

PILGRIMAGE OF COMPASSION

2013

The peaceCENTER launched the Pilgrimage of Compassion in January 2013, inviting the community to re-focus existing events or create a new event and invite the city to learn and celebrate what compassion means in their traditions. We asked to display our 3'x6' vinyl Charter for Compassion banner, explain what it means and gather signatures. Every community that has hosted a pilgrimage event has become an active champion of the Charter and our campaign to have San Antonio recognized as a world-class compassionate city. Follow the feet . . .



JANUARY 2013

The Pilgrimage began with the 7th annual Blessing of the Peacemakers and a group reading and signing of the Charter for Compassion. Sr. Martha Ann Kirk and the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word were named as San Antonio Peace Laureates.

FEBRUARY 2013



Oblate School of Theology hosted an interfaith panel & discussion about compassion.



APRIL 2013



MARCH 2013



Over a hundred people of all ages participated in "Religious Dance and Drama Incarnating Compassion" at the University of the Incarnate Word.



The Charter for Compassion was available to sign at the 2nd annual march against Genocide; a banner was carried in the march around the grove at the Jewish Community Center. The SoL Center at University Presbyterian Church had a packed house for two evenings of "Compassionate Hospitality in the Asian Traditions," presentations & a meal provided by Hindus, Sikhs & Buddhists. The Turkish Dialog Center of the Southwest hosted a meal and tri-faith dialog about compassion.

JUNE 2013



Compassionate San Antonio helped with the planning, had a booth, and lead 100+ people in a spiral dance on the grounds of St Francis Episcopal Church.

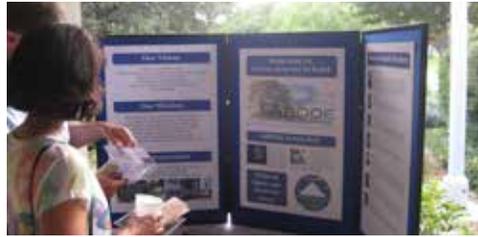
MAY 2013



The Bahá'í community showed the documentary "Education Under Fire" and a young woman who comes from the Bahá'í Institute for Higher Education (BIHE) – the only chance for an entire minority community in Iran to receive an education – and lives now in San Antonio, was front and center to answer questions and share her story.

JUNE 2013

Abode Contemplative Care for the Dying hosted a labyrinth walk at the Episcopal Church of Reconciliation.



About 60 people attended the Sukkah of Compassion and Understanding at Temple Beth-El. A sukkah is a hut in which the Jewish people lived during their years in the desert after they left slavery in Egypt and before they arrived in the Promised Land. During Sukkot, it is a great *mitzvah* (good deed) to invite guests over to eat with you in your sukkah. We explored the meaning of hospitality & compassion and shared a fantastic meal.

OCTOBER 2013



JULY 2013



On July 6, the Dalai Lama's birthday (and international Compassion Day), a Buddhist Community held a tailgate party in the parking lot of the Japanese Tea Gardens, followed by a walking meditation along its pathways.

AUGUST 2013



The Rigpe Dorje Center hosted a public teaching, "To benefit all beings: Buddhist meditations & reflections to help compassion grow in our daily lives," by Lama Dudjom Dorjee from Dallas.

SEPTEMBER 2013



More than 400 people attended St. Francis and the Sultan, a Christian-Muslim dialog that started at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church with a short documentary about a 13th century dialog between St. Francis and Sultan Malek Al-Kamil AND a delicious meal catered by the Turkish Women's Association and then moved to the Muslim Children Education and Civic Center for evening prayer and a compassionate dialog.



October began with a Summit hosted by Awaaz ("voice" in Hindi), the India Association and the peaceCENTER about compassion and domestic violence in the S. Asian community. A highlight was the skit "Blanketed by Blame." The theme of the 17th annual Solidarity Sunday, an interfaith service honoring the LGBT community and hosted by DIGNITY/SA, was compassion. It was held at Beacon Hill Presbyterian Church. Lord of Life Lutheran Church hosted an interfaith potluck and offered a forum on how we feed ourselves, including information about farmers' markets and community gardens.



OCTOBER 2013



October drew to a close with Dr. James Doty, the neurosurgeon who founded the Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education (CCARE) at Stanford, speaking at Trinity University, co-hosted by the Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health.

DECEMBER 2013



The last event of 2013 was a collaboration between the Backyard Film Festival, High Wire Arts and the peaceCENTER. There was a showing of 4 short films of Prem Rawat, followed by an open mic for local peacemakers, young and old, to describe their work and their dreams.



NOVEMBER 2013



The Catholic Worker House celebrated founder Dorothy Day's birthday with a mass, a meal and a memorial to their members and people without shelter who died in the past year. Celebration Circle hosted a full evening of soul-stirring, thought-provoking music served up by some of San Antonio's finest wordsmiths. Sets by singer/ songwriters Rudi Harst, Chris Pfeiffer and Michael Waid, woven with the words of award-winning Syrian poet, Lahab Assel Al-Jundi; two-time Grand Slam Poetry Champion, Amanda Flores, and long-time host of the Jazz Poets Society, Eduardo Garza. The Muslim community invited Sufi master Mohamed Moosa from Austin to an event at Viva! Bookstore. Through Scriptural stories and examples of the Divine Names of Allah/God he unfolded Sufi teachings of compassion into a circle of remembrance/ dhikr.