



EASTSIDE INTERFAITH SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

Address Service Requested

Jo Anne Way
East Shore Unitarian
1423 125th Ave S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98005

**Odyssey Channel:
Faith and Values-based
Television Programs**



AT & T Cable Services broadcasts programs for the Odyssey Channel on channel 21, Monday – Friday, 4:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Programs emphasize spiritual values and include worship services, concerts, dramas, and religious news events. There are no requests for money and no proselytizing. Sponsors include a consortium of nearly 70 Protestant, Jewish, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Evangelical, and Pentecostal faith groups.

Information is available from Odyssey, 74 Trinity Place, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10006-2003. To request additional service from AT & T Cable, the address is 900—132nd St. SW, Everett, WA 98204-7326. (206)-527-4555

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Without you, EISCC could not accomplish its tasks. You, your time, your energy, and your money all help to maintain Congregations for the Homeless, the Employment Task Force, Legislative Task Force, and other programs. Contact the EISCC address or task force chairs.

Is Your Zip Code Correct?

Postal Service rules require that we verify correctness of all zip codes on our mailing list. If yours is not correct, please notify Betty Spohn (425) 451-3651.

Thank You

Thank you to Betty Spohn, Paul Burnham and volunteers from St. Louise Catholic Church for publishing this newsletter.

EASTSIDE

SOCIAL CONCERNS COUNCIL

EISCC UPDATE
Spring/Summer '00
Sally Wing, Editor
(425) 747-5924
Fax (425) 746-0462

P.O. Box 662
Bellevue, WA 98009-0662

Interfaith

Kids At The Crossroads

Kids at the Crossroads offers an after-school program of academic assistance, sports, and crafts, in collaboration with the Bellevue Schools and the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club. Volunteers from nearby congregations assist at the Lake Hills, Phantom Lake, and Sherwood

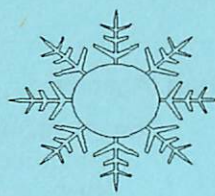


Forest elementary schools. *Information:* Patti Curry, Director of Bellevue Boys and Girls Club and volunteer coordinator for Kids at the Crossroads, (425) 401-8662.

Christmas In April * Eastside

Christmas in April, in partnership with the community, provides rehabilitation for homes of low-income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly and disabled. Volunteer labor and donated materials are used to provide comprehensive home repair services on the last Saturday in April, to enable Eastside recipients to maintain their own homes.

You can participate by identifying homeowners, donating building



materials, or as a congregation sponsoring a house and a team of 20 to 35 volunteers.

PUGET SOUND BLOOD CENTER

This regional resource is supported by volunteer blood donors and volunteer workers, who assist in coordination, registration, and monitoring. *Information:* Steve Kasner, (425) 463-4384; e-mail steveka@psbc.org or Mary Wagamon, Volunteer Coordinator (425) 463-4392. For questions about donations, you can also call 1-800-398-7888.

Tentative EISCC Program Schedule

August, 2000 – No regular meeting. Meet with Buddhist Thai Team Thursday, August 3. (see story)
September 12, 2000 – Housing issues.
October 10, 2000 – Agency presentations of holiday needs.

Christmas in April * Eastside,
P.O. Box 124,
Medina, WA 98039-0124.
(425) 455-0179

Welcome To Eastside Interfaith

Is Your Congregation or Agency Represented?

Welcome, visitor and members, to Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council (EISCC). The Council provides a forum for exchange of information among Eastside congregations, and encourages interfaith dialogue. Representatives of Eastside congregations and agencies are invited to attend regular meetings.

Membership is voluntary, open to Eastside congregations of all faiths. There are currently 45 member congregations and social agencies. Member congregations contribute \$25.00 annually to EISCC and select two voting delegates (clergy and/or lay). Clergy, youth representatives, persons who work with youth or social ministry programs, and other lay persons are especially invited.

Associate members are social and health service programs whose purposes and activities are consistent with the purposes of EISCC. Each pays a fee of \$10.00 annually, and has voice but does not vote.

