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About 200 gathered at an interfaith Vigil organized by faith leaders at Olympia City Hall on August 15. Photo: Sheri Gerson

Standing in solidarity with Charlottesville

Excerpts from statement to Olympia City Council from Local Faith Leaders, read at the Vigil by The Rev. Amy LaCroix of First Christian Church:

[I]nterfaith clergy, leaders and congregation members ... are here to stand in solidarity with Charlottesville, Virginia. To stand in love in the face of tremendous hate and evil.

Our hearts are broken. We shed tears for the loss of life. Heather's young life and the lives of the two state troopers who died in a helicopter crash offering support. We are sickened by the slogans chanted that proclaimed values of hate, separatism, and violence. We can no longer afford to be silent. We can no longer be passive. We must take an active stance against hate. We must stand up and claim that hate has no home in our country and certainly not in our community.

[We] desire to be a peaceful and constructive presence in the face of such violence, racism, classism and militarism, [and] to urge you to remember and take seriously your pledge as signers of the [Olympia Charter of Compassion](#).

Now more than ever we need you to govern with compassion. Now more than ever we need you to recognize every person living in the city, housed or unhoused, People of color, white, rich poor, business owner or pauper as citizens worthy and recognized. We need you to use your powers of governance to build up and create wholeness rather than divide. Now more than ever we need you to think twice before you pass an ordinance that 'others' people rather than includes and recognizes each person as a valued part of the whole.

Read the Olympia Charter for Compassion here: <https://olycompassion.org/>



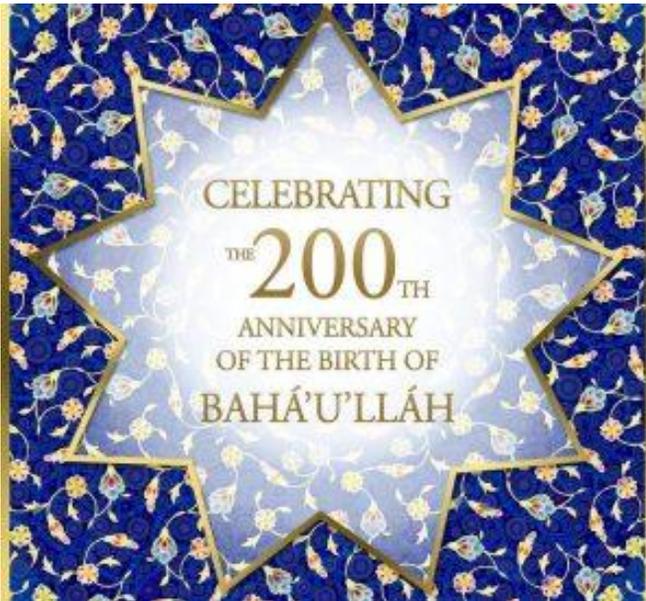
Our newsletter is published in electronic format.

You can subscribe here:

<http://interfaith-works.org/newsletter/>



Thurston County Bahá'ís Celebrate 200th Anniversary of Founder's Birth



Thurston County local Bahá'ís along with Bahá'ís worldwide are preparing for major upcoming celebrations in 2017. On October 21 and 22, in some 100,000 localities worldwide, they will celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of [Baha'u'llah](#), and the 198th anniversary of the birth of the Báb, the Founders of the Bahá'í Faith.

The global festivities involving people of thousands of ethnic backgrounds is demonstrative of a key message of the Bahá'í teachings: that a special time has arrived for the entire human race as it gradually moves from a stage of collective adolescence to one of maturity and wholeness.

The Bahá'í writings explain: "In cycles gone by though harmony was established, yet, owing to the absence of means, the unity of all mankind could not have been achieved. Continents remained widely divided ... In this day, however, means of communication have multiplied, and the five continents of the earth have virtually merged into one.... In like manner all the members of the human family, whether peoples or governments, cities



or villages, have become increasingly interdependent. For none is self-sufficiency any longer possible, inasmuch as political ties unite all peoples and nations, and the bonds of trade and industry, of agriculture and education, are being strengthened every day. Hence the unity of all mankind can in this day be achieved. Verily this is none other but one of the wonders of this wondrous age, this glorious century."

How to achieve this unity of humankind, while at the same time cherishing the tremendous diversity of the world's cultures, is at the core of the teachings of the Bahá'í Faith.

