



DUTCHESS COUNTY INTERFAITH COUNCIL, INC.

Dutchess County Interfaith Council, Inc., 9 Vassar Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 | office@dutchesscountyinterfaith.org | T: 845.471.7333 Volume 1 | Issue 4 | July-August 2018

IN THE NEWS

INTERFAITH RALLY: STANDING TOGETHER FOR COMPASSION AND HUMANITY



The buzz and energy were palpable as over 200 people crowded into First Congregational United Church of Christ in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, July 8 to create posters reflecting their faiths caring for the stranger with dignity and compassion, and reflecting the moral obligations of all people of faith and good conscience, as well as their loud protests against current border policies that disregard the sanctity of family.

Over 100 more joined as the Dutchess County Interfaith Council Rally continued outside the church with songs of protest and solidarity to loud honks of support from passersby.

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REFLECTION

INTERFAITH REFLECTION

"A primordial instinct going back to humanity's tribal past makes us see difference as a threat. That instinct is massively dysfunctional in an age in which our several destinies are interlinked. Oddly enough, it is the market - the least overtly spiritual of concepts - that delivers a profoundly spiritual message: that it is through exchange that difference becomes a blessing, not a curse. When difference leads to war, both sides lose. When it leads to mutual enrichment, both sides gain."

(Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks)



INTERFAITH RALLY: STANDING TOGETHER FOR COMPASSION AND HUMANITY



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The group proceeded to the steps of the U.S. Post Office where The Reverend Walter LeFlore, president of the Board of Directors of DCIC, introduced speakers representing many faith communities, a DACA recipient with her young children whose husband is currently being detained, and a leader of the Mid-Hudson Refugee Alliance.

The young mother with her three young children whose husband has been detained since April won the hearts of all present. Her husband is the support of a wonderful family whose children are American citizens. She is now holding two jobs while caring for her children just to survive.



Muriel Horowitz, chairperson of the organizing committee, reflected: "Her courage and her tears reminded us all why we were here. The first person to come to the Church gathering, she spoke for all who are unable to speak out - for those mothers and fathers separated from children and spouses, suffering indignities and disrespect."

Chanting by Sheela Srivastava, Beena Hotchandani and Kusum Gupta from the Hindu Samaj set the tone for the Post Office gathering.

Reverend Heather A. Moody, spiritual head of First Congregational United Church of Christ, composed the two new verses below to add to the song "This Land Is Your Land."

"At the port of entry, there was no welcome from the border officials or the ICE agents
But beyond the wall I hear voices chanting
This land was made for you and me.

You bring your children in search of safety, willing to work for a better future
Your dream is my dream, and I'll stand up for you,
'Cause this land was made for you and me."

(We acknowledge, with deep gratitude, Reverend Heather A. Moody and First Congregational United Church of Christ, for their kind and generous hospitality. Article by Muriel Horowitz. Photos by Sudesh Saroop.)

VOICES AT THE RALLY

"As people of faith and good conscience, we will not condone the threat, trauma and severe injustice being meted out to some of the most vulnerable in our community and country. Zero tolerance does not mean zero compassion. The greatness of our nation and true patriotism lie in compassion and the universal common good regardless of religious or ethnic identity. Our faiths uphold this, and we, as human beings, demand humane treatment and dignity for all." *(Karen Dipnarine-Saroop, Executive Director, DCIC)*

