

ounds of faith

RAUE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

January 28, 2018



FaithBridge
interfaithbridge@gmail.com
facebook.com/FaithbridgeIllinois
www.faithbridgeinterfaith.org

Harran Productions Foundation
szh@usa.net
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Our Aims & Objectives




The World Interfaith Harmony Week seeks to spread the message of harmony and tolerance among the followers of all the world's religions, faiths and beliefs. It seeks to do this by promoting their common basis of "Love of God and Love of the Neighbor, or Love of the Good and Love of the Neighbor." Its message invites everyone, excludes no one, and is purely voluntary.

The objectives behind the World Interfaith Harmony Week, in the words of the author of the United Nations resolution, Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, are:

To co-ordinate and unite the efforts of all the interfaith groups doing positive work with one focused theme at one specific time annually, thereby increasing their collective momentum and eliminating redundancy.

1. To harness and utilize the collective might of the world's second-largest infrastructure (that of places of worship — the largest being that of education) specifically for peace and harmony in the world: inserting, as it were, the right "software" into the world's religious "hardware".
2. To permanently and regularly encourage the silent majority of preachers to declare themselves for peace and harmony and provide a ready-made vehicle for them to do so. Moreover, if preachers and teachers commit themselves on the record once a year to peace and harmony, this means that when the next inter-religious crisis or provocation occurs, they cannot then relapse into parochial fear and mistrust, and will be more likely to resist winds of popular demagoguery.

United Nations A/RES/65/5

 **General Assembly** Distr.: General
23 November 2010

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

65/5. World Interfaith Harmony Week

The General Assembly,



Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people,

Recalling with appreciation various global, regional and subregional initiatives on mutual understanding and interfaith harmony, including the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace, and the initiative "A Common Word",

Recognizing that the moral imperatives of all religions, convictions and beliefs call for peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace;
2. *Proclaims* the first week of February every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs;
3. *Encourages* all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one's neighbour or on love of the good and love of one's neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

34th plenary meeting
20 October 2010

10-51284  Please recycle 

WELCOME

FaithBridge

P. O. Box 264
Fox River Grove, IL
60021 USA

faithbridgeinterfaith.org

Welcome to the 2018 Sounds of Faith Interfaith Children's Educational Concert.

On behalf of the FaithBridge Board and Harran Productions, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your participation in celebrating diversity and supporting our youth as they aspire to peace through music.

Sounds of Faith brings together in a unique event the best children's ensembles from various faith and ethnic traditions throughout the Chicagoland area. Thank you especially to our brilliant musical coordinator Steve Szalaj and to our esteemed guest conductor, Lee R. Kesselman, who composed the anthem, Peace in the Desert, especially for our performers. We are also grateful to The Reverend Dr. Budd Friend-Jones, Executive Director of FaithBridge, whose vision, energy and passion for Interfaith inspired us in bringing this event to fruition.

Together we spread the message of tolerance and love among myriad faiths and world religions. Your presence at Sounds of Faith echoes our unified gratitude to the participating ensembles, whose innocence and idealism are cornerstones for peace, justice and compassion, expressed through their gift of music.

This moment literally resonates with the possibility of peace through harmony.

Peace,
Suzanne Martinez
FaithBridge Chair
Advocate Health Care



HARRAN PRODUCTIONS FOUNDATION

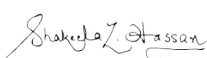
161 E Chicago Ave
Unit 40A
Chicago, IL
60611 USA

harranfoundation.org

Dear Friends,

More than a decade ago I traveled the world listening to the sounds of the recitation of the Qur'an, so local and distinct and beautiful and yet so universal. It was on these travels I became intrigued and inspired by the varying sounds of prayer and celebration of other traditions as well, and particularly by that of children, their hearts still so open in a way that can be a lesson to all of us. What had started for me as a documentary film proposal on the Qur'an was transformed into a series of international concerts - the Sounds of Faith.

