interfaith social justice collaborative

**History**

The Interfaith Social Justice Collaborative (ISJC) was formed in 2005 by a group of lay persons and clergy. We wanted to provide a forum where people involved in the social justice work of different houses of worship could come together to share their ideas, successes and frustrations, and support each others' efforts.

**Mission**

To network and collaborate as we work to serve and promote systemic change for the common good;

To educate and inspire one another to positive action;

To model interfaith cooperation and to break down barriers as we work together for justice, right relationship, an end to violence, and care for the earth.

**Events**

**Wisdom from many faiths . . .**

**Baha'i**

Abdu'l-Baha: When love is realized, the whole human race will be uplifted.

**Buddhism**

Buddha: As habits harden into character, watch your thoughts with care. Let them always spring from love born out of a concern for all things living.

**Christianity**

Matthew 7:12: Always treat others as you would like them to treat you. This is the sum of the Law and the Prophets.

**Islam**

Qur’an 16:90: Lo! God enjoins justice and kindness.

**Judaism**

Amos 25:24: Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

**Sikhism**

Adi Granth, Sri Raga, M.5: The Gracious Lord Declares that no one shall cause another pain or injury.

**2006**

- “Working Together in a World at Risk” - the first ISJC Interfaith Social Justice Fair
- “Sharing Sacred Seasons” - an interfaith celebratory collaboration with the Interfaith Alliance and Multi-Faith Exchange

**2007**

- “Seeking Shelter, an Interfaith Forum on Affordable Housing” - in collaboration with Mennonite Community Church
- “Caring for the Earth, an Interfaith Forum on Climate Change” - in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Church
- “Fresno Faith & Mental Health Symposium” - in collaboration with Mental Health America-Central Valley, NAMI Fresno, Fresno County Mental Health Services Act, Temple Beth Israel

**2008**

- “PACE & BENE” - a training in active non-violence for social change, in collaboration with Center for Nonviolence and eight other partners
- “7 Steps to End War & Save the Planet” - book signing with minister/author, Steve Ratzlaff
- “Chickens-4-the-Soul” - a food distribution project in collaboration with West Fresno Ministerial Association and Foster Farms

**2009**

- “Remembering Dr. King, Revolutionary Humanitarian” - a community reading of his Riverside Church Speech in celebration of his birthday, a collaboration with Unitarian Universalist Church and the UU Social Justice Coordinating Committee
- March 15 – Second Interfaith Social Justice Fair

**Many participating houses of worship & faith organizations . . .**

College Community Congregational Church
F.I.R.M.
First Congregational Church
Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple
Hindu Temple of Fresno
Interfaith Alliance
Islamic Cultural Center
Mennonite Community Church
Multi-faith Exchange
St. Paul’s Newman Center
Sikh Council of Central California
Temple Beth Israel
Unitarian Universalist Church
Wesley Methodist Church
West Fresno Ministerial Alliance

**ISJC Steering Committee**

Kristi Cole, Mary Hetherington, Susan Orovided, Steve Ratzlaff, Helen Siporin, Laurie Tidyman-Jones, Connie Young

For more information (or to be added to the ISJC listserv) contact Susan at sussieg@pacbell.net or Helen at 559.999.6163.