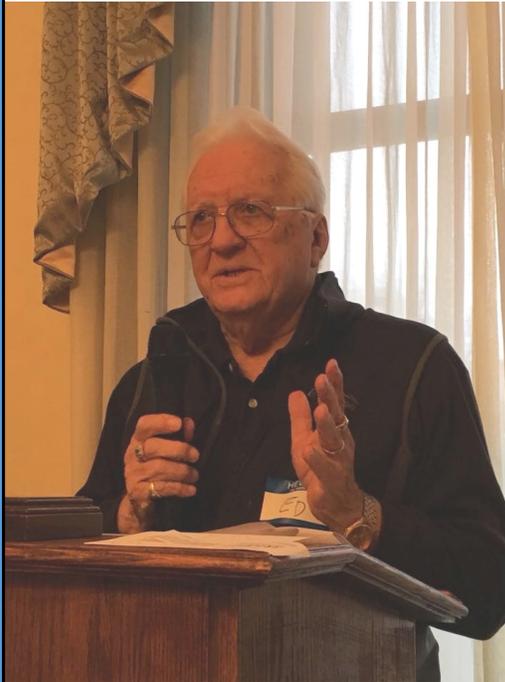
"Parents are seeking safety for their children, willing to risk everything to save their lives! Our Christian faith compels us to struggle with the words of Holy Scripture as we confront what is happening in our world, today, to the 'least of these' – and specifically, on our own borders. This is not about partisan politics; it is about the faith we confess!" *(The Reverend Deborah Hafner DeWinter, First Evangelical Lutheran Church)*

"We cannot be content to stay inside our houses of worship studying our scriptures. We must follow the example of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and 'pray with our feet.' We must quote and testify to the convictions and values of our faith. We have come together to say NO to dehumanization of immigrants!" *(Rabbi Miriam Hyman, Temple Beth-El)*

"The Qur'an places great emphasis on the dignity of human beings and protecting the women and children even during war. The call of humanity, the dignity, the justice and the universality of human rights take us to the path for peace. Let us stand together, resist together, pray together for reuniting those children and parents." *(Dr. Seema Rizvi, Masjid Al-Noor)*

"The issue of migration is not simply one of numbers, but of persons, each with his or her own history, culture, feelings and aspirations... These persons, our brothers and sisters, need 'ongoing protection,' independently of whatever migrant status they may have. Their fundamental rights and their dignity need to be protected and defended... All of them hope that we will have the courage to tear down the wall of 'comfortable and silent complicity' that worsens their helplessness; they are waiting for us to show them concern, compassion and devotion." *(His Holiness Pope Francis via Father Thomas D'Albro, St. Martin de Porres R.C. Church)*

IN LOVING MEMORY OF EDWARD KOZIOL



Dutchess County Interfaith Council is deeply saddened that former Executive Director, Edward Koziol, passed away on Friday, July 6. He is mourned by his wife, Mary Louise, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as all those whose lives he touched in our community.

He was a selfless, dedicated servant who worked tirelessly to make Dutchess County a better, safer, stronger, kinder and more loving community for all.

Ed served on the Board of the DCIC before accepting the role of Executive Director. He was active on many DCIC committees including the Interfaith Music Festival, CROP Hunger Walk, Fair Trade and Homemade Bazaar, Story Circles, Thanksgiving Service, and the Annual Peace Story Concert.

He was dedicated to the Cursillo Ministry, and to a prison ministry where he would be "locked up" for the weekend while providing spiritual support to inmates.

He volunteered regularly at the Lutheran Care Center where he spread joy by singing and playing the piano.

He was a blessed light among us. May he rest peacefully.

SUPPER AND STORIES

The Annual Potluck Supper and Interfaith Story Circle was held on Wednesday, June 6 at Mariapolis Luminosa Focolare Movement Center in Hyde Park.

We numbered around 40 for supper. 30 or so stayed for the stories - a perfectly-sized circle of tellers and listeners - Roman Catholic, Protestant Christian, Jewish and Hindu persons. We heard all sorts of stories - traditional folk tales, personal experience stories, short pieces shared on the Internet and contemporary "miracle stories."



Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi began with a traditional story about a farmer whose life experiences never failed to bring either praise or sorrow according to his neighbors. The farmer, however, took everything in stride, always declaring, "We will see how this turns out." His attitude proved out his wisdom throughout his life. Muriel Horowitz told a traditional story about a poor man who discovered that the treasure he had dreamed of was right there under the refrigerator in his own home.

A contemporary miracle story was about a remote tribal group in central Africa, which was suffering a deadly health crisis that struck the children of the tribe. Today, as a result of many concerned people from around the world, there is a modern hospital in that area and the rate of childhood deaths has been dramatically reduced.



