

Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 12pm - 1pm

Zoom Meeting

Present: Steve Finley, Curran Reichert, Peadar Dalton, Nick Dalton, Donna Thomas, Nicole Trotter.

Welcome and Call to Order - Peadar opens with a reflection of the importance of silence and quiet in our lives, using Psalm 46:10 which states 'BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD' and from Kahlil Gibran 'ONLY WHEN YOU DRINK FROM SILENCE , SHALL YOU INDEED SING'

Guests -

Susie Gallo, Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance. The Sonoma Valley Mentoring Alliance was originally established in 1996 at Flowery Elementary School. We are now in our 25th year of Mentoring and have Mentor Centers at the 8 Sonoma Valley Unified School District Campuses (5 Elementary Schools, 2 Middle Schools, 1 High School). Students are referred from teachers, counselors, or parents/guardians. Usually beginning in elementary school and going up to high school for a lasting match an average of 6-8 years. Currently, there are approximately 300 active matches. There are roughly 50-70 program activities from art to outings, of course many are virtual right now. There is training and support available.

How to help: We have approximately 80 students on the waiting list, we need more mentors. We try to make a good match that will be lasting so we won't just assign students to anyone but use a matching process. (Couples can sign up to mentor siblings, cousins or classmates.) Susie is open to you offering suggestions on how she can reach your congregations to spread the word and recruit. Susie can join in on a Zoom meeting or service with your group or a committee. You can put word out in your newsletter letting members know of the need. If you have any other ideas or would be interested in helping spread the word by inviting Susie to speak please reach out to her at Susie Gallo, susie@sonomamentoring.org, or 707-938-1990 and visit their website <https://sonomamentoring.org/>

Kim Jones, Sustainable Sonoma. Sustainable Sonoma was conceived by Sonoma Ecology Center to achieve a common agenda for the Valley that most of the community can support. Ensuring that the community leaders are aligned in what's important in the Valley, they are a forum group of 25-30 interests represented. Sustainable Sonoma answers needs that are highlighted in the assessments and forums. Currently, the most important issue in Sonoma Valley is the need for affordable housing. They have just released a 49 page Housing Declaration which can be read [here](#). The SDC was the County's largest employer in its heyday. In 2018 the State of California officially closed the facility and relocated clients to smaller, community-based care facilities. The State of California owns the site and has forged a unique partnership with Sonoma County that allows the County, together with the community, to chart the future role of the SDC. Sonoma County is now undertaking a Specific Plan to set a vision for SDC which will consider land uses, transportation, economic viability, historic preservation, and conservation of the site's important natural resources.

How to help: Please share these links in your newsletters, social media and website so your members can voice support of housing needs:

- Check out Generation Housing [here](#) and then support the petitions at <https://generationhousing.org/take-action/>

- Check out the SDC Specific Plan [here](#) and then let them know you want to see low and very low income housing at SDC by emailing engage@sdcspecificplan.com
- You may also want to create group discussions about housing needs and what it looks like for your members and for our community. Needs may not directly affect an individual but their friends, family, neighbors and those who work at the businesses and schools in our community, which in turn affect us all.

Kim would like to follow up by offering to create a discussion forum between us all and our congregations and members to discuss the housing needs and ways to help. For more information on Sustainable Sonoma visit their site [here](#).

Other information -

- We are looking for any of our members to be a liaison for a couple local non-profits. Please reach out to Steve if you can help at rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com
- Care Partners is still looking for indoor spaces not used during the day where they can provide their day program (once gathering is allowed again). And, if you have members who wish to volunteer to help with this program training will be provided. Please reach out to Whitney Evans at wevan-s1114@sbcglobal.net

Closing: offered by Curran - when this is all over we will have a lot of repair work to do to close the gaps that this past year has formed. In the spirit of allowing others, who think differently than us, to grow our vision she reads a quote from Dom Helder Camara: “If you disagree with me, if you have something to give me, if you are sincere and seek the truth as best you may, honestly, with modest care, your thought is growth to mine, correction, you deepen my vision.”

Meeting adjourned 1:05pm, our next meeting is March 24th - Guests from FISH and SOS.

KSVY has a two hour Morning Show each day from 8-10 am. The Interfaith guest spot is on Tuesdays at 9:00 am and lasts for about 20 minutes, give or take.

Members' topics should be as inclusive as possible and please make sure to talk about your institution as well as our interfaith group. Email your topics/talking points in advance to the host, Pat Carlin, at ppearlin53@gmail.com. During Covid-19 no one is coming into the studio. The call in number is 933-9133

<u>Date</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Mar. 2	Nicole Trotter	707-996-6024
Mar. 9	Steve Finley	818-207-1757
Mar. 16	Marie Wilson-Johnson	707-996-2151
Mar. 23	Donna Thomas	707-939-6774
Mar. 30	Manette Fairmont	707-529-9562