

The Interfaith Alliance
OF COLORADO

One Voice

One State, Many Faiths, Working Together

Our Mission

TIA-CO promotes justice, religious liberty, and interfaith understanding by educating, organizing and equipping progressive people of faith and goodwill for advocacy, dialogue, and celebration.

Forum addresses Colorado's budget crisis

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado (TIA-CO) has made Colorado's budget crisis our number one policy issue because we believe our state budget is not only a financial document, it is a moral document. As the Colorado General Assembly returns to session this month, much of its work will revolve around the budget crisis and need for substantive fiscal reform in our state.

So, TIA-CO will kick off the new year with a public policy forum titled, "**Taxes: An Investment in the Common Good.**" The forum will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, January 24 at Cameron United Methodist Church (1600 S. Pearl St., Denver).

The forum will address Colorado's budget crisis and consider potential solutions to build a more sustainable, financially healthy state that meets the needs of all Coloradans. Speakers will include: **Don Childears**, President, Colorado

Bankers Association; **Michael Lux**, author, *The Progressive Revolution*; **Rep. Ellen Roberts (R)**, Durango; **Dr. David Trickett**, President, Iliff School of Theology; and **Sue Windels**, Board member, Great Education Colorado. The forum will be moderated by **Carol Hedges**, Senior Policy Analyst with the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute.

The forum is free and open to the public. A reception with refreshments will follow a question and answer period. For information, call 720-524-1100 or send an e-mail to info@interfaithallianceco.org.

Join Us

Public Policy Forum

"Taxes: An Investment in the Common Good"

Sun., Jan. 24

2-5 p.m.

Cameron Church

1600 S. Pearl St., Denver

Message from the President

As we enter a new year, I want to say thank you. Thank you to the 30 new members who joined us last year. Thank you to the 140 inactive members who renewed their support of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado in 2009. Thank you to the 12 congregations and three foundations that renewed their support last year. And, thank you. You all brought us through a difficult year and helped us build a stronger grassroots organization.

We need your continued support as we work hard to address Colorado's budget crisis, seek comprehensive immigration reform, promote health care reform, and protect appropriate boundaries between religion and government.

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado remains the only statewide organization committed to protecting the integrity of religion and democracy in Colorado, as well as increasing understanding of our state's diverse faith traditions. We have a lot of work before us as we struggle to build a better Colorado. But, with your support and participation, we can protect faith and freedom for all Coloradans.

Best wishes,

Training event equips, empowers citizens for advocacy

One of the core goals of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado is "educating, organizing, and equipping progressive people of faith and goodwill for advocacy." The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado (TIA-CO) is offering a new program this year to help empower our members and friends to become engaged citizens and effective advocates for the issues that they care about most passionately.

TIA-CO's first "**Day at the Legislature**" will be held Monday, February 1 at the Colorado State Capitol (200 E. Colfax Ave.). The event will include training on how to most effectively influence legislators, visits to the floors of both the Colorado Senate and Colorado House of Representatives, and conversations with legislators.

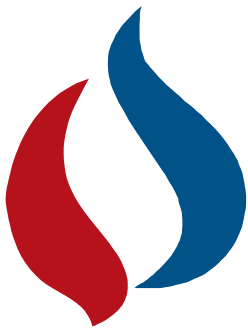
The agenda for the training event is as follows:

7:30-8 a.m. – Registration (coffee and bagels available)

8-8:45 a.m. – Orientation and Introductions

9 a.m. – Visits to the floors of the Colorado Senate and House of Representatives

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The Interfaith Alliance OF COLORADO

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado is an affiliate of The Interfaith Alliance based in Washington, D.C.

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Different faiths align for the common good

Story and photo by Linda Lidov

Nathan Woodliff-Stanley lives in an interfaith family. Nathan is an ordained Unitarian minister, and his wife is an Episcopalian priest. Despite their religious differences, both share a commitment to a set of ethical values and principles that many faiths share when it comes to human worth.