There was an apocryphal story about Jesus' ability to find and appreciate the goodness in everyone - four-leggeds and two-leggeds. There was a story about the importance of human devotion from the perspective of a recent TV program about Eleanor Roosevelt's devotion to her husband, Franklin, and about the devotion story from the ancient Indian epic, the Ramayana, about Sita's devotion to Rama in the face of being kidnapped by the demon king, Ravana.

(Article by Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi. Photos by Andrew Re. The next Story Circle will be held in September. Please visit the DCIC website for more details.)

EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS—PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!

Note: Please visit the DCIC website (www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org) and our [Facebook page](#) for updates on these events and more.

Date	Event	Time	Venue
Friday, August 10	NYS Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program	6:00-9:00 p.m.	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (204 Spackenkill Road, Poughkeepsie) Topics include: - Gardening and Canning - Food Storage and how to use it - Communications - Alternate Cooking
Tuesday, September 11	100 Cups of Coffee Community Gathering Topic: Making a Difference in Poughkeepsie (DCIC is a co-sponsor of this event)	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Family Partnership Center (29 N. Hamilton Street, Cafeteria, Lower Level, Poughkeepsie) For more information, please contact Jody Miller, Human Rights/EEO Officer at (845) 486-2165
Sunday, October 14	CROP Hunger Walk		Save the Date! More details to follow.
Wednesday, October 24	DCIC First Annual Award Gala Dinner	5:30-10:00 p.m.	The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel and Conference Center (40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie) For sponsorship opportunities, contact C. Diane Ruffin at ruffincd1@gmail.com for more information.
Sunday, November 4	Interfaith Music Festival	3:00 p.m.	Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church (Route 55, Lagrangeville, NY)
Sunday, November 18	DCIC Interfaith Thanksgiving Service		Save the Date! More details to follow.

JOB OPENING

PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER NEEDED AT DCIC

Description: Dutchess County Interfaith Council, Inc. is seeking an experienced Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. Administrative and bookkeeping duties and responsibilities include providing support to ensure efficient operation of the office; supporting the Board of Directors and the Executive Director through a variety of tasks related to bookkeeping, organization and communication; responsibility for confidential and time sensitive material; familiarity with a variety of administrative and bookkeeping concepts, practices and procedures; ability to effectively communicate via telephone and email to ensure that all administrative and bookkeeping duties are completed accurately and delivered with high quality and in a timely manner. Reliance on experience and judgment to plan and accomplish goals and a wide degree of creativity and latitude is expected. This is a part-time position.

Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent; Associate Degree preferred. 1-3 years of experience in the field or in a related area. Proficient in MS Office especially MS Word, MS Excel and MS Outlook. Proficient in QuickBooks Online. Knowledge of Adobe Dreamweaver preferred.

To Apply: Submit cover letter and résumé via email to office@dutchesscountyinterfaith.org

For more information, contact us at office@dutchesscountyinterfaith.org

INTERFAITH RALLY ON SUNDAY, JULY 8 IN POUGHKEEPSIE, NY



Photo by Sudesh Saroop

MEMBER CORNER

EMAIL AND SOCIAL MEDIA



Need more information about DCIC and/or our programs?

EMAIL US

office@dutchesscountyinterfaith.com

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Click [here](#) to join our Facebook page for news and updated information.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Send us an email with "Subscribe" in the subject field to office@dutchesscountyinterfaith.org

WEBSITE

www.dutchesscountyinterfaith.org

CONNECT WITH US

Become a Member

Become a member of our vibrant, growing organization.

Support our Work

Help contribute to the important interfaith work of DCIC. Donations will help us to better our programs and strengthen our administration to further interfaith work in Dutchess County. You may donate [online](#) or by sending a check to the DCIC office.

Volunteer

Let us join together to create a meaningful impact in our local community. All ages are welcome!

MEMBER BENEFIT: OIL PURCHASE GROUP



Love Effron Oil Company, in cooperation with the DCIC, offers a great deal on heating oil and special propane pricing to houses of worship and non-profit organizations in Dutchess County.

Clergy residences are eligible to be included in the DCIC OPG provided billing is to the house of worship. Membership in the OPG is free to religious congregations that have contributed \$100 or more this year to the DCIC.

[Click here](#) for more information and to enroll in the DCIC OPG.