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except August), 12:00 noon – 1:30

EISCC 1999-2000 Officers

Tom Shepard, Co-Chairperson
(425) 454-2146

Terry Kimber, Co-Chairperson
(425) 644-1729

JoAnne Way, Co-Secretary
(425) 747-3031

Glennda Estes, Co-Secretary
(425) 747-9640

Jim Palmer, Treasurer
(425) 747-2977

Louise Wong, Ass't Treasurer
(425) 637-0822

Dorothy Scott, Delegate-at-Large
(425) 453-1425

p.m. (bring your sack or fast food lunch; beverages are provided), in the Chapel Lounge (Room 315, former sanctuary, entered through the upper parking lot on NE 17th Street, off 100th Ave. NE), of the First Presbyterian Church, 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue. No reservations are necessary. Parking is free, either in the upper lot near the meeting room, off 100th Avenue NE; or in the lower parking lot, off Bellevue Way.

At each meeting, community representatives present information about resources and programs; and congregations, agencies, and task forces share information and ideas. Volunteers help to maintain Congregations for the Homeless, the employment task force, legislative task force, and other programs.

Information: Betty Spohn, Membership Chair (425) 451-3651.

Invitation to Participate

To: Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council
P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662
Fax: 425-746-0462; e-mail: drswing@webtv.net

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cong./Agency _____

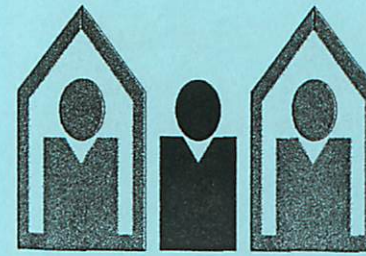
Congregation member: \$25 ____

Agency member: \$10 ____

Newsletter only: \$5 ____

I can volunteer for _____

More Info about _____



Congregations For The Homeless

Chair: Nadine Shannon (425) 746-6019

Regular meeting: 3rd Tuesday, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m.
Temple DeHirsch Sinai, 556 – 124th Avenue NE, Bellevue.

The program is in its seventh year of providing safe secure shelter, three meals daily, and employment assistance for homeless men

EMPLOYMENT TASK FORCE

Chair: Charles & Betsy Ann Mathieu (425) 451-9673

Information about the job market and assistance in planning a job search, interviewing and resume writing are available at the Employment Resource Center, Bellevue Stake Center, 14536 Main Street (near 148th Avenue and the new Hopelink Center) Tuesdays, 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (425) 643-6880; fax: (425) 643-6880. Services are available to all persons regardless of church affiliation, and are also available in Renton and Everett, as part of the international network of employment offices established by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

EISCC UPDATE – SPRING 2000

Publication is three or four times yearly. Please give us information about coming events in your congregation, task force, or organization that are open to others in the community. Letters to the editor are welcome. Send your items to the EISCC address or to the Editor, Sally Wing, P.O. Box 5556, Bellevue, WA 98006-0056. (425) 747-5924. Fax: (425) 746-0462. E-mail: drswing@webtv.net

on the Eastside, to return them to being members of the community. Host congregations, who provide facilities for a month, are assisted by support congregations and other agencies and individuals who provide financial and volunteer support. A total of 65 congregations currently participate. We contract with Catholic Community Services to manage the program and provide social services. The cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, and Redmond, and United Way have provided grants for our services. Volunteer services enable 99% of the income to be used for direct services.

You may send support directly to Congregations for the Homeless, P.O. Box 662, Bellevue, WA 98009-0662. When making contributions to United Way for this program, please write in EISCC Congregations for the Homeless.

Homeless men may be referred to these Eastside agencies for screening:

Catholic Community Services
(425) 643-1937

Mentor Health Northwest
(425) 869-0744

Jewish Family Service
(425) 461-3240

Salvation Army
(425) 827-1930

Hopelink (Multi-Service Center)
Bellevue (425) 943-7555

Northshore (425) 485-6521

Carnation (425) 333-4163

Kirkland (425) 889-7880

Redmond (425) 882-0241

Hopelink Provides Services In New Offices

The Bellevue office of Hopelink, (formerly Multi-Service Center) has been providing services since late December, 1999, in their family development center and food bank at 14812 Main Street, Bellevue (across from K-Mart). Non-perishable food is welcomed for weekly food banks. Other services include programs for senior citizens and people with disabilities, and a new day care center for children.

Children whose families cannot afford lunch are provided with free and reduced lunches during the school year. During the summer, however, these children are offered assistance by Hopelink through the "Brown Bag Lunch Brigade." A \$25 donation to Hopelink will provide food for 16 meals.