They also share a belief common to many people of faith, be they Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, or Christian: that all people must work together in the pursuit of common moral imperatives, such as equality for all people.

“How can you really honor the inherent worth and dignity of every person, if some people can get married and others can't, or some have health insurance and others are left out?” Nathan says.

To address issues like these, Nathan and his wife are actively involved in the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado, an organization supported by the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado. The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado brings people of different faiths together to strengthen democracy in our culture and promote religious freedom, social justice, understanding, and diversity.

“Interfaith Alliance is a place where I can work

with other good people to create a better, more equitable, more just society in Colorado. And it aligns with my professional ministerial work,” says Nathan.



Nathan Woodliff-Stanley

By educating and empowering people of faith to be advocates in their communities, get involved civically, and engage in dialogue, the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado helps people like Nathan and members of his congregation at Jefferson Unitarian Church influence Colorado's future. Working alongside the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado's members of 19 faith traditions, and those with no faith tradition, Nathan says change is possible.

“We've looked at issues of poverty, war, and peace together. We can find common ground in other areas such as public policy that advance equality. We don't always agree on everything. But faith tells us it's not only what issues you support, but how you approach them.” ♦

We met the challenge!

We are excited to report that the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado's individual and congregational supporters helped us secure a very generous \$15,000 matching grant from the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado. And, we met the challenge three months early!

The Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado awarded TIA-CO the matching grant in 2009 to help build our capacity to promote social justice, interfaith understanding, diversity, and inclusion in Colorado. The Gay & Lesbian Fund matched dollar for dollar any new or increased gift.

Thank you to all of our new members and existing supporters and congregational partners who donated so generously to fund the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado's critical work. And, thank you to the Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado for being a generous partner in helping us build a more just state for all Coloradans! ♦



New leaders join TIA-CO's team

A new year brings change and transition to the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado's leadership team.

At the end of 2009, we said thank you and good-bye to two long-term Board members – the **Rev. Patrick Hurley** and **Stanley Kamlet**. Both men gave generously of their time and talents to support the mission and programs of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado.

At the same time, we welcomed several new Board members.

Norma Harris and Daniel Phillips will begin their service on the Board this year. Harris and Phillips practice Shambhala Buddhism and are active as the coordinators of study and education at the Denver Shambhala Meditation Center. Harris currently works as a pediatric speech-language pathologist, doing early intervention with infants and children up to age 3. Phillips began his career as an architect and is an artist who teaches Shambhala Art – a contemplative approach to art and life.

JoKatherine Holliman Page also begins her service on the Board this year. Holliman Page is a social worker who has taught around the country, including serving as an assistant clinical professor at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work. Holliman Page is an anti-racism trainer for the national Episcopal Church. Holliman Page is an active community volunteer who has served as a board member with numerous organizations, including: the Black American West Museum and Heritage Center, the African American Advisory Committee of the Colorado Historical Society, the

United Nations Association, and the White Rose Foundation, Denver Chapter of The Links, Inc.

In addition, two individuals have joined our team since the publication of the last "One Voice" newsletter.

Kendra Shore will begin her second year of service on the Board this year. Shore is the Associate Regional Director for the American Jewish Committee – Colorado Chapter. She has also served on the boards of the University of Denver's Center for Judaic Studies and the Latin American Research and Service Agency. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science and Policy.

The Rev. Anne Dunlap came on board in July 2009 as our Administrative Assistant. Dunlap is a United Church of Christ minister and a graduate of the Iliff School of Theology. She pastors *Comunidad Liberación/Liberation Community*, a bilingual base community in Aurora. Dunlap has worked on justice issues, particularly concerning Latin Americans and immigrants, for 20 years, including coordinating a ground-breaking program for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and partner organizations in Mexico/Central America, which sought to replace traditional dependency models of mission with ones of mutuality and justice. She also works in solidarity with Latin American immigrant and refugee communities in the U.S., advocates for the rights of First Nations peoples and GLBTQ folk, and is a founding member of the Colorado Chapter of the Interfaith Worker Justice Committee. ♦



Daniel Phillips & Norma Harris



JoKatherine Holliman Page



Kendra Shore



Rev. Anne Dunlap

Forum places spotlight on immigration reform

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado will host a public policy forum on immigration reform from **7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at Temple Sinai (3509 S. Glencoe St., Denver)**.

