

Sonoma Valley Interfaith
Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021 / 12 pm–1 pm
<https://www.sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org>
sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com

Present: Steve Finley, Scott Pryor, Donna Thomas, Jim Thomas, Manette Fairmont, Ryan Rindells, and Peadar Dalton.

12:00 pm

- **Welcome/Opening Blessing** - Donna opens with a blessing and Scott follows with words of encouragement.
- **Reviews** - October meeting minutes were reviewed. Thanksgiving video was very successful, thanks to all who participated and to editor Ron Moser. Let's do more to promote this service next year. Hanukkah first night was also successful with 80-100 community members present, Lights of Remembrance was welcomed again this year in the plaza.
- **Steve will be on a 3 month sabbatical** from January 1st through March 31st. The following members will take his place leading our next three meetings:
 - January 26 - Curran Reichert, Guest Carla Rodriguez, Chief Deputy DA Sonoma County
 - February 23 - Scott Pryor, Guest Renee Scott, Vintage House ED
 - March 23 - Nicole Trotter, Guest Kathy King, S.O.S. and *Sandy Piotter F.I.S.H. (TBD)*
- **Non Profits Check-in and Updates.**

S.O.S. - Rabbi Steve, Meal service is successful, looking for new space for overnight parking due to pushback from community about it's proximity to youth at the baseball park. The city will help look for

Sonoma County Interfaith Council - Scott Pryor shared that December 13th, 12-1:30pm there is an online event "How Can We Best Support Our Un-Housed Neighbors?" Lead Presenter: Gregory Fearon, Homeless Action! and Sonoma Applied Village Services (SAVS) with representatives from Homeless Action! • Sonoma Applied Village Services Committee on the Shelterless - Petaluma • Homeless Action Sonoma • Sonoma County Continuum of Care. All Welcome - call David at (707) 206-2650 or Email: LunchChats@InterfaithSonoma.org for further information.

City Council - ongoing discussion in regards to plans for SDC development. City council meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month with public forum opportunities to speak. See more [here](#).

- **Donation** - We have received a generous donation of \$5000 *“To be used exclusively for collaborative community support and interfaith activities.”* Let’s all come up with some ideas. Please send in your ideas in writing via email to our email sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com Suggestions for, an interfaith community calendar at year end, middle school support and help for aged/ seniors are all on the table.

12:30 pm

- **Guest: Annie Falandes, Homeless Action Sonoma (HAS)**

Annie began volunteering with the homeless two years ago and saw a need to change the stigma of the homeless community here in Sonoma Valley. She started Homeless Action Sonoma in hopes of getting rid of the disconnect between the housed and un-housed populations. “We believe that the homeless are members of our whole community. We are working to unite the whole community behind a working concept, so that our whole community can take responsibility for transitioning the unhoused into housing. This concept is based on four pillars to success:

1. EDUCATE

Without both the homeless community and the housed community educated to an understanding of the needs and fears of each, there can be no "one" community.

2. INTEGRATE

Create avenues where these two communities can get to know one another to alleviate the fears that exist in both, with an end goal being, create a desire to help and be helped.

3. INNOVATE

So much money has been put into homelessness and it hasn't reduced the numbers or made either community happy. It's time to innovate and approach the situation from different directions.

4. CREATE

When there is an understanding in the communities that there is a viable path out of homelessness, a successful facility can be built supported by these four pillars. They have purchased the property next to Baker and Cook for a transitional facility. It will have a teaching kitchen for hospitality job skill training. Folks will work with a case worker to get what they need to enter into the work force and be

on the path to finding their own housing. There are many services available for the homeless/un-housed but many folks don't have the technology or transportation to access it.

How can we help?

Check out their recent newsletter [here](#). Try to educate the community to no longer stereo type the un-housed. Ask for community members to join you in volunteering. Volunteer your time at any of the three active and successful HAS activities that are building community and solutions (sign up [here](#)) :

~ Sunday night dinners - For the last two years we have been holding Sunday night dinners for all community members. It is an opportunity to get a hot meal on Sunday for the hungry and an avenue for the homeless and the housed to sit at a table together and get to know each other as fellow members of the same community.

~ Befriending - With this program a housed person befriends a homeless person and with trust together they navigate the existing programs to get available help; ie. social security, social security disability, therapy, veterans benefits, section 8 housing, job training, mediCal EBT, clothing vouchers, bus passes, and so much more.

~ Sonoma Professionals Share - This program matches a professional with a homeless person with the agreement that they would offer pro bono services for one year - such as, dentists, oral surgeons, life coaches, doctors, hairdressers, therapists and so many more. Other ways to donate [here](#).

- **Guest: Newly elected Mayor Jack Ding**

Mayor Ding was born in China and came to US in 1993 where he received his MBA. He has volunteered preparing taxes at La Luz with Spanish speaking community members, for veterans and for folks through S.O.S. He has no political agenda as the mayor but rather he wants to be a community worker in support of Sonoma as a whole. He is currently passionate about free wi-fi services for those in need especially in the Springs and is meeting with the city manager and wi-fi experts on how to make this happen. He is thankful that our community has a high voter turnout and interest in community topics and wants to make a living helping others. His term runs through December 2022. Please feel free to reach out to him at jack.ding@sonomacity.org To read more see this article in The Sonoma Sun [here](#).

- **Other information** - Peadar's wife, Margarita, is on the board of the Sonoma Radio, FM KSVY 91.3. KSVY is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and not funded by any federal or state funds. They are solely funded by you the listener, grants, and

sponsor underwriting. All program hosts and Board members are volunteers. They are connected to our sister tv station, Sonoma TV27 where you can tune in to all sorts live recorded meetings and events including our City Council Meetings. KSVY has recently extended it's tower to reach a much wider area of the county. Please consider donating to support this very important part of our community and beyond. Visit [here](#) to support.

- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, January 26th, guest will be Carla Rodriguez, Chief Deputy DA of Sonoma County discussing recent scams in our area.
- **Closing:** Manette offers a poem, “Blest Christmas Morn” and Peadar some words of wisdom from Ram Dass, “We are all just walking each other home”.
- **KSVY - Please mark your date on your calendar.**

Due to Covid-19 no one is coming into the studio. The call in number is 933-9133. Or, you can zoom in as well. The information is on their website www.ksvy.org

Dec. 7	Nicole Trotter	707-996-6024
Dec. 14	Steve Finley	818-207-1757
Dec. 21	Marie Wilson-Johnson	707-996-2151
Dec. 28	Steve Finley	818-207-1757
Jan. 4	Manette Fairmont	707-529-9562
Jan. 11	Scott Pryor	831-747-0139
Jan. 18	Jim Thomas	707-933-6514
Jan. 25	Peadar Dalton	707-939-7613
Feb. 1	Nicole Trotter	707-996-6024