

## Interfaith-San Ramon Valley (ISRV) Mission Statement:

Our mission is to bring together people of faith in this valley who share a mutual respect and desire to better understand one another. We seek to work together to make a difference in our community and be a light unto the world. At a time when religion is seen by so many as a divisive and destructive force in the world, we affirm that people of faith have an important contribution to make to a world so in need of understanding and peace. We embrace and a variety of social justice causes that are shared among our respective traditions. We seek to care for those in need, respond to the societal sin of homelessness, and stand up for those among us who are being oppressed, marginalized, or otherwise diminished by being seen to be “the other.” We celebrate our shared common values and ideals and seek to better understand and gain respect for our differences. We learn about one another through establishing meaningful relationships, working and praying together and sharing moments of connection. We call God by many different names and have various ideas about what God is or might be. We share a profound respect for the sanctity of all life and the commitment to lead lives of meaning and purpose. We work together for the healing and transformation of our community and our world.

*For information about the Spring I-SRV Retreat or June picnic, or to be placed on our mailing list, send an email with ISRV List in the subject line to [dan@danococonnor.com](mailto:dan@danococonnor.com), or call and leave a message at (925) 838-4102.*

### ISRV Planned events:

- Interfaith retreat and religious discussion at San Damiano Retreat (Danville), presently scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2009 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Anyone may sign up and the cost until January 1, 2009 is \$37 per person (After that it will be at least \$50 each and may be limited to official representatives and/or delegates of your community.)  
Subjects under consideration for sequential discussion groups include:
  - a. as many things as we can find that we all agree on (convergence);
  - b. the things we don't agree on, so that we can learn to respect those and know where sensitive areas might lie;
  - c. the concept of a Supreme Being (what is your view?) and the afterlife, if any;
  - d. we MAY have a session on the things about the recent Proposition 8 campaign, including its aftermath—aimed NOT at a defense of one's position, but with a focus on “what could we all have done differently (to show greater sensitivity and respect for the other side and where do we go from here?” (If yes, it must be designed as a constructive experience for all who choose, or are selected, to participate.)

A luncheon is included in the price, supplied by San Damiano. We will have full access to the grounds, as well as ample time for socializing during the day.

Retreat Rule #1: The religious doctrine of no faith based community may be challenged in any way, whereas clarification of same is welcome.

- An ISRV family and friends picnic is to be held in June at a location to be announced.

Picnic Rule #1: We ask that you talk about anything you like, except for one thing—religion.