

The Albert & Ethel Herzstein
Interfaith Center

3303 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002
Main - 713.533.4900
Fax - 713.520.4663
www.imgh.org

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United Way of Greater Houston

A United Way Agency

October 31, 2018

Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers
Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha
5898 Wilkins Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Dear Rabbi Myers, and to our Brothers and Sisters with the Tree of Life*Or L'Simcha,

For 50 years, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston has relied upon our two mottos to lead the work that we do and the principles we value most: *Dialogue, Collaboration, and Service* and *The Strength of Shared Beliefs*. These principles have been our guides for five decades, and have led us on paths of service, compassion, and respect.

Drawing deeply upon these values, we offer our support to you in these days following the horrific events of October 27th. We wish recovery and healing to physical wounds, and we pray for recovery from emotional and spiritual wounds as well. We mourn with you and with your congregation for the 11 lives lost; while their voices are forever silenced, may they be of blessed memory, and we hope that their lives will be a blessing for us and a clear reminder of the work ahead to stop hate and build respect.

Besides my signature, you will see attached the names of Interfaith Ministries' Multi-Faith Council, Board and Advisory Board, key community partners with the Houston Coalition Against Hate and the ADL's Coalition for Mutual Respect, and a host of allied faith communities. These individuals represent a tapestry of faiths from across the Greater Houston region. They are our friends, and they are yours as well. *Please know that you are not alone.* Know that we stand with you in support and solidarity.

I close with words Moses spoke to Joshua in Deuteronomy, "*May you be strong and of good courage,*" as well as "*Olam chesed yibaneh.*" May we all build a world of lovingkindness.

Sincerely,

Martin B. Cominsky
President & CEO

Enclosures



The following faith and community leaders offers their support and solidarity:

Rev. Gaelyn Godwin, Abbot
Senior Leaders and all members of Houston Zen Center, Houston

Ali Al Sudani
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Harvey B. Aronson (Lama Namgyal Dorje)
Dawn Mountain Tibetan Buddhist Temple, Houston

Bret Baccus
Board of Directors, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Houston

Rev. Kyra Bachr
Minister, Unity Bay Area Houston

Rev. Jim Bankston
United Methodist Clergy and previous IM Board Chair

The Rev. Stuart A. Bates
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Houston

Ann Bayliss
Pastoral Minister, The Church at 1548 Heights Blvd

Ranjana Bedi
Hindus of Greater Houston

Rabbi Annie Belford
Temple Sinai

Rabbi Matthew Berger
Congregation Beth Shalom of The Woodlands

Jodi Bernstein
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Rev. Steven Bezner, PhD
Houston Northwest Church



Rishi Bhutada
Member, Board of Directors, Hindu American Foundation

Rev. Nathan Lonsdale Bledsoe
Senior Pastor, St. Stephen's UMC Houston

Dale G. Bodden
Division VP, CenterPoint Energy

Ghulam Bombaywala
Trustee, Zeenat Foundation

Joe Bradford
Houston Muslim Community

Rev. Dr. Tracey Breashears Schultz
Zion Lutheran Church, Houston

David Bridges
Senior Pastor, Friendswood Friends Church

Rev. Jonathan Britt
St. Thomas Presbyterian Church

Rev. Carol Bruse
Senior Pastor, West University United Methodist Church

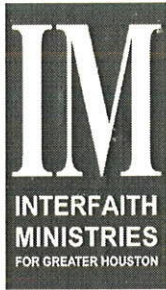
Rev. James Burkart, Pastor & Rev. Innocent Okhifo, Parochial Vicar
Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Community, Spring, TX

Dr. Moien Butt
CEO, Shifa USA

Nizar Charania
Shia Ismaili Muslim Faith

Michael Y. Chou
President, Quadrant Consultants Inc.

Rev. Kathleen Davies
A Community of the Servant Savior, Presbyterian Church PC(USA)



Rev. Helen P. DeLeon
Webster Presbyterian Church

Rev. Ashley Dellagiacoma
Kindred Lutheran Church -- Houston

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston

Bishop James Dixon II, D.Min.
The Community of Faith, Houston.