RotaCare Walk-in Clinic

RotaCare Clinic is a free walk-in medical clinic offered Saturdays (except in August) from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Bellevue Hopelink, 14812 Main Street (across from K-Mart). The clinic, sponsored by Eastside Rotarians, is staffed by two volunteer physicians, and works with social service agencies to provide follow up care and care for chronic illness. Volunteers also include social workers and interpreters. Information: Bellevue Hopelink (425) 943-7555.

Emergency Services Directory

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council publishes an Emergency Services Directory, which is distributed to congregations and agencies at two-year intervals. Additional copies are available on request. We would like to thank Gay L. Ross and Nadine Bentsen for their assistance in updating the Directory.

Information: Betty Spohn, Membership Chair (425) 451-3651.

EISCC members and others regularly contribute to the Eastside Emergency Services Fund, administered by Hopelink. Other Centers serve the rest of North and East King County. Expenditures are made for rent, utilities, water, gasoline (automobiles), and motel occupancy. Contributions may be designated for the Eastside Hopelink, Bellevue Service Center, 14812 Main Street, Bellevue, 98007. (425) 943-7555.

Crisis Clinic Information Line

The Crisis Clinic community information line yields referrals for such needs as food and toys, and the crisis line, staffed by volunteers, responds to calls on such subjects as relationship issues, mental illness, grief and loss, domestic violence, and chemical dependency. Congregations are asked to notify the Crisis Clinic of volunteer resources they can provide. *Information:* Mollie Tremaine, Volunteer Coordinator. (206) 461-3210, extension 611.

City Of Bellevue Encourages Partnerships

The city of Bellevue supports diversity programs, coordinated by Kevin Henry, Office of Cultural Diversity, Parks & Community Services, P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009. (425) 637-7886 — Fax: (425) 688-2814.

Multifaith Aids Project of Seattle (MAPS)

MAPS is an interfaith, non-profit organization which provides spiritual and practical care. Care teams, seven to fifteen persons from one or more congregations, minister to people living with HIV/AIDS, providing companionship, meals, and practical support. *Information:* Trudy James (206) 324-1520. 1729 Harvard Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122.

Commission on Children Youth and Families

Sponsored by the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Commission on Children, Youth & Families promotes dialogue between congregational leaders, creates and supports

Gwen Lewis Youth Camp Fund

In memory of Gwen Lewis, who was actively involved both with Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council and with congregational youth programs, the East Shore Unitarian Church has contributed \$500, originally designated as seed money for an EISCC project. Instead, EISCC is establishing a fund for youth unable to afford summer camp, the Gwen Lewis Youth Camp Fund, which will be administered by the Congregations for Kids program of the Bellevue Schools Foundation. We encourage congregations to contribute to this program.

EISCC Member Honored As Diversity Advocate

The fifth annual Best of Bellevue awards ceremony recently included recognition of an active EISCC member, Betty Smith. The event recognizes community leaders and raises funds for Advance Bellevue, a program to develop volunteer leaders. Smith was honored for her work with the Eastside Multi-Ethnic Center, formerly known as the Asian Resettlement Center, where she first volunteered and then served as program manager from 1987 to January, 2000. The Center is operated by Jewish Family Service at 1811—156th Avenue NE, Bellevue (425) 643-2221.

model programs, and focuses the voice of the religious community on social issues affecting children and youth. Programs include creating a resource and referral network; publishing in *The Source* (monthly CCGS newspaper) successes of member congregations and suggestions for involvement with children and youth; and training for congregations on developmental assets. *Information:* Geoff Ethelston (425) 486-5665, or Church Council of Great Seattle (206) 525-1213.

Finance Task Force: Steward of Funds

Chair: Jim Palmer, Treasurer (425) 747-2977
Louise Wong, Asst. Treasurer (425) 637-0822
Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council budget includes both a general fund (operating expenses) and a separate fund for each task force, specifically donated to accomplish its purposes. Both grants and donations are essential to maintain Congregations for the Homeless, which has the largest budget, based on high expenses.

Volunteer Chore Services

This agency, under the umbrella of Catholic Community Services, has for the past 18 years helped elders and adults with disabilities to maintain independence in their own home. They encourage congregational chore programs, for which the agency will coordinate recruiting of volunteers, provide training, and maintain records of service. *Information:* Linda Verbel, program coordinator. (425) 562-6864.

