

Updates – Interfaith Community

Interfaith Prayer Service

An Interfaith Prayer Service was held for Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal, the first turbaned Sikh deputy in America, at the Guru Gobind Singh Foundation Spiritual Center. Prayers for the late Deputy Dhaliwal, his family, the Sikh community and our nation facing increased gun violence were offered by Rev. Mansfield Kaseman, Interfaith Community Liaison; Rabbi Gary Pokrus of Temple Beth Ami; Imam Mohamed Abdullahi of the Muslim Community Center; Rev. Anne Derse of St. John's Episcopal Church, Norwood Parish; Venerable Bhante Katugastota Uparatana of the Maryland Vihara Center; and Rabbi Gerry Serotta, Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.

The service was moderated by Dr. Rajwant Singh, President of the Sikh Spiritual Center, and included condolences and a moving tribute for the sacrificial leadership of Deputy Dhaliwal by Chief Marcus Jones.

2019 Montgomery County Unity Walk

The 2019 Montgomery County Unity Walk on the Highway to Heaven celebrated the richness of our divine diversity and demonstrated the value of collaboration among government, nonprofits and faith communities. The Resource Fair featured twenty organizations. The opening ceremony included faith leaders from five faith traditions and remarks by County Executive Marc Elrich and County Council Vice President Sidney Katz. Ride On bus service, a police escort, and Fire and Rescue Services assured a safe journey. Participants toured the Chinmaya Mission, experienced the Beth Chai and Am Koleh Sukkah, enjoyed Gospel music at Peoples Community Baptist Church, and visited the Muslim Community Center featuring their mosque and Health Clinic, First Alliance Church featuring their community services and multinational congregation, Cambodian Buddhist Temple illustrating the life of Buddha, and Transfiguration Episcopal Church demonstrating their multicultural community and mission.

Founders Day

The theme of the Annual Founders Day at the Baitur Rehman Mosque was "Being a Good Neighbor - A Religious Duty." Rev. Mansfield Kaseman served as moderator of a panel that included Dr. Richa Agarwala representing the Hindu community, Dr. Satwant Kaur Tulsi representing the Sikh community, Rabbi Charles Feinberg representing the Jewish community, Lama Gazan representing the Buddhist community, Rev. John Weatherly representing the Christian community and Imam Mubasher Ahmad representing the Islamic community. Universal truths motivated several hundred people to become better neighbors by embracing diversity, caring for the needy, building bridges and serving as peacemakers.