



THE PROMISE *of* INCLUSION, THE POWER *of* LOVE:

Pursuing Global Understanding Reconciliation, and Change

#PoWR2018

 @Interfaithworld

 /ParliamentOfReligions

 ParliamentOfReligions.org/POWR2018

Sounds of Faith World Interfaith Harmony Week

*A Note from the Reverend Dr. Larry Greenfield
Executive Director, Parliament of the World's Religions*

I remember a time when I didn't think I needed to worry about the future of my children. A time when the future of the earth seemed certain. A time when peace between nations, peoples, and religions seemed possible and imminent. But I have reached a point in my life where that simply isn't the case anymore, and, looking back, I see that it was never the case; our actions against the Earth and against one another have set us on a bleak path, and it is easy to become discouraged.

But I see a bright speck in this darkness. I remember that our children and our children's children have the potential to alter this trajectory and point us toward an ideal world, one that is built upon pillars of justice, of peace, of equilibrium with our environment, and of compassion.

Our new responsibility is to find ways to help our children – from all corners of the globe and every tradition—create lasting bonds of friendship that carry through to adulthood and flourish into cooperative action. I can think of no better way to do that than music. Melody and harmony transcend barriers of culture and language. More than that, though, music has the unique ability to connect us to our divine nature.

This World Harmony Week, I pray that these blessed Sounds of Faith will reach many ears, touch many hearts, and create waves of change that resonate far into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Greenfield".

Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield
Executive Director



January 14, 2018

Peace and Blessings be upon you,

It is with great pleasure and fondness, that CAIR-Chicago extends its full support to the Sounds of Faith concert and the two marvelous organizations behind it, Harran Productions and Faithbridge.

Today, our world is challenged with rising voices of bigotry, hatred, and marginalization. However, this concert and the message behinds it sends a strong signal to us all that there is *another* kind of *voice* that still soars strong in our world: the voice of harmony, respect, and spiritual kindness – the sounds of faith. Indeed, World Interfaith Harmony Week was created to capture that beautiful spirit.

As the leading Muslim civil rights organization in the United States, CAIR-Chicago spares no effort to promote the voices of harmony over those of divisiveness. And in that effort, we have a familiar name to thank once again, Dr. Shakeela Hassan, who was one of the first board members to serve at CAIR-Chicago.

Despite the political, social, religious, and economic difficulties our world faces, we are confident that there is no power like the power of love, no voice like the voice of compassion, and no healing like that of understanding. We thank you all for being a part of a beautiful concert that captures this energy in more ways than one.

God bless.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Rehab".

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
AMR/saa



Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ

1840 Westchester Boulevard, Suite 200, Westchester, Illinois 60154

Telephone (708) 344-4470 • Fax (708) 344-4564

www.ilucc.org

The Conference Ministry Leadership Team (MLT)

Rev. Dr. Jorge L. Morales

Conference Minister

e-mail: ilconfjorge@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. David Russell

Interim Associate Conference Minister Stewardship and Church Vitality

e-mail: ilconfdavid@gmail.com

Mr. William Serritella

Controller

e-mail: ilconfbill@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Vertie Powers

Associate Conference Minister

e-mail: ilconfvertie@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. James J. Olson

Acting Associate Conference Minister

e-mail: ilconfjames@gmail.com

CHICAGO METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION

1407 East 60th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637
O:773/324-7650; F:773/324-7692

Rev. Dr. James J. Olson

Acting Associate Conference Minister

e-mail: ilconfjames@gmail.com

FOX VALLEY ASSOCIATION

1840 Westchester Blvd.
Westchester, IL 60154
O:708/344-4470; F:708/344-4564

Rev. Kathy Lawes

Associate Conference Minister

e-mail: ilconfkathy@gmail.com

PRAIRIE ASSOCIATION

617 North First Street
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
O:815/758-3497; F:815/758-5037

Rev. Thomas Norwalk

Associate Conference Minister

e-mail: ilconfthom@gmail.com

EASTERN ASSOCIATION

7561 West Inverness Lane
Frankfort, Illinois 60423
O:815/768-5511; F:815/464-2678

Rev. Kathy Lawes

Rev. Thomas Norwalk

Associate Conference Ministers

WESTERN ASSOCIATION

1409R Kelly Avenue
Peoria, Illinois 61616
O:309/685-5929; F:309/685-9679
e-mail: ilconfconnie@gmail.com

Outdoor Ministries Managers

Mr. Mitch Kloster

Site Manager

e-mail: ilconfmitch@gmail.com

PILGRIM PARK CAMP

26449-1340 North Avenue
Princeton, Illinois 61356-8790
O: 815/447-2390; F: 815/447-2205

Mr. Douglas C. Pompey

Site Manager

e-mail: ilconfdoug@gmail.com

TOWER HILL CAMP

12173 Tower Hill Road
Sawyer, Michigan 49125
O: 269/426-3881; F: 269/426-8255

Congratulations FaithBridge and Harran Foundation!