Thurston County Bahá'ís will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh on Saturday October 21, 2017 at the Kenneth J. Minnaert Center Performing Arts Center at 7 pm – the evening's program will honor the life of Bahá'u'lláh while focusing on the themes of unity, justice and community building. Mark your calendar to join this celebration – all are welcome! For more information on the Bahá'í Faith visit: <http://www.bahai.org/>

Open Hearts, Open Doors at Local Mosque / Masjid al-Nur Interfaith Visitors Welcome on First Fridays

Our neighbors at the Islamic Center of Olympia share the following invitation:

Thank you for your outreach and your intent to visit the Islamic Center of Olympia to show your support and solidarity with the community. Although you are welcome to attend any time, we have made a schedule for every first Friday of the month for a visitor circle time which allows for questions and mingling. If you are bringing a group, it would be helpful to have an approximate head count for planning. RSVP email: info@islamiccenterofolympia.org.

Please be aware that the times vary by one hour due to daylight savings time..

The SUMMER tentative schedule is as follows:

1:00 PM meet at the west parking lot for a welcome briefing
1:10 PM enter the community center to hear the call to prayer at 12:15 sharp.
1:15-1:45 sermon (English and Arabic)
1:45-2:00 observe (or join if you like) the prayer
2:00-2:15 mix and mingle with community members
2:15-3:00 Q&A circle time in the community hall (basement) – Every first Friday of the month

The WINTER tentative schedule is as follows:

12:00 PM meet at the west parking lot for a welcome briefing
12:10 PM enter the community center to hear the call to prayer at 12:15 sharp.
12:15-12:45 sermon (English and Arabic)
12:45-1:00 observe (or join if you like) the prayer
1:00-1:15 mix and mingle with community members
1:15-2:00 Q&A circle time in the community hall (basement) – Every first Friday of the month

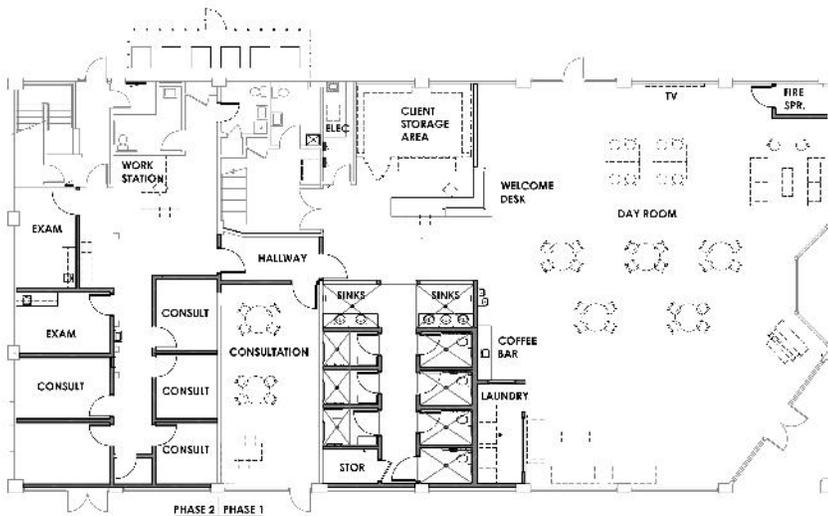
The address of the mosque is (follow link for location): [4324 20th Way NE, Olympia, WA 98516](#)

Community Care Center Opens in Downtown Olympia

Providence St. Peter Hospital, in collaboration with local nonprofit organizations, is opening a Community Care Center in downtown Olympia to provide a single point of access for street-dependent individuals needing access to behavioral health, substance abuse, housing, and many other services. Working collaboratively to maximize outcomes, Providence staff and local non-profits will assist in navigating complex systems to help clients access the services they need in order to break a pervasive cycle and provide the essential components for healthy living.

Interfaith Works is proud to be a partner in creating this urgently-needed social service hub. Other partners include SideWalk, Behavioral Health Resources (BHR), Home & Community Services (DSHS), Sea Mar Community Health Centers, The Olympia Free Clinic, Capital Recovery Center, NAMI Thurston Mason (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and Thurston County Behavioral Health Organization (BHO). As partners, we are committed to the values of Accessibility, Safety, Dignity, Personal Choice, Collaboration and Compassion.

Interfaith Works will be responsible for staffing the Day Room, restrooms, showers, laundry facilities, client storage area and an outdoor smoking area. (see floor plan below)



Community Care Center - First Floor Plan

JOIN US AS WE COME TOGETHER FOR COMMUNITY CARE

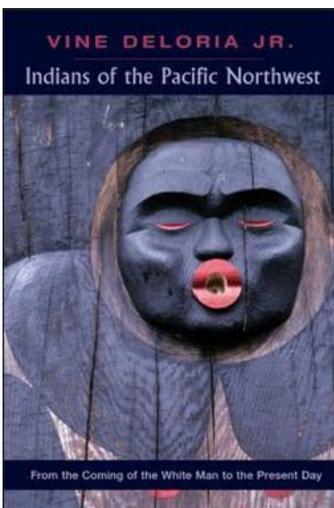
The partners of the Providence Community Care Center invite the public to join us for an open house.