From the first in 2009, a wide range of ages has been represented in addition to a wide range of cultures and perspectives, and indeed some of our most successful events have been organized by students and youth. Collaborations of children's ensembles including those of the Islamic Foundation of Villa Park and that of Rockefeller Chapel on Chicago's South Side have been set into motion, and lasting friendships have been forged. This very day in Crystal Lake is an overwhelmingly moving occasion, and one that will echo. I am honored to support and to hear it, with my colleagues on the Harran Productions Foundation board, and particularly in the memory and spirit of M. Zia Hassan, who passed late last year. Sound is a blessing in all our lives and journeys.

Warmly,

Founder and Executive Producer
Harran Foundations Production



PROGRAM

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Suzanne Martinez, FaithBridge Chair

OPENING MONTAGE

***Nasheed Club of the
Islamic Foundation School
Amro Helmy, Director***

*Assalamu Alayka (Peace Be Upon You)
by Maher Zain*

Inshallah (If God is willing)

Mawlaya (My Lord)

***Campanella Children's Choir - Concert Choir
Marianna Kosaya, Choir Director
Diana Kofman, Accompanist***

*Dona Nobis Pacem
Traditional Canon*

*Ave Maria
Franz Schubert
Mia Shepel, soloist*

*A Gentle Alleluia
J.S. Bach, arranged by Linda Spevacek*

***Indian Dance School
Gauri Jog, Choreographer***

Music: "SaReGaMaPa" from the album
Siddhivinayak
Sung by Usha Mangeshkar
Music Director- Yashwant Deo
Lyricist- Vasant Bapat

*Ganesh (also known as Ganapati, Vinayaka and
Pillaiyar) is the Lord of Good Fortune who provides
prosperity, fortune and success. He is the Lord of
Beginnings and the Remover of Obstacles of both
material and spiritual kinds.*

***Chicago Children's Choir:
Rogers Park Neighborhood Allegro Choir
Humboldt Park Neighborhood Allegro Choir
Daniel Wallenberg, Director***

*Hine Ma Tov
arranged by Daniel Wallenberg*

"How good and pleasant it is. For brothers &
sisters to sit together"

*Al Shlosha Devarim
by Allan Naplan*

"The world is sustained by three things: by
truth, by justice, and by peace."

*Oseh Shalom
by Debbie Friedman*

"He who makes peace in his high places, may
he make peace for us and for all Israel"

***Trinity United Church Of Christ
Little Warriors For Christ
Imani Ya Watume
Bryan Johnson, Director and Accompanist***

*Abba Father
by Tameka Ferebee*

*We Sing Praises to the King
by Frank Anthony White*

*Listening - Somebody's Knocking At My Door
arranged by Raymond Wise*

***Introduction of Lee Kesselman, Composer
and Guest Conductor***

COMBINED ENSEMBLES

*Now I Walk in Beauty
by Greg Smith*

*Peace In The Desert
by Lee Kesselman*



PROGRAM NOTES

GUEST CONDUCTOR & COMPOSER

Lee R. Kesselman, as a composer, is best known for his operas, choral pieces and solo songs. His works for children have brought him national attention — The Bremen Town Musicians has been performed over 300 times—and commissions to write for school and university choirs, and community, church, and professional ensembles. Mr. Kesselman has been Director of Choral Activities at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL since 1981; he is the founder and Music Director of The New Classic Singers and directs The DuPage Chorale and College of DuPage Chamber Singers. He has taught at Doreen Rao’s Choral Music Experience Institute since its inception in 1986, served on the faculty of Académie Internationale de Chant Choral in Parthenay, France, and addressed state and divisional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association.

MUSICAL COORDINATOR

Steve Szalaj taught vocal music to children in the public schools for 34 years prior to his “retirement”. The founding and current Artistic Director of Voices in Harmony community choir since 1987, he teaches voice and directs choral music at McHenry County College. He has been an active member of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) and The Music Educator’s National Conference. Mr. Szalaj was the first recipient of the Dr. Marie Ann Vos Music Leadership Award of The McHenry County Music Center for his long commitment to choral music in the community.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Dr. Zina Jacque, Th.D., serves as the Senior Pastor of the Community Church of Barrington. Prior to moving to Illinois, she founded the Pastoral Counseling Center of Trinity Church in Boston, and was Executive Director of Boston’s Ten-Point Coalition.

