

Sonoma Valley Interfaith
Wednesday, Jan 22, 2025 / 12 pm–1 pm
<https://www.sonomavalleyinterfaithma.org>

Present: Steve Finley, Jane Hernandez, Manette Fairmont, Jason Mayer, and Dave Gould, Donna Thomas, Nicole Trotter.

12:00 pm

- **Welcome/Opening Blessing** - Deacon Dave blessing for law enforcement.

12:10 pm

- **Checking in with everyone:**
 - Rabbi Steve shared that Shir Shalom is busy. The Board of Rabbi's has been organized to call LA fire victims and their families.
 - Manette Fairmont reports that the Church of Christ has been having workshops on "keeping it simple" as well as guests from Kenya.
 - Dave Gould reports the St Francis food pantry Monday to Friday afternoons has been busy with an increase of community members.
 - Jason Mayer of Sonoma Collective reports that they are continuing at the Hanna Center on Sundays and doing a series on fasting.
 - Jane Hernandez reports for Trinity Episcopal that an interim priest will be joining in February until a replacement is assigned.
 - Donna Thomas says the Church of Scientology are continuing study and life courses. They are organizing volunteers for LA fire victims through the Volunteer Ministry Program.

12:20 pm

- **Guest: Sonoma Police Chief Brandon Cutting**

Chief Cutting has worked for Sonoma PD for 2 years now with 20 years prior at the Sheriffs office in Santa Rosa.

He has positive things to say about Sonoma especially that community members of differing opinions can generally listen to each other and join together. An exception may be the Pro Palestinian group that can often create difficulties as they refuse to hear any other opinions or sides.

Immigration is a huge topic in Sonoma right now with the new President taking office this week. City council will discuss this next month. Local authorities can not get involved with immigration. He wants the community to understand that they are safe and

should call the police department if they need help and to not be afraid that they will address any immigration status. The new executive orders from the president regarding immigration will have zero change to how the local police act. As of yesterday he has not heard any presidential executive orders indicating that ICE can come into a church or other sanctuary space to conduct raids. If that happens, local law enforcement can not interfere with Federal law and will not be participating in such raids.

Please alert your congregations to the new California State Daylighting Law. You can not park within 20 feet of the approach side of a marked or unmarked crosswalk or other intersection where pedestrians cross. The city's Public Works team has begun painting the curbs red in order to avoid parking in those areas but it will take time. In the meantime the police are issuing warnings but will soon begin issuing tickets, the law is standing in those areas not painted red if it falls within the rules of the law. Read more [here](#). Reminder that bicycles can not be on the sidewalk and motorized bikes can not be on the bike path.

The PD has installed 16 license plate reading cameras throughout the city. The county has installed a few at the entrance/exit points of the city. During Covid crime involving people from out of town increased significantly, thefts of especially catalytic converters and other property thefts involving vehicles used to come and go from Sonoma. Accessibility to the video is only allowed during investigation of a crime for purposes related to the crime. There used to be 200 unsolved criminal cases and since the installation of the cameras there is a 100% success rate of solving a crime especially when a vehicle is involved.

The Sonoma PD on First Street is staffed 24 hours and has 10 patrol deputies, 2 sergeants, and 1 community resource officer for the schools. The Sonoma Sheriff's Valley Substation on Grove St. is staffed 24 hours and has 12 patrol deputies and 2 sergeants. There are no canine units but they can call a canine unit from Santa Rosa quickly if needed. There is a team approach and they both work together in Sonoma.

Over the past few years gang activity had quieted down thanks to programs for gang prevention. Most of those programs have since ended and law enforcement are now seeing a slight increase in gang activity in Sonoma such as fights and tagging. Chief Cutting is putting this on his priority list to begin to monitor.

We will follow up with the chief about having some programs for active shooter training for civilians if any of the churches want to participate. More information to come.

Other info.:

1. We want to have a forum maybe in May for Emergency and Disaster Preparedness including the Police, Fire and any others we can bring in. For our congregations?

2. KSVY SVI 9am-9:15am spot. See rotation assignment below. Please send a representative of your church if you are not able to join. You can also bring a guest with you. If you are not currently in the rotation please see if you can find a representative of your church to come instead.

- **Closing:** Manette closes with a blessing.
- **Next meeting:** February 26th Guest is La Luz's executive director Leonardo Lobato. *Future meetings: **March** - Clinical Director fo the Community Mental Health Hub Anna Lacey. **April** - Sonoma Mayor Patricia Ferrar-Rivas. **May** - Mentoring Alliance's Suzie Gallo and Sherry Preiss. **June/July/August** - Summer Break*
- **KSVY - Please mark your date on your calendar.** If you are not available on your assigned date please find someone on the list to trade with. The studio is located at 680 W. Napa Street Sonoma. The call in number is 707-933-9133. The information is on their website www.ksvy.org

January 28	Steve Finley	rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com
February 4	Peadar Dalton	peadaradalon@comcast.net
February 11	Dave Gould	dgould837@gmail.com
February 18	Steve Finley	rabbisteve.shirshalom@gmail.com
February 25	Pam Nadeau	singingdogs@vom.com