The forum will consider the recommendations for immigration reform policy that came out of a year-long study process hosted by the University of Denver. The University of Denver Strategic Issues Program recently published a final report on the immigration panel's work titled, "Architecture for Immigration Reform: Fitting the Pieces of Public Policy." The forum will also consider how the recommendations from the study panel compare to federal immigration reform legislation pending before Congress.

The forum will be moderated by **Kenneth H. Stern**, a member of Temple Sinai and immigration attorney with Stern & Curray in Denver. Forum panelists will include: **Polly Baca**, a former Colorado State Senator and participant in the study panel; **Professor Ved P. Nanda**, a participant in the study panel and international law professor at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law; and **Julien Ross**, Executive Director of the Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition.

The forum is free and open to the public. A copy of the University of Denver report may be downloaded at www.du.edu/ussues. For information, call 720-524-1100 or send an e-mail to info@interfaithallianceco.org. ♦

THANK YOU Congregational Partners!

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado thanks the following congregations for their critical support:

Calvary Baptist Church (Denver)

Cameron United Methodist Church (Denver)

Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church (Denver)

Congregation Beth Evergreen (Evergreen)

Denver-Boulder Cluster of Unitarian Universalist Congregations

Jefferson Unitarian Church (Golden)

Lakewood United Methodist Church (Lakewood)

Mile Hi Church (Lakewood)

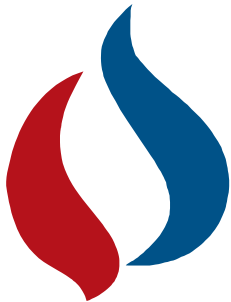
Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church (Denver)

Park Hill Congregational Church – United Church of Christ (Denver)

St. John's Episcopal Cathedral (Denver)

St. Thomas Episcopal Church (Denver)

To find out how your congregation can be a partner, contact Jeremy Shaver, Executive Director, at 303-733-4089 or outreach@interfaithallianceco.org. ♦



The Interfaith Alliance
OF COLORADO

1600 South Pearl Street
Denver, CO 80210

TIA-CO receives Wolcott Family Foundation grant

The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado (TIA-CO) is pleased to announce that the Wolcott Family Foundation awarded a \$1,000 grant to support our important work in 2010. The Wolcott Family Foundation has provided critical support for five years. The foundation's support has helped TIA-CO hire professional staff and expand our programs to promote social justice and interfaith understanding in Colorado. Thank you Wolcott Family Foundation for your support! ♦

Stay Informed!

Are you receiving the latest news and action alerts from the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado? We send out a monthly e-mail newsletter with critical news, updates, and event information. We also send out occasional action alerts on our priority public policy issues. To receive our E-News, send an e-mail to info@interfaithallianceco.org or sign up using the link on the bottom of our home page at www.InterfaithAllianceCO.org. ♦

Day at the Legislature *continued from front page*

10-11:45 a.m. – Training on effective advocacy and lobbying skills

12-1 p.m. – Lunch with a speaker (lunch will be served at First Baptist Church, just south of the Capital)

1:15 p.m. – Optional tour or attendance at legislative committee hearings

The event is open to all TIA-CO members, friends, and congregational partners. The cost to attend is \$20, which includes lunch and materials. The deadline to register is Wednesday, January 27. To register, visit our website at www.InterfaithAllianceCO.org, call 720-524-1100 or send an e-mail to info@interfaithallianceco.org. ♦

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