

Sonoma Valley Interfaith
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 / 12 pm–1 pm

<https://www.sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org>
sonomavalleyinterfaithma@gmail.com

Present: Steve Finley, Peadar Dalton, Jason Mayer, Curran Reichert, Matt Pearson, Nicole Trotter, Lisa Cole, Jane Hernandez, Manette Fairmont, Donna Thomas, Pam Nadeau, and Dave Gould.

12:00 pm

- **Welcome/Opening Blessing** - Peadar opens with a blessing.

12:10 pm

- **Checking in with everyone - things to note:**

- Curran of First Conversational Church reports on a 6 week book study, The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory, beginning the 10th of April via Zoom, see the emailed flyer.
- Matt Pearson of Sonoma United Methodist Church, refiguring Spiritual Action Group from housing to other community groups for social justice concerns. Beth Carter, lay pastor and parishioner is looking for some ministry work.
- Donna Thomas shares the Church of Scientology is offering self improvement courses and recently trained new staff and are now expanding their programs. Pam reports on a communication course being offered. All are welcome to attend.
- Dave Gould of St. Francis reports they are getting ready for Lent and St. Patrick's Day dinner.
- Adam Peacocke of Feathervine is working with local law enforcement to offer emergency training courses. Next course is at the end of April in Santa Rosa. Please reach out if you are interested.
- Manette of Christian Science Sonoma says they are connecting with the Congo and a congregant who will be sharing his story soon along with a group he is bringing. They support all denominations and are working on inclusiveness and contributing to the community with charity. She has written an article, "God's Embrace, Silence is Anger", which will be published in the Christian Science Monitor and other publications.
- Jason of Sonoma Collective shares that they continue to have weekly services in the theater at Sonoma Valley High School. They are wrapping up a series on the practice of Sabbath and currently training new volunteers.
- Jane Hernandez will be attending meetings for Lisa Cole/Trinity Episcopal. Jane will be involved with more of the outreach for the church. Lisa Cole replaced Jim Thomas lives in the East Bay and is here part time. She is working on building the community and the need for Trinity to be part of the work in the Sonoma Valley community.

- Nicole Trotter of St. Andrew Presbyterian reports they are doing well. Continue monthly mission focus, last month was SOS and this month FISH. After Easter they will also do a book study in person at the church, details coming soon. They are planning on having Rabbi Steve come to discuss the Israel War on March 17th. You are all welcome to join and questions are suggested to be sent to the church in advance.
- Rabbi Steve shared that Shir Shalom is doing well and supporting each other and continuing to discuss antisemitism. Antisemitism is on the rise over 300% since November. There is a lot of trauma for the community. Security and armed guards are at all events and services. Recently had a Lunch and Learn: "Combatting Hate" so members can discuss ways to diminish attitudes of hate. An Annual Gala planned for the weekend to celebrate and fundraise. Purim holiday is coming up and then Passover. Rabbi Steve is speaking at Trinity on "Israel and Gaza" in March and FCC in April.
- Peadar Dalton, Federation of Christian Ministries, has returned from Ireland, attends St. Leo's. Catholic churches worldwide discussing the awareness of becoming a baptized believer rather than passively involved. Dinner Theater at Murphey's Pub on March 14 & 15 at 6:00pm he will be in a play called "Spreading the News" originally performed in Abbey Theater in Ireland in 1902. All are welcome.

- **Collecting Annual Dues** - your \$25 annual membership dues can be sent to Rabbi Steve Finley, 252 W.Spain St. Sonoma CA 95476, checks made out to "SVMA" (not SVIMA). Thanks

- **Our group info.**

1. CSS is having a Community Passover Seder dinner on Friday evening (5:30/6pm - 8pm), April 26th and is inviting the Interfaith Group, City Officials and Non Profits leadership. If you are interested in attending please reach out to Rabbi Steve at rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com. Cost is \$72 and covers the meal and is considered a contribution.
2. Steve suggests SVIMA tries to have a Combatting Hate program of some sort and discussed this with the Superintendent of Schools to collaborate and show support of combatting hate in schools. Curran recommends reading to the schools as La Luz is doing in El Verano. Matt also recommends starting at the preschool level. Let us discuss this next month to plan more. To be continued.

12:45 pm

- **Guest: Adam Peacocke of Feathervine**

Comes to bring an update in regards to work happening with County of Sonoma Emergency Management of and Office of Equity. See handouts to follow. This year they are doing resource mapping with the churches in the county. They sat down with faith leaders and asked how the disasters since 2017 have impacted their congregations and your community, how did you help and how can you help in the future? Faith based communities want to help and want to be prepared. When we collaborate we can be more effective. Resource mapping can help us recognize gaps and opportunities to stand together for the good of the community.

Why resource mapping? Planning for better and more equitable disaster preparation, response and recovery. When disaster strike the marginalized communities are impacted most. Based on listening sessions faith based contributions are worth mapping. Between now and June they are going to send out a survey link to a Google form asking what type of community engagement are you offering already outside of disasters. What does your faith community offer such as food distributions, donation collections, financial support etc. Please respond timely to the upcoming email and survey. Between June and December we will do another listening series and presentation with a more planned and coordinated response plan. Sonoma County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) is participating. Sonoma County has been involved in more disasters than many other CA counties. They have created a space in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for other organizations such as COAD and would like faith based organizations to have a seat in the EOC. Deacon Dave is helping with that and they are also looking for volunteers to help with communications. Lisa offers that the Episcopal church has a statewide plan that is something that could be linked and accessed, perhaps your church or leadership has similar information for emergency plans to share with Adam to coordinate with the county. Shir Shalom is doing something similar and they may also share when completed.

What's next? Look for the email. If you want to be more involved please email Adam at adam@feathervine.com. If you would like more information for a plan to respond to disaster in your congregation he can help with that as well.

- **Other info.:**

1. We need guests on our KSVY Thursday Radio Hour, *this is separate from our Tuesday 9am Morning Show Interfaith 20 minute spot*. The response is going well. You don't need to commit to the whole hour, just 20 minutes at some point in the hour. Sonoma Valley Interfaith Radio Hour Hosted by: Rabbi Steve Finley Thursdays 3pm – 4pm. Sonoma Valley Interfaith Radio Hour's Intention: Educate on the various

paths of faith and religion. If you wish to discuss your faith or a topic please reach out to Steve at rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com

2. Church of the Nazarene has a potential new pastor. More to come.
3. Steve is meeting next week to follow up on the Sonoma Valley Hospital collaboration.

- **Closing:** Matt closes with a song.
- **Next meeting:** Wednesday, March 27th, 12pm in person and via Zoom.
- **KSVY - Please mark your date on your calendar.** If you are not available on your assigned date please find someone on the list to trade with. The studio is located at 680 W. Napa Street Sonoma. The call in number is [707-933-9133](tel:707-933-9133). The information is on their website www.ksvy.org

March 5	Steve Finley	rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com
March 12	Jason Mayer	jason.mayer@sonomacollective.com
March 19	Dave Gould	dgould837@gmail.com
March 26	Lisa Cole	ljbcole@gmail.com
April 2	Matt Pearson	matthewalexanderpearson@gmail.com
April 9	Pam Nadeau	singingdogs@vom.com
April 16	Manette Fairmont	manetteart@aol.com