INTERFAITH VISIONARIES

Unity - \$2,000 and above

Advocate Health Care
INTREN

Peace - \$1,000 - \$1,999

Ellen and Kevin Bruning
Sandy and Mark Ehlert
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Dialogue - \$500 - \$999

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The People, Churches, and Ministries of the Illinois
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Adrienne and Paul Kalmes
The Niagara Foundation
Deborah and Robert Rosulek
Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Cooperation - \$250 - \$499

Tyler Lewke of Lewke Partners
Women’s Fellowship of the First Congregational
Church of Crystal Lake

Respect - \$100 - \$249

The Rev. Dr. Fred Rajan
Shari and Mike Chakoian
Katie and Matthew Dean
Rabbi Maralee Gordon
Alexi and Scott Hagedorn
Carol Lee Iott
Chaplain Suzanne Martinez
Margaret Rooney
Acharya Visuddhi (The Rev. Christopher Trent)

Engagement - \$25 - \$99

The Baha’i Community of McHenry County
Mary Fox
Deborah Franks
The Rev. Jeanne Hanson
Isabel and Mark Schiffer
Judy and Marc Stettner
M. E. Tanabe
Dorothy and David Wege



ENSEMBLES

The Nasheed Club of the Islamic Foundation School in Villa Park was initiated by Mr. Amro Helmy in 2012. The club is composed of elementary and middle school students. The aim of the Nasheed Club is to provide our students an opportunity to sing and understand musical pieces with Islamic themes in Arabic and English. The Nasheed Club has performed in over ten different interfaith events and other venues. The performances are sung and occasionally accompanied with the *oud* played by Mr. Helmy.

Amro Helmy is a unique, highly talented Arabic teacher and *Oud* player who has mastered a large number of styles using different techniques, approaches and textures. His style of playing and compositions has earned Amro considerable international attention. His musical style communicates deeply the emotion to the audience. He began to teach himself how to play Oud at the age 14. He has performed more than fifty concerts around the world and participated in more than ten performances at various interfaith programs in Chicago. During the last five years, Amro's compositional and performance skills witnessed a growth in sophistication resulting in him composing original music for the anti-war video documentary "NO MORE WAR RAFFAT." Beyond his outstanding onstage performances, he is also a teacher of the musical arts in many schools in Chicago. Amro's dedication to his craft and his students ensures that quality music will continue to flourish to future generations.

Nasheed Club of the Islamic Foundation School

Naperville, Illinois
Amro Helmy, Director

Asma Ahmed
Sana Haque
Zoya Farooqui
Omar Masoud
Eshael Pervais

Campanella Children's Choir was founded in the spring of 2000 and currently acts as the core of Campanella Educational Center. The choir consists of five levels: Beginners, Prelude Choir I & II, Treble Choir and Concert Choir. The first three choral groups are largely made up of Russian-speaking children who primarily perform Russian-language songs. The Concert Choir, on the other hand, consists of children from a variety of cultures and sings a diverse repertoire that focuses on classical music. The Concert Choir consists of 20 students ages 8 through 17.

The ensemble participates in competitions and performs in numerous community events throughout the year. In recent years, it performed at Chicago's Adler Planetarium, the Museum of Science and Industry, Northbrook Public Library, Wheeling Park District, and Skokie Public Library. Campanella Concert Choir has been a participant of National Heritage Festival since 2006. Achievements at the festival include highest ranking and Gold Medal in 2012, 2011 and 2010, Gold Medal in 2009 and Outstanding Choral Group award in 2008. In May 2012, 2015, 2017 the group was featured on "Introductions," a program on Chicago area's WFMT Classical music radio station that spotlights promising classical musicians ages 18 and under.