It is with great joy that we at the Illinois Conference United Church of Christ gladly join our voice with yours in supporting “Sounds of Faith”. In this age of division and disparity it is heartening to hear of your event that lifts up Interfaith Harmony. Our world desperately needs your voices lifted in song and dance to let all know that we are one people on this planet and our only viable choice is to live in harmony. We join in celebrating with you as we lift up all God’s children as the hope for a world of peace with justice.

Many blessings for the day,

Rev. Dr. David Russell
Associate Conference Minister
Illinois Conference UCC

God is Still Speaking 

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
835 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Tel. 312-534-5324, Fax. 312-534-8420
www.archchicago.org/ecumenical

Daniel Olsen, Ph.D.
Director, Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
dolsen@archchicago.org

Jon Nilson, Ph.D.
Consultant
jnilson@archchicago.org

January 4, 2018

Dear Rev. Dr. Budd Friend-Jones and members of FaithBridge:

On behalf of the Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the Archdiocese of Chicago, please accept my sincere congratulations for organizing and implementing this significant event. Gathering together to raise voices for peace from members of our diverse faith communities is an important sign of unity to our community and world. Events such as "Sounds of Faith" remind us all of the power of joint commitment to peace and collaboration through the many gifts which have been bestowed upon us.

Thank you for your ongoing contribution to interreligious dialogue, particularly among the youth in your community. This work is sure to plant seeds of peace that will flower for generations to come. Continued success to your efforts.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DJO", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Daniel J Olsen
Director



1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL 60025 | 224.406.5045

January 10, 2018

Friends,

Hands of Peace offers our support and congratulations to *Harran Productions* and *Faithbridge* for the upcoming **Sounds of Faith** concert in recognition of World Interfaith Harmony Week!

Never has the need for people of differing faiths, differing backgrounds and differing perspectives to hear one another been greater. Connecting through the universal language of music is a unique gift that the Sounds of Faith brings to our struggling world.

Hands of Peace is proud of our long relationship with Harran Productions Founder Dr. Shakeela Hassan, who served as a founding board member and an Advisory Board member. Dr. Hassan's commitment to connecting people across cultures has made her a valuable contributor to our work empowering young Israelis, Palestinians and Americans to raise their voices as leaders of change. She was also instrumental in welcoming Hands of Peace into the Islamic Foundation of Villa Park, which always provided a warm welcome for our teens. Perhaps one day in the future, Hands of Peace alumni will experience the Sounds of Faith in Jerusalem!

Please receive our very best wishes for a successful concert and appreciation for this vitally important work to create a more connected and harmonious world.

Best Regards,

Rick Rosenfeld
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Thomas Aldrich, *Chair*
Peg Lee, *Vice Chair*
Michele Arnison, *Treasurer*
William Sullivan, *Secretary*

Nabiel Fareed | Larry Feder | Kelley Grimes
Julie Kanak | Kim Lande | Kathy Reese
Danya Saleh | Scott Silk

Gretchen Grad, *Founder*
Rick Rosenfeld, *Executive Director, Ex-officio*



The Chicago Board of Rabbis

30 SOUTH WELLS STREET, SUITE 4149 • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606-5056
TELEPHONE 312-444-2896 • FAX 312-855-3757 • E-MAIL CBR@JUF.ORG • WWW.CHICAGORABBIS.ORG

ב"ה

December 29, 2017

Dear Rev. Dr. Budd Friend-Jones:

Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov (1698-1760), the founder of the Chassidic movement, told the following story:

Once, a musician came to town — a musician of great but unknown talent. He stood on a street corner and began to play.

Those who stopped to listen could not tear themselves away, and soon a large crowd stood enthralled by the glorious music whose equal they had never heard. Before long they were moving to its rhythm, and the entire street was transformed into a dancing mass of humanity.

A deaf man walking by wondered: Has the world gone mad? Why are the townspeople jumping up and down, waving their arms and turning in circles in the middle of the street?

"Chassidim," concluded the Baal Shem Tov, "are moved by the melody that issues forth from every creature in God's creation. If this makes them appear mad to those with less sensitive ears, should they therefore cease to dance?"

Congratulations to FaithBridge for organizing this important event. Teaching the next generation how to express diverse faiths while working together for the greater good is a vital religious imperative. In capping off the day with "Sounds of Faith", you are affirming the value of truly hearing the other and gaining a sense of the deep inner soul that underlies each of our traditions. May you have continued success in your other projects of this very needed and important work and may you be moved by the melody that issues forth from every creature in God's creation.