Mr. Kaemerz Dotiwala
Zoroastrian Association of Houston

Rev. Dr. Michael Dunn
First Christian Church (Disciples)

AJ Durrani
Chairman, eMgage-TX

Rev. Becky Edmiston-Lange
Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church

Rabbi Gideon Estes
Congregation Or Ami

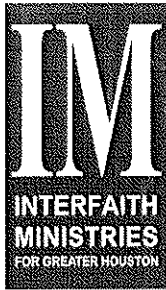
Richard Everett
Co-Chair, Advisory Board, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza
Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston

Sean Fitzpatrick
Executive Director, The Jung Center of Houston

Charles C. Foster
Co-Chair, Advisory Board, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Rabbi Sarah Fort
Congregation Beth Yeshurun



Rev. Seido Francavilla
St Nichiren Temple Buddhist Organization, Houston

Rev. Bruce D. Frogge
Cypress Creek Christian Church

Rev. Kristin Galle
Interim Pastor, Weimar United Church of Christ

Chava Gal-Or
Director of Congregational Learning, Temple Sinai

Jennifer Garmon
Executive Director, Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees (PAIR) Houston

Amy Gasca
Board of Directors, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Rabbi Barry Gelman
United Orthodox Synagogues of Houston

Shariq Ghani
Interfaith Director, Minaret Foundation

Rev. Vickey Gibbs
Resurrection MCC

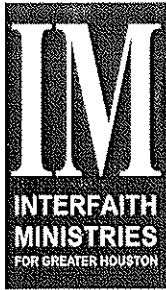
Rev. Dr. Jim Gill
Pastor, Faith Presbyterian Church, Baytown
President of Bay Area Ministerial Alliance

Gail Glasser
Interim Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League Southwest Region

Rev. Michael R. Gott
Senior Minister, Unity of Houston

Rabbi Dan Gordon
Temple Beth Torah, Humble

The Rev. James M.L. Grace
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



Rabbi Steven M. Gross
Houston Congregation for Reform Judaism

Sarah R. Guidry
Executive Director, Earl Carl Institute for Legal & Social Policy Inc.
Thurgood Marshall School of Law

The Rev. Gregory Han
Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Jennifer Hales
Northeast Houston Interfaith Council

Rev. Dr. W. Brent Hampton
Pastor, Brenham Presbyterian Church

Rev. Jacqueline Hamman
Pastor, Atascocita Presbyterian Church

Franklin J. Høberg, Jr.
Congregation Beth Israel

Rev. J. Marvin Havard
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rabbi Oren J. Hayon
Congregation Emanu El

Daniel Hernandez
Imam of the Pearland Islamic Center

The Rev. Lisa Hunt
Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Amina Ishaq
Interfaith Team Lead, Maryam Islamic Center

Rev. Leslie L.C. Jackson, Pastor
Cathedral of Hope Houston

Saleena Jafry
Asia Society Texas Center



Sulekh C. Jain, PhD
Jain Society of Houston
International School for Jain Studies

Zahra N. Jama'at, Ph.D.
Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance, Rice University

Jamail Johnson
The WORD Church

Marjorie A. Joseph
Coordinator, Houston Coalition Against Hate

Brigitte and Bashar Kalai
Board of Directors, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Abbie Kamin
Anti-Defamation League Southwest Region

Rabbi Samuel E. Karff
Rabbi Emeritus, Congregation Beth Israel, Houston

M. J. Khan
President, Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH)

Rachna Khare
Daya Inc.

Basheer M. Khumawala, Ph.D.
Member, Islamic Society of Greater Houston

John & Rebecca Moores
Professor, University of Houston

Dr. Sippi Khurana
Board of Directors, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

The Rev. Keatan King
St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston

Prof. Anne C. Klein (Lama Rigzin Drolma)
Dawn Mountain Tibetan Buddhist Temple and Rice University



Rev. Mak Kneebone
Senior Pastor, Plymouth United Church

Stephen L. Klineberg
Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University

Atul B Kothari
Mahatma Gandhi Library Houston

Rev. Duane H. Larson, PhD
Senior Pastor, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston

David A. Leslie
Executive Director, Rothko Chapel

Rev. Bill Lawson
Pastor Emeritus, Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston

Cantor Mark Levine
Congregation Brith Shalom

Rabbi Jill Levy
Evelyn Rubenstein JCC

The Rev. Jim Liberatore
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Pearland)