The Concert Choir collaborates actively with Chicago musicians, giving regular performances at the St. Giles Episcopal Church in Northbrook, IL

Campanella Children's Choir - Concert Choir

Marianna Kosaya, Choir Director
Diana Kofman, Accompanist

Aelxander Iordanov	Liora Kalinovskiy
Alex Svistchov	Maria Nikiforova
Alexandra Kolodnikov	Mia Shepel
Alice Kapmar	Rebecca Katsnelson
Alice Kim	Safia Kazlovich
Anna Starobinet	Sonya Zvenigorodsky
Elli Fomin	Stella Golod
Georg Barkidjija	Valeriya Pachebut
Kristina Rylicki	Veronica Ruvinskiy

ENSEMBLES

Indian Dance School Director, Gauri Jog is one of the foremost Indian classical dancers and choreographers in America today. She has been practicing *Kathak* dance since 1975. Her command over rhythm, powerful pirouettes and crisp footwork has made her one of the finest exponents of this dance style. Her acclaimed creations include *Shakuntala*, *Jhansi Ki Rani*, *Kathak Yatra*, *East meets West*, *Fire - the Fiery Tale*, *Kathak Yatra*, *Ramayana*, *Kathak Bollywood* and *Krishna Leela*. She brings to life the traditional “art of storytelling” through the technical elements in *Kathak*. She is very popular especially among younger generation due to her unique approach that combines some Bollywood steps and yoga into the *Kathak* while taking care not to cross the boundaries of tradition. Her experiments with combining *Kathak* with *Flamenco*, *Bharatanatyam*, *Odissi*, and Mexican and American Ballet have won many accolades. She has received her training under Guru Madan Pande, Madhurita Sarang and Lalita Hardas. She has attended numerous workshops by eminent *Kathak* Gurus from India including Pandit Birju Maharaj. Since 1999 Gauri Jog and her group have performed more than 350 dance shows in North America. Over the years she has earned an admirable reputation as a teacher, choreographer and community leader. In 1999, Gauri Jog established the Indian Dance School, a charitable organization to promote physical fitness through dance especially among teens and to learn rich cultural heritage of India. Gauri Jog also imparts *Kathak* training online and currently has students from 12 countries. The school emphasizes adherence to the classicism of *Kathak* dance and Hindustani music, ensuring structured training with a strong foundation firmly rooted in tradition. (gaurijog.com)

Indian Dance School

Gauri Jog, Director and Artistic Choreographer

Sanaa Ahmed	Asmi Mauskar
Aashna Bhatt	Aashna Mauskar
Priya Deshmukh	Stuti Pai
Malvika Dharwadkar	Haley Shah
Manisha Jhala	Payal Triwedi
Nishka Kolhe	Anishka Vora
Araya Labhade	Aishani Waghmare



Greetings and Blessings
from the People, Churches, and Ministries of the

Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ – UCC.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's
journey, You Are Welcome Here!

Find us at www.UCC.org or on facebook @
UnitedChurchofChrist

NIAGARA FOUNDATION

ABRAHAM'S TENT

Niagara Foundation offers one of the most authentic forms of interfaith and intercultural engagement through its Abraham's Tent program. This initiative aims to provide space for people of differing religious and cultural traditions to get to know one another in the cozy intimacy of each other's homes and seeks to build community through casual conversation over a delicious home made meal.

For more information, visit www.niagarafoundation.org

To host or attend a Tent, please contact Niagara Foundation's Associate Director Rana Yurtsever via email at: rana@niagarafoundation.org

ENSEMBLES

Founded as a single choir in Hyde Park at the height of the Civil Rights Movement in 1956, today **Chicago Children's Choir** (CCC) serves 4,600 youth who represent all 57 Chicago zip codes. The CCC's mission is to unite youth from diverse backgrounds to become global citizens through music. Over the past 61 years, that simple yet powerful mission has grown exponentially, with programs in 85 city schools, 10 neighborhoods, an ensemble for boys with changing voices and the world-renowned Voice of Chicago.

Tonight's concert will feature the **Rogers Park and Humboldt Park Neighborhood Choirs**, two of Chicago Children's Choir's 10 after-school Neighborhood Choir Programs led by conductor Daniel Wallenberg. These choirs frequently collaborate in performance throughout Chicago and beyond.