Congratulations,

Rabbi Michael Balinsky
Executive Vice President

President: Rabbi Alex Felch Vice Presidents: Rabbi Sidney Helbraun, Rabbi Marc Rudolph, Rabbi Michael Schwab
Secretary: Andrea London Treasurer: Suzanne Griffel

Executive Vice President: Rabbi Michael Balinsky Executive Vice Presidents Emeritus: Rabbi Mordecai Simon (z"l), Rabbi Ira S. Youdovin



Buddhist Council of the Midwest

P O Box 5662

(847) 869-5806

Evanston, IL 60204

email: asayohoribe@sbcglobal.net

Dear Rev. Dr. Budd Friend-Jones
Chaplain Suzanne Martinez
Dr, Shakeela Hassan
Mr. Steve Szalaj

Congratulations on behalf of the Buddhist Council of the Midwest with the culmination of your efforts and success in bringing together the music and culture of our diverse faiths with this public concert.

Bringing together the children and youth of our diverse community of culture and faith is needed in our very troubled times. The joy and beauty of spirit and music sends a message of hope to everyone. May you all have continued success in this very inspiring gathering.

Very sincerely yours,

Asayo Horibe

Asayo Horibe, President



We, as the Niagara Foundation are thrilled to be sponsoring the 2017 Sounds of Faith. This event demonstrates interfaith cooperation, understanding, and learning in hopes of growing in peace and in love by celebrating the richness of our diverse traditions. We are humbled to be a part of a celebration that features our city's talented voices of peace and our shared humanity.

Hakan Berberoglu
Executive Director
Niagara Foundation



VIVEKANANDA VEDANTA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

(A Branch of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, India)

14630 S. Lemont Road • Homer Glen, Illinois 60491

Phone: (708) 301-9062; Fax (708) 301-9063; Email: info@chicagovedanta.org

On behalf of the Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago, I send my greetings and best wishes for the success of your program, "The Sounds of Faith".

The Interfaith Movement actually began here in Chicago at the Parliament of World's Religions in 1893. In his final talk at the Parliament of Religions, Swami Vivekananda said, "Upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of resistance: 'Help and not Fight', 'Assimilation and not Destruction', 'Harmony and Peace and not Dissension'."

This was the great hope of the Parliament of Religions. Your program is part of the historic effort to bring harmony among religions so that they become a source of peace not conflict. You can be proud of your part in this great movement.

With best wishes,

Swami Ishatmananda
President

Vivekananda Vedanta Society of Chicago



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

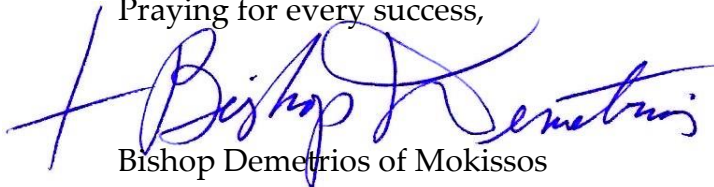
Monday, December 11, 2017

Rev. Dr. Gilbert (Budd) Friend-Jones
Executive Director
FaithBridge
P. O. Box 264
Fox River Grove, IL 60021

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Greek Orthodox faithful of Chicago, I congratulate FaithBridge for the “Sounds of Faith” concert which brings persons of various cultural and religious traditions together in an event that allows us to transcend our cultural and religious differences, demonstrating that we can appreciate and respect our diversity without being divisive. Bridges, after all, connect different places and do not eradicate them.

Praying for every success,



Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos



ZOROASTRIAN ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO

Date: 12/28/2017

FaithBridge
Harran Productions Foundation

Chicago, Illinois

Dear Friends,

As participants in one of the oldest extant religions on the planet, we are pleased to send you our congratulations and best wishes for a day of interfaith sharing, and for your joint celebration of the *Sounds of Faith*. In these dark times the world surely will benefit by this exuberant and glorious expression of hope.

As Zoroastrians, we deeply love our children and appreciate their God-given potential. At the appropriate age, boys and girls are welcomed into our community through an initiation ceremony called *Naujote*. We celebrate their decision to become followers of God at the beginning of their lives on the spiritual path. They will grow in their ability to follow the three great Commandments – *humata* (good thought), *hukhta* (good word), and *havarshata* (good deeds).

May all children be so loved in the world's faith communities. May your day together be a great blessing for the children who lead and all who attend. Thank you for imagining this concert into being. May Ahura Mazda grant you peace, and a hundred thousand blessings to guide you in your work.

Best regards

Rohinton M. Rivetna