Bridge Ministries For Disability Concerns

Bridge Ministries serves persons with physical and developmental disabilities and their families who have been marginalized by society, honoring their dignity and potential, and seeking to make society more inclusive. A guardianship program is available for developmentally disabled persons who lack family



support. Volunteer opportunities include one-to-one friendship and circles of friends, obtaining and repairing durable medical equipment and providing it to persons in need, and assisting congregations to provide a welcoming environment. *Information:* Donna Whitmore, volunteer ministries coordinator. (425) 828-1431.



Emergency Feeding Program

This county-wide program, with Church Council of Greater Seattle as the parent organization, has 35 distribution sites, including St. An-

Eastside Baby Corner

This ten-year-old, all-volunteer program collects, sorts, and distributes through agencies everything for babies up to 14-year olds. They are the "last safety net," providing a toy bank, layettes and other supplies year round. Volunteers, including children and parents, are needed to sort materials. Cash donations are needed to supplement donated materials. Donations may be left at St. Louise Catholic Church, 141 - 156th Avenue SE, Bellevue. *Information:* Karen Ridlon, President (425) 864-0234.

Salvation Army

The agency is located at 355A Kirkland Avenue, next to the Thrift Store in Kirkland. There is an adopt-a-family program for those who have suffered a traumatic experience in the past year, and food and toy giveaways. Volunteers include bell-ringing, and roving chorus groups at Christmas kettle sites and nursing homes. *Information:* Lt. Ken Perine, Pastor and Corps Officer (425) 827-1930.

drew's Lutheran Church, Overlake Park Presbyterian Church, and First Congregational Church in Bellevue. They request specific basic foods, encouraging food-of-the month donations. The agency seeks to meet emergency needs and to provide referrals to enable independence. *Information:* Catherine Hillard at (425) 562-0698.



This program, which empowers families, plans to build 50 homes in the Snoqualmie Ridge housing development, with the assistance of coalitions of volunteers to build these homes, for which the new owners provide "sweat equity," as well as assume a mortgage. Habitat for Humanity also seeks volunteers for office work, repair of electrical equipment, public relations, training of family partners and homeowners, and coordination of house closing (knowledgeable about real estate and mortgages). *Information:* Jean Ann French, manager of resource development (425) 869-6007. Website: www.habitatekc.org.

Legislative Task Force

Chair: Joy Pocasangre (425) 747-0877

e-mail: good4me@halcyon.com



Purpose of the Task Force is education and advocacy for faith communities on federal, state, and local issues. Activities include

annual participation in Human Services Advocacy Day and Church Advocacy Day, both in Olympia in the spring; and liaison with Washington Association of Churches and other advocacy groups. Reminder: during the legislative session, you can send a message to your state legislators through the legislative hot line, 1-800-562-6000.

Mentor Health Northwest

Mentor Health Northwest, formerly Eastside Mental Health, provides counseling, rehabilitation, and educational services.

Programs include anger management train-

ing, chemical dependency treatment, employee assistance, adopt-a-family and a residential housing program. *Information:* Terry Morrill, Volunteer Coordinator (425) 943-7352; E-mail tmorrill@mhnw.com

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council Mission Statement

We, Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council, believe that we are guided by the moving of God's spirit in our community to work together in a spirit of caring and celebration. We honor and respect each others' religious heritages, welcome and pray for each other, and share information about pressing community needs.

We provide a forum to educate, advocate, initiate, coordinate, support, and through task forces and other means, work for the common good of the Eastside community to address human needs and improve the quality of life.

Hot Meal Program

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, following completion of construction, has resumed a hot meal program for all interested persons, each Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. at 2650—148th Ave. SE, Bellevue. Volunteers are needed to expand the program to more than one night. *Information:* Patti Mercer (425) 746-2529 or salinfo@salcbellevue.org

Jewish Family Service

Programs include services for seniors, disabled persons, children, and youth. A monthly Eastside food bank is available, as well as emergency assistance and refugee resettlement, at 1811 - 156th Ave. N.E., Bellevue (425) 643-2221. They serve an ethnic population, which includes Hispanic, Asian, and European, with English as a Second Language classes, employment services, social services, and holiday gifts for children. Other services support utilities, rent, and other financial needs. The agency also offers Jewish Family Life Education workshops. *Information:* Jane Deer-Hilemon (206) 461-3240.

