

Sonoma Valley Interfaith Ministerial Association

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Wednesday, January 23, 2019

First Congregational Church of Sonoma

Present: Steve Finley, Donna Thomas, Rich Gantenbein, Curran Reichert, Jim Thomas, John Bonnoitt (St. Francis Solano), Peadar Dalton, Manette Fairmont, Kathryn Stark, Nick Dalton, Emily Pickens-Jones, Rob Goerzen (Alliance Church), Larry Frakes, Garnet Hyde Jr. (Latter Day Saints).

Guests: Sonoma Police Chief Orlando Rodriguez

Welcome and Call to Order - Steve opened with a description of the recent Jewish holiday Tu B'Shevat which celebrates the trees and appreciation of nature in our lives. The roots of the trees spread and anchor to help it grow and develop preserving life, much like our faith in our lives. Peadar offered the words from Corinthians, "But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Holiday Review - Kathryn reported that the Sonoma Valley Zen had their first all day sit in celebrating Buddhism with a half day coming up April 8th. Jim reported that Trinity Episcopal began work on their park construction. Peadar reported that his nephew passed away from cancer, public services will be this weekend. Rob discussed the difficult holiday season the Winter Shelter has had. They move forward and continue to serve as peace makers. Curran reported that at the end of the Winter Shelter season they will be inviting all of us to come together to create a solidarity circle holding hands and surrounding Alliance Church in thanks and appreciation of all they have done. Emily reported the notice of an increase in deaths this time of year and a reminder that we are living for those who are no longer here. Steve reported the successful celebration of the last night of Hanukkah which was shared with First Congregational Church's community members.

Checking In With Non Profits -

- F.I.S.H. - Sandy Piotter will be our guest in March, see what they need [here](#).
- City Council - Peadar reports that Amy Harrington, our new Mayor, and Logan Harvey the new Vice Mayor, along with Rachel Hundley, will be focusing on housing, a dispensary and fair wages for Sonoma Valley workers. We should invite the new Mayor as a guest this year. For more info. check [here](#)
- Police Dept. - Chief Rodriguez is here today.
- S.O.S. - Curran reports the Kathy King is applying for part of a \$ 9 million grant, let's pray for her success. They plan to decrease overnight living in the shelter and increase day services. For ongoing needs contact them [here](#).
- Hanna Institute - Nick reports they are working with the school district to get more counselors into the schools for staff and students.
- SVU School District - Emily will now be our contact for the district. There is one more listening circle planned for Tuesday, January 29th 3:30-5:30pm at the High School's College and Career Center. Everyone is encouraged to complete the online survey [here](#).

Guest - Chief Orlando Rodriguez

-Chief Rodriguez in charge of the City of Sonoma Police Department and is the Watch Commander for the County Sheriffs in Sonoma Valley. His vision is for Community Oriented Policing. He wants the deputies to be well known by having them go out into the community and introduce themselves and be involved in community events. Since he has been in office their contact with community oriented projects has increase significantly. Kids are looking forward to approaching officers. You are all encouraged to invite a deputy to your space to discuss emergency preparedness or to one of your community events. Please contact Taylor Moyeda, who does CSO planning for events, she can be reached at 707-996-3602 or taylor.moyeda@sonoma-county.org so she can arrange for someone to come out. We may invite the deputies to our meetings on a regular basis. It is also recommended your facility have a trauma kit, [here](#) are some examples.

-The top two challenges they are facing: 1) *Homelessness*, the chief is attending the county alliance meetings discuss the need for a place for the homeless to go. Deputies are dealing with homeless issues daily. He believes we all, including his deputies, need to show compassion for the homeless. 2) *Sonoma's continued growth in population* and low income housing, which is still growing. We continue to have the same staffing levels as 2004 even though the population has increased significantly over the last 14 years. From 2008 to present they have had to cut 82 positions. They will always show up regardless. Customer service is the number one priority and he preaches this to all deputies. There are usually 10 staff on duty at a time in the city limits. Chief Rodriguez is trying to get 2 more Sonoma Police officers and 2 more Sonoma County units for our area.

-Manette asked if there is a central website to get information in case of an emergency. City of Sonoma has a Facebook page as does the Sonoma Sheriff. All Twitter and Instagram posts automatically post on Facebook pages. Sonoma Police Department has also joined Nextdoor, the online neighborhood App. Please sign up for Nixle alerts [here](#). During an emergency cell companies reserve priority spots from the towers for all law enforcement when service goes down. FYI: When you call 911 from your cell phone you are routed to CHP in Vallejo who then has to transfer you to the appropriate dispatch. The exception is if you are on a wifi network. It is best to have the dispatch number in your phone contacts to call in an emergency (707) 565-2121, if your are in Sonoma you can also call (707) 996-3601 for the Police Department who will dispatch officers.

-Nick will be sending information on free de-escalation training. He asked the chief to provide information on the Sonoma County Mobile Support Team (MST) and the city's emergency plan. The MST is in Sonoma Mon-Fri 11am-8pm helping deputies during mental crisis situations. The chief will email Tricia the names of the MST to be forwarded to you all. More information on MST [here](#). They are working on a plan with the city manager for emergency preparedness and may need use of our buildings if they develop an emergency plan. We need to get coordination between all of the church sites as to donations and shelter availability. Curran noted that all churches should get zoned to be emergency shelters. Peadar reported that Rob Smith from Sonoma Valley Youth and Family Services, who we plan to invite to a meeting, can share the process to get permits for us all.

-Rob feels we should all heighten our awareness within our congregations and we should all have an emergency plan in place. We eliminate fear by being prepared.

-The chief is working with Superintendent Socorro Sheils to develop active shooter training in schools. Officers currently do active shooter training with the fire department out at SDC.

Things to consider -

- Peadar suggests our group think about being in the 4th of July parade, let's discuss at next meeting.
- Please email us any suggestions for guests at our meetings this year.

Closing - A group photo

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 27rd, 12:15pm sharp - Please send a representative if you are unable to attend. Our guest will be School Superintendent Socorro Shiels.

Meeting Adjourned - 1:35pm