SOUTH COAST INTERFAITH COUNCIL
SERVING SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1953

SUMMER 2022
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CREATING COMMUNITIES OF COMPASSION AMONG PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS & CULTURES THROUGH SERVICE, EDUCATION & CELEBRATION SINCE 1953!

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dear Friends,

As a country we have started our return to the new normal of a hybrid society with more personal contact, some reduction in mask wearing, but plenty of time still spent in online meetings and gatherings. Covid is not gone, but we are adjusting to living safely and wisely as it continues. It has been wonderful to get out and meet friends and family on more occasions, and we are all grateful for those opportunities.

Along with our joy in these activities, comes sorrow as we witness the cruelty inflicted on others at home and abroad. Our hearts grieve for those who are under attack by oppressive foreign governments, under attack by those who target innocents here at home, and under attack from a sense of fear and frustration as strife and conflict increase in society.

The SCIC extends our hearts and prayers to all who are suffering and invite you to join us in making every effort we can to counteract those influences with kindness, a friendly smile, acts of friendship, expressions of love and concern to those who are hurting, and standing up for those who are being slighted by others. **Though we come from various backgrounds and life situations, we all want to be valued, respected and loved.**

The SCIC Board Members have continued to produce programs to help us open our minds and our hearts to bring about more kindness and understanding. During our **Annual Assembly** we highlighted five individuals from our community who are examples to us of service and compassion. Our **Martin Luther King Program** featured speakers who shared their own experiences with racial inequity as well as how leaders sought to bring equality for all. Our **Courageous Conversations** started their third year of programing with *"The Plight to End Human Trafficking and Child Marriages, "Operation Welcome: A Greater Understanding of the Plight of Afghan Refugees in America,"* and *"Ending the Stigma of Mental Illness."* In addition to learning more about these topics, we learned how we could help be part of the solution.

During the challenging times of the past two years, you, our members and friends, have stepped up and generously supported our financial needs to keep SCIC running. *We are still unable to hold our traditional in-person fundraisers that keep our doors open and are again asking for your support.*

If you are able, please contribute whatever you can, either via the enclosed donor envelope, or by making an online donation at https://www.scinterfaith.org/. No amount is too small or too large. Your kindness will allow us to continue providing invaluable programs throughout this year – like those aforementioned – in addition to our ongoing initiatives like the **Religion 101 series, Interfaith Cafes, and Hunger CROP Walks.**

We thank you for your generosity and for being part of the SCIC family! Please stay safe as we see infection rates rising again. We look forward to meeting in person as soon as it is safe to do so. And remember, it costs nothing to share a smile and kind word, yet it can be priceless to the recipient.

In love and community,

Carol Wynder
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, SCIC President

Dr. DJ Singh
Sikh Community, SCIC President-Elect

Milia Islam-Majeed
SCIC Executive Director