities filled with meaning and purpose. This is an opportunity to provide the support needed in our area for those with cognitive decline and their caregivers.

"Reclaiming joy, together!" is the motto of Respite for All (RFA) which builds communities of well-being and connection for those living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This volunteer-driven, faith-based, intergenerational program meets four days per week and benefits individuals with memory loss and their care partners. The small-group activities and social model of care with dementia-trained volunteers requires no medical staff.

The RFA model of care is based on partnerships with faith communities that provide free space and a network of volunteers who offer community and companionship along with evidence-based activities that benefit the individuals served, their caregivers and volunteers. While (RFA) is rooted in faith-based communities, we serve everyone without regard to religious affiliation. RFA provides the necessary resources and training to inspire and sustain new volunteer respite communities across the country.

Please visit their website to see the great things this program can offer Sonoma. No one is turned away due to finances. To see more on the sustainability of a program visit <https://www.respiteforall.org/being-a-chapter#Sustainability>

Due to Covid restrictions a program would likely need to begin in the Fall of 2021. Between now and then they need the following:

- 1) **a task force** - made up of members from our faith group, the community, Care Partners Initiative, RFA and the Council on Aging. Perhaps you know of members, family or friends who would be interested in helping get this up and running.
- 2) **identify one or two sites** that can be used, does your church have a space?
- 3) **an executive director**
- 4) **identify those who will need the program** and it's support (as faith leaders you have insights to members of the community in need), let's begin a list of community members we can reach out to.

If you can help with anything please reach out to Whitney at wevans1114@sbcglobal.net

Other information -

- Curran is stepping down from S.O.S. and hopes we can find a faith representative to replace her.
- Monday, November 2nd, 6:30-7pm First Congregational Church 252 W. Spain St. - a pre-election day silent vigil for an outcome of hope and good will.
- Sonoma's Church of the Nazarene will now host a SVUSD learning pod on their campus beginning November 16th. We are thankful they will be available to serve the students and schools.
- Christmas Hope 2020 needs you! Please reach out to Stacey Schoeningh directly at 707-227-6285 or staceyellis20@yahoo.com to help participate in this community-wide, drive through Live Nativity event. She would love a representative from each church and faith group to participate in any capacity possible.
- Next meeting is December 9th (Nov./Dec. meeting) unless a pre-Thanksgiving meeting is called.

Meeting adjourned 1:05pm

KSVY Radio Schedule – Tuesdays, 9 am – 9:30 am

The call in number is 933-9133

Date	Member	Phone #
Nov. 3	Steve Finley	818-207-1757
Nov. 10	Marie Wilson-Johnson	707-996-2151
Nov. 17	Donna Thomas	707-939-6774
Nov. 24	St. Andrew Rep.	TBD
Dec. 1	Dave Gould	209-485-3027
Dec. 8	Scott Pryor	831-747-0139
Dec. 15	Jim Thomas	707-933-6154
Dec. 22	Peadar Dalton	707-939-7613
Dec. 29	Manette Fairmont	707-529-9562