

Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable Prayer Breakfast

Wendy Stovall
February 7, 2016

Salt Lake City, UT – The Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable held their annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast to commence Interfaith Month in Salt Lake City and to join with other faiths and organizations around the world who are also participating in the United Nation’s World Interfaith Harmony Week activities from February 1 – 7

Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos, Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable Chair and Assistant Priest at the Holy Trinity Cathedral and Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church welcomed members of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable to the Hellenic Cultural Center on Thursday, February 4, 2016.

Imam Muhammed Mehtar of the Khadeeja Mosque and Islamic Center was invited to give the invocation. Imam Mehtar said that when we pray we should always give thanks to God first before we ask for anything ourselves. He went on to thank God for all that we have received and then ask God to be with those who are less fortunate than us and who are in need of daily necessities.

Reports were given by Janet Healy and Alan Bachman about the upcoming Interfaith Month events and recognition was given to those who had worked on the organizing committees. Father Elias welcomed our guest speaker, Jennifer Seelig, Community Relations Director to share Salt Lake City Mayor Biskupski’s thoughts on Interfaith. She shared that she was very happy to be with us as she personally is a Methodist with a strong interest in Buddhism after having travelled to Tibet.

Father Elias invited Josie Stone, Vice-chair of the Interfaith Roundtable to present the Interfaith Roundtable’s annual awards. The Community award was awarded to J.B. Singh and the Sikh Community, for his endeavors in having the Sikh Community provide the Langar everyday at the Parliament of the World’s Religion held in Salt Lake City in October. The Individual award was given to Brian Farr for his work in advertising the Roundtable at the Parliament. The “We Can’t Do with You” award was presented to Father Elias for being a Father to us all. A Special award was presented to Wendy Stovall, UPF Utah Executive Director for all her work for the Roundtable. Flowers were presented to Andalin Bachman in appreciation for all her work on the Roundtable’s website, as well as to Susan Soleil in recognition of her work on behalf of the Roundtable for the Parliament of the World’s Religions.

Father Elias invited everyone to write a message of peace and place them in a bowl. Members were invited to come up and offer a prayer. Rev. Susan Roberts, an Episcopalian and Alan Bachman, a Jew, offered prayers over the peace messages.

Father Elias concluded the breakfast by thanking the caterers for the delicious breakfast and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for sponsoring the event which he closed with a benediction.

Contributed by: Wendy Stovall, UPF Utah Executive Director