Together, the Rogers Park and Humboldt Park Neighborhood Choirs host the Chicago Children's Choir's Canto Latino concert, an annual celebration of Latino music and heritage. Recently, select singers from both choirs have performed in Carmen at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Ivan the Terrible and Merry, Merry Chicago! with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Lord of the Rings at Ravinia Festival and a holiday concert with the Northbrook Symphony. Members of the Rogers Park and Humboldt Park Neighborhood Choir have toured throughout the United States including to: Indiana, Philadelphia and St. Louis.

Learn more at ccchoir.org

Chicago Children's Choir Allegro Choir

Daniel Wallenberg, Director

Rogers Park Neighborhood Allegro Choir

Jaiden Bestman	Ailinn Rogel
Tilly Bunn	Elliot Rosbolt
Yailine Cano	Corrie Roth
Mina Chung-Hawke	June Rutzen
Kathryn D'Ambrosio	Oscar Salgado
Camryn Fischetti	Zoubeida Sanda
Sarah Franklin	Katie Schober
Bridget Fulkerson	Esme Siegelin
Jaela Gamon	Audrey Smith
JeRonn Gamon	Ella St. John
Kelly Garcia	Graham Sumner
Lucy Gard	Maya Sutherlin
Gilbert Godon	Naysa Sutherlin
Natan Hatcher	Josephine Swan
Claire Hull	Aubree Stephens
Mila Ind	Jade Taylor
Elise Levy	Avahn Tellis-Nayak
Tulsi Morales-Johnson	Leela Wittenberg Trubowitz
Milos Mrvaljevic	Elizabeth Worley
Amalia Norborg	Degame Young

Humboldt Park Neighborhood Allegro Choir

Aaliyah Anderson	Piper Huizenga
Amiyah Babillo	Dominique Leroy
Alley Barrera-Bardeguez	Ashley Leyva
Makayla Cabanilla	Jessica Montalvo
Janitzia Catalan	Jasper Ornstein
Molly Dennis (absent)	Mara Ornstein
Sophia Feinberg	Cambria Ortíz
Penelope Flores-Segovia	Valeria Palacios
James Freeman	Aubry Perez
Avery Hellweg	Layla Puzon
Vienne Hensel	Alan Ramanathan
	Mia Sanchez
	Natasha Saquil
	Izzy Schaffer



ENSEMBLES

The Youth Choir of Trinity United Church of Christ is comprised of two choral groups: Little Warriors for Christ and Imani Ya Watume (translation: Messengers of Faith). They provide the ministry of music once a month at Trinity. They are featured on the songs “Abba Father” and “King of Glory” on “Stay Connected”, Trinity’s recent CD project, which is available on iTunes and other internet marketing sites. The choirs are under the direction of Bryan Johnson, Executive Director of Sacred Music and Movement.

Trinity United Church Of Christ Little Warriors For Christ Imani Ya Watume

Bryan Johnson,
Executive Director of Sacred Music
Tracie Williams, Project Coordinator
Sharon Gray and LaShon Sims, Co-Chairs



Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Congregation

We are honored to support this event. For this celebration of music and diversity, we wish joy to all.

Treeoflifeuu.org 815-322-2464 office@treeoflifeuu.org
5603 Bull Valley Rd., McHenry, IL 60050

Rooted in Love, Reaching for Justice

Aaliyah Alcorn	Milan Morales
Airin Beals	Aaron Newman
Aaliyah Booth	Harmony Odunuyi
Omarion Brownlee	Brooke Parks
Alana Canino	Raven Pinkney
Mariah Crawford	Robert Pinkney
Kaelyn Cupil	Robin Pinkney
Trinity Dunn	Duwayne Portis
Jordan Easterling	Nadiyah Reed
Cornelius Farr	Jordyn Richardson
Christina Franklin	D'Hati Robertson
Eli Garner	Alexander Robinson
Samuel Garner	Tamia Sanford
Anyla George	Cherinay Sledge
Kendall Goodlet	Lauryn Sledge
Lenyanna Green	Kaylynn Smith
Diamond Griffin	Kourtney Staton
Zahara Harmon	Jada Strong
Lauren Hawthorne	Maya Sutherlin
Nia Hebron	Naysa Sutherlin
Gianna Jackson	Yasmin Sutherlin
Destiny Johnson	Taylor Walker
Julian Johnson	Tyrone Walker
Grace Keithly	Niahyri Waller
Hope Keithly	Mariah Watson
Lamar King	Laurielle Weddle
Lorenz King	Aleysha Wells
Nya Latham	Ryann Werner
Kassandra Lee	Angelica Williams
Kevin Magee	Steven Williams
Myles Marshall	Yoquan Williams
Jarique McClain	Leilani Williamson
Jamia McCullum	Wynton Wright