Wednesday, September 6, 2017
5:00 p.m.
225 State Avenue NE, Olympia

A short program will be followed by self-guided tours of the center.

For more information, go to www.provccc.org or call us at 360-493-7907.

Complementary parking will be available in the diamond lot adjacent to the building as well as a few nearby city lots.



Learning Right Relations – Interfaith Classes Fall 2017 “Indians of the Pacific Northwest”

October 1, November 5, and December 3
1:00 – 4:00 pm

First United Methodist Church of Olympia (“Gathering Place”) 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia

- ◆ October 1: Robert and Elizabeth Satiacum will share the 2007 film, “The Canoe Way – The Sacred Journey”
- ◆ November 5 and December 3: class presentations are being finalized with native presenters to cover the topics of tribal history, tribal sovereignty, and the many topics related to tribal-non-tribal relationships.
- ◆ November 7: Field Trip to Squaxin Island Museum

The Readings

What Happened to the Steh-Chass People? by Pat Rasmussen, available on-line (please read by October)
Indians of the Pacific Northwest - by Vine Deloria, Jr (please read by November)

The greater interfaith community of South Puget Sound is invited to join Learning Right Relations' continuing search for appropriate expressions of right relationships with the original people of the Salish Sea. Fees are based upon individual's ability to pay*. Visit to the Squaxin Island Museum is \$3.

*\$5 is respectfully requested each session, LRR funds are managed by Global Days of Listening a 501(c)(3) chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Visit the new Learning Right Relations website: LearningRightRelations.org. Information & registration: Douglas Mackey (360) 485-3764.
See the flyer: <http://interfaith-works.org/wp-content/uploads/Learning-Right-Relations-2017-Fall.pdf>



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◆ IW COMMUNITY CALENDAR ◆

Visit <http://interfaith-works.org/selections-community-calendar/> for a one page PDF file of selected postings of events, celebrations and gatherings of interfaith interest. Also see the regularly updated calendar on our website: <http://interfaith-works.org/events/>



The Interfaith Summer Day Camp in August brought kids of different cultures together to play and learn. Thanks to Catherine Carmel of Temple Beth Hatfiloh for her professional leadership in organizing the camp again this year.

CIELO — Immigrant Families Get Support From Interfaith Community

By Kathy Baros-Friedt

Nearly 120 good souls generated about \$6000 in donations at a fundraiser supporting CIELO's Immigrant Family Fund held at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on Aug. 20. Thanks to Interfaith Works who were the originators of this idea of congregations joining together to support the needs of these vulnerable immigrant families. Concerns about the risk of deportation are on the rise in this community. Along with other support activities, funds will be primarily devoted to the purchase of passports for the children who, though born in the U.S. and ARE citizens, may need to show proof, particularly if their parents are at risk of deportation. Nearly every member faith community of Interfaith Works were in attendance at the event. It was a huge showing of support and unity.

The potluck was abundant as was the spirit of community as attendees met new people. Another benefit of this fertile gathering were the extended contacts which were made. One retired educator offered to help CIELO set up their preschool. One woman from Temple Beth Hatfiloh was celebrating her birthday at the event. She sent a copy of the flyer to her friends and said for her birthday she would meet them at this event and asked them that they donate to CIELO in her name, as a gift! What modelling of generosity. One homeless fellow wandered into the church. He tossed in some quarters. Had a full plate of food, was greeted warmly by many and left with all the left over chicken and then some.

The goals of CIELO [Centro Integral Educativo para los Latinos en Olympia] are...

- To provide opportunities for people to acquire skills and resources that empower them to actively participate in the wider community and to realize their full potential
- To be a space that welcomes the expression and celebration of diverse cultures and traditions and builds a strong multi-generational community with respect and dignity
- To create and strengthen relationships between immigrants and their allies who are working together for social justice

To find out more about CIELO and to make a donation, go to <https://www.cieloprograms.org/>

Enter Into Friday Stillness

Brigid's Well community is devoted to silent contemplation while mindful of the needs of those who are poor and marginalized.

On Friday, August 25th, Brigid's Well commences its weekly: Enter Into Friday Stillness

From 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., please stop by 1604 Union Avenue S.E. in Olympia for five minutes, an hour, or spend all day - a time to conjoin our personal spiritual paths as we prayerfully strengthen our loving vision and transformative practices for world peace.

Save the Date

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration

November 19, 2017