ARCH: A Regional Coalition for Housing

ARCH is an 8-year-old regional consortium of cities in East King County, including Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond, Duvall, Woodinville, and Newcastle, which provides funding for affordable housing. *Information:* Art Sullivan (425) 861-3677. E-mail archhousing@aol.com



EISCC Welcomes Buddhist Thai Team

Visitors to a seminar on Buddhist-Christian studies in August will be visiting congregations and agencies in the Greater Seattle area. They will meet with interested persons from Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council on Thursday, August 3, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. for a finger food potluck luncheon (beverages will be provided) in the Chapel Lounge at the First Presbyterian Church, 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue. No reservations are necessary, and there is no charge.

Members of the Thai Team include two university professors from Thailand, who have worked on peace and human rights issues, and an American professor who is accompanying them. Dr. Parichart Suwanbubha teaches comparative religion at Mahidol University, Dr. Pradit Takerngrangsarit is vice-president for student affairs at Payap University, and Dr. John Butt is director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Culture at Payap University.

Local sponsors include the Church Council of Greater Seattle, the Northwest Dharma News, and the Virupa Ecumenical Institute of Sakya Monastery. Information: The Rev. Joyce

Manson, Church Council of Greater Seattle,
(206) 525-1213.

Proposed Mental Health Task Force

As a follow-up to the June 13, 2000, program, "Mental Health Services in the Community," the Executive Committee has recommended a Mental Health Task Force. Volunteers may participate by notifying any officer or the editor of this newsletter.

Purposes will include: gather information about the extent of mental illness on the Eastside, available services, existing congregational programs, and congregational questions and concerns. After obtaining information, the Task Force is expected to propose further action on the part of EISCC.

Resources may include the participants in the June 13 program: Craig Rennebohm, Mental Health Chaplaincy; David Burn, Director of Clinical Services & Community Affairs, Mentor Health Northwest; and Gail Efroymsen, HOST Project, Downtown Emergency Service Center.

Children's Response Center

Formerly Eastside Sexual Assault Center for Children, this agency serves children who have been abused, as well as those who have observed other traumatic events, and provides medical and legal advocacy as well as clinical services. — *Information:* Mary Ann Carlson, Volunteer Coordinator (425) 688-5130.

Foster Parents Needed

For children affected by abuse, neglect, and/or conflict, the State Division of Children & Family Services is seeking individuals to open their hearts and homes as foster parents. A foster parent is a person who nurtures and cares for children who have been through trauma. *Information:* (425) 649-4128. Direct questions to Jeannine Fosca at (425) 649-4154 or e-mail: fosj300@dshs.wa.gov



Websites You May Find Useful

Since many people now have access to the Internet, and use it regularly both for e-mail and for seeking information on the Internet, we'd like to encourage you to share favorite Websites with other EISCC members.

- ◇ **Thehungersite.com** provides an opportunity to donate food once per day at The Hunger Site to help fight world hunger, through the United Nations World Food Programme, paid for by corporate sponsors.
- ◇ **Churchcouncilseattle.org** is the site of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, which provides links to other ecumenical organizations, peace and justice groups, children's organizations, government, etc.
- ◇ **Ecunet.org** provides a computer network for several denominations.
- ◇ The Interfaith Alliance is a faith-based voice
- countering the radical right and promoting the positive role of religion. You have an opportunity to subscribe to updates on legislative issues. Its website is **tialliance.org**.
- ◇ The U.S. House of Representatives **house.gov** and the U.S. Senate **senate.gov** each have a website, which includes their current schedules, bills, history, and directory.
- ◇ Vatican news releases in four languages are provided by an independent international news agency at **Zenit.org**.
- ◇ Shamash: The Jewish Internet Consortium provides information, education, discussion, and community-building resources, at **shamash.org**.
- ◇ The American Jewish Committee identifies local chapters, coming events, and national legislation, at **ajc.org**.



Children's Action Network

Children's Action Network, a program of the Children's Alliance, promotes action on child care, health care, juvenile justice, welfare reform, and other children and family issues. Their action recently assisted in changing administrative policy to restore benefits to families erroneously removed from Medicaid rolls. They publish Children's Action Alerts, especially during the legislative session, providing background information for contact with legis-

lators and other action. They send two surveys each year to their members. There is no charge; if you join the Network you are asked to take five minutes each week to speak up for children.

Information: Gabriela Quintana, Field Organizer, 172—20th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122. Phone: (206) 324-0340; Fax: (206) 325-6291; e-mail: Gabriela@childrensalliance.org. Website: www.childrensalliance.org.