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.

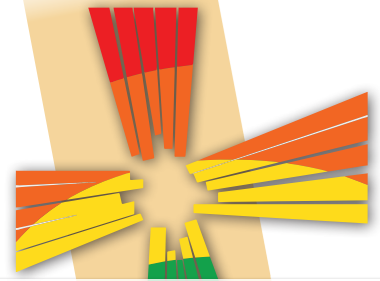
Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Larry Greenfield
Executive Director

70 E. Lake St. Suite 205
Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: 312-629-2990
Fax: 312-629-2991

ParliamentOfReligions.org
info@parliamentofreligions.org



Women's Fellowship of
First Congregational Church
Crystal Lake, IL



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Council on American-Islamic Relations

Chicago Office
17 N. State Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60602
Tel 312.212.1520 Fax 312.212.1530 cairchicago.org

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,

Ahmed M. Rehab
Executive Director
AMR/saa

DEFENDING CIVIL RIGHTS. FIGHTING BIGOTRY. PROMOTING TOLERANCE.



Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ

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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

January 10, 2018



1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL 60025 | 224.406.5045

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

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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
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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,

Dr. Daniel J Olsen
Director



The Chicago Board of Rabbis

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ה"ב

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

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The Chicago Board of Rabbis is a partner in serving our community, supported by the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago



Buddhist Council of the Midwest

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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, 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

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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



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 a 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

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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.

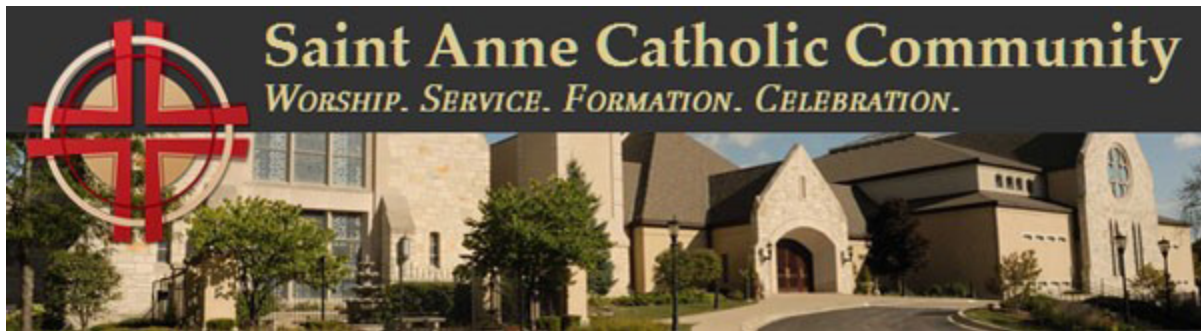
Praying for every success,

Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos

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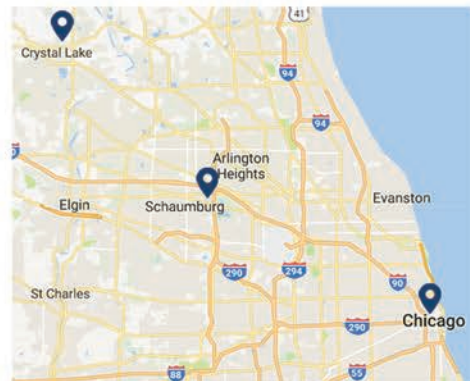
Congratulations Children's Choirs!

Fr. Jack Dewes and Paul & Adrienne Kalmes



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