

American Muslim Voice Foundation

Fostering friendships among ALL Americans

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“From fear to friendship”

**American Muslims Sponsor 1st Sunday of October 2011
as a “National invite your neighbors to dinner day.”**

Contact: Samina Sundas / saminasundas@gmail.com / C: (650) 387-1994

What: Interfaith press conference to announce “national invite your neighbors to dinner day”

When: Monday, March 28th, 2011 at 11:00 am EST

Where: Cannon House Office Building, Room 234

Who: Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, National Director of Interfaith & Community Alliances for Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)

Jim Winkler, General Secretary, United Methodist General Board of Church & Society

Rebecca J Slater, Representative from Congressman Pete Stark's office

Ibrahim Hopper, Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR)

Robert Marro, ADAMS Board member and Government Relation Chair

Shahid Buttar, Executive Director of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee

Mary Liston Liepold, Ph.D., Editor in Chief. Peace X Peace

Haris Tarin, Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) Washington DC

Raymond McGovern, retired CIA officer/activist

Bobbi Stewart of Washington DC Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)

Medea Benjamin, Code Pink

Phil Anderson, clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America/Lutheran Peace Fellowship.

Samina Sundas, Founder of the American Muslim Voice Foundation (AMV Foundation)

Washington, DC - March 27, 2011 – Joined by multi-faith groups and community organizations, American Muslim Voice Foundation is calling upon all Americans to join their new campaign to ensure the nation’s safety and security. The foundation will hold a commencement press conference at the Cannon House Office Building in Room 234 at 11:00 AM on Monday, March 28th, 2011. .

The initiative, dubbed “National Invite Your Neighbors to Dinner Day,” is part of their larger goal to move Americans from fear to friendship, by expanding the sense of community at a grassroots level.

AMV Foundation’s National President Khalid Saeed said, “we will not build a safe, secure, or harmonious nation by ignoring America’s most profound asset – our tenacious, unyielding sense of community. Our security and strength will come from an inclusive nation; by getting to know our neighbors and colleagues and rejecting hatred and fear in favor of peace and understanding.”

“There is no more important path to peace than that which comes from knowing one another as human beings, whole and dignified, through an understanding of what we believe and cherish in common, truth and love. No one does a better job of modeling and supporting us on that path than American Muslim Voice Foundation as exemplified by this campaign for a National Invite your Neighbors to Dinner Day.” **Mark C. Johnson, Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.**

“Our pluralist society and global civilization is built on the common principle Love of God and Love of Neighbor, found in all sacred texts and common to all faiths. Quran commands us to recognize the diversity as a sign of our Creator's plan and asks us to respect this diversity by recognizing and respecting each other. This can be achieved only by familiarizing ourselves with the other and cooperating with those who do not look like us or believe like us in doing good and promoting what is beneficial for all. We encourage all activities that strengthen our neighborly bonds and promote bridges of understanding.”
Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed, National Director of Interfaith & Community Alliances for Islamic Society of North America

According to **Shahid Buttar, Executive Director of the Bill of Rights Defense Committee**, “The constitutional tradition that unites America is the source of our nation’s greatest strength, but that tradition has withered in the last decade, as laws like the PATRIOT Act (which Congress has the chance to revise in the next two months) have undermined the rights of all Americans.”

“After the tragedy of September 11th I was heartbroken both as an American and as a Muslim. With rising Islamophobic sentiment, I felt compelled to get out there and be an active voice of peace. People seem to wonder, where are the peaceful voices of Islam? Right here, in America, as it turns out” **said Samina Sundas** of her motivation to form the foundation.

Previously the non-profit foundation has been engaged in many community driven efforts including open homes, peace picnics, teach-ins at high school and college campuses, national and regional conventions, and their hallmark ‘dinners with dialog’ that spearheaded the movement to build what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. described as a beloved community.

· **About AMV Foundation:** California based American Muslim Voice Foundation was founded in July 2003 by American Muslims to work for and with all Americans. A grassroots movement based on the simple idea that stronger American communities serve the interests of all, AMV Foundation set out to bridge cultural and religious gaps. Working with multi-faith groups and earning recognition for their consistent, effective, and non-argumentative approach, AMV quickly became a centerpiece in the movement to build an inclusive, beloved community. The organization strives to strengthen the fibers of our world by working alongside neighbors and strangers toward a common goal, forging bonds and sparking friendships in the process. AMV Foundation continues to celebrate diversity and values all human beings regardless of race, religion, sex, or creed.

Our Peace Partners include:

September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows ,Amnesty International, Western region, Asian Americans for Peace & Justice, Asian Law Alliance, Buddhist Peace Fellowship, West Bay Chapter, Burmese American Democratic Alliance(BADA) Burmese American Women's Alliance, Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR National), Code Pink, Council of Churches of Santa Clara County, Dalai Lama Foundation, Ecumenical Peace Institute, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Global Exchange, Interfaith Space, Islamic Center of Woodland California, Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), Los Altos Voices for Peace, Micahs Call, Muslim American Society, Multifaith Voices for Peace & Justice, Muslim Peace Coalition, Muslim Peace Fellowship , Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), National Japanese American Historical Society, National Peace Academy, The Nihonmachi Outreach Committee, San Jose, Olive Branch Interfaith Peace Partnership , Our Developing World, Pak American Culture & Arts Council, Sacramento CA, Pakistan American Forum, Woodland California. Pax Christy of Stanford, CA, Peninsula Peace & Justice Center, Palo Alto, CA, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Priority Africa Network, Raging Grannies Action League, Rahima Foundation, Reach and Teach , SEMAH, South Bay Islamic Association, Shalom Center, Shomer Shalom Network for Jewish Nonviolence, SIREN, South Bay Department of Peace, The Community of Living Traditions, The Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, The South Alameda County Peace & Justice Coalition, United Muslims of America (UMA), Veterans for Peace (National V. President Sharon Kufeldt)