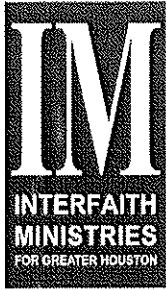
Rabbi Joshua Lobel
Congregation Beth El

Rev. William Lucas
Associate Pastor, West University United Methodist Church

Rabbi David Lyon
Congregation Beth Israel, Houston

Devinder Mahajan
Arya Samaj Greater Houston

Dr. Sushma Mahajan
Arya Samaj Greater Houston



The Rev. Br. Chris Markert
Minister General, Order of Lutheran Franciscans

Rev. Diane McGehee
Bering Memorial UNited Methodist Church

Scott McMillian
Board of Directors, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Hansa Medley M.D.
Hare Krishna Temple, Houston

Sr. Jane Meyer
Head of School, St. Agnes Academy

Very Rev. Lucien Millette
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Rabbi Steven Morgen
Congregation Beth Yeshurun

Dr. John D. Ogletree Jr.
First Metropolitan Church of Houston

Rev. Kimberly Orr
Pastor of Spiritual Formation, Windsor Village UMC, Houston

Morgan Owens
Earl Carl Institute at Thurgood Marshall School of Law

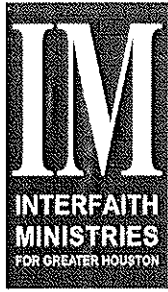
Dr. Tom Pace
St. Luke's United Methodist Church Houston

Fatih Ozcan, Executive Director
The Dialogue Institute Southwest

Rev. Jonathan C. Page
First Congregational Church of Houston

Brent Peery, DMin, BCC
Vice President for Chaplaincy Services & Spiritual Care, Memorial Hermann Health System

Rev. Stephen D. Quill
TRUTH, Houston, and ADL Coalition for Mutual Respect



Kristi Rangel
My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Houston

Pastors Juanita C. Rasmus and Rudy Rasmus
St. John's UMC

Zuhaira Razzack
ILM Academy

Bishop Michael Rinehart
Gulf Coast Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rabbi David Rosen
Congregation Beth Yeshurun

Matthew H. Russell
projectCURATE

Rabbi Samantha Safran
Director, Bobbi & Vic Samuels Center for Jewish Living and Learning
Evelyn Rubenstein JCC

Rabbi Adrienne Scott
Congregation Beth Israel

Rev. Kathy Sebring and the members of First Presbyterian Church of Dickinson

Rabbi David Segal
Religious Action Center-Texas

Rhonda Sepulveda
Parish Social Ministry Coordinator, Fund Development, Catholic Charities

Fr. James Shadid
St. George Orthodox Christian Church

Manpreet Singh
Sikh Coalition

Rev. Jeffery H. Smith
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Houston



J. Michael Solar
ADL Coalition for Mutual Respect

Joy Soloway
Board of Directors, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Rabbi Brian Strauss
Congregation Beth Yeshurun

Mani Subramanian
Board of Directors, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Dr. Saifuddin Tahir
Anjuman-e-Shujace, Dawoodi Bohra Masjid, Houston

Dr. Shahin Tavackoli
Member of Baha'i Faith, and the Baha'i Community of Houston

Rev. Gregg Taylor
Houston: reVision

Rabbi Raon Teller
Congregation Brith Shalom

Rev. Hannah Terry
Westbury United Methodist Church

The Very Reverend Barkley Thompson
Dean, Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal)

Rev. Troy Treash
Sr. Pastor, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

J. Michael Treviño
ADL Coalition for Mutual Respect

Pastor Marty Troyer
Houston Mennonite Church

Dr. Keith Alan Uffman
Head of Staff, Webster Presbyterian Church



Fr. Chris Valka, CSB
Chaplain, University of St. Thomas

Claire Villarreal
Dawn Mountain Tibetan Buddhist Temple

The Rev. Kristy Vits and the Session
ChristChurch Presbyterian, Bellaire

Shahnaz Waliany
Board of Directors, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Beth Warpmaeker
Senior Pastor, Kinsmen Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. John Wurster
St. Philip Presbyterian Church

Shaukat Zakaria
Chair of the Board, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

Organizational names are for identification purposes only.