

# TIA News & Notes

December 2005

The Newsletter of the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance

Volume 10, Issue 5

## FACING AMERICA'S MORAL CRISIS

With this last newsletter of the year come season's greetings and an update of our recent activities. You will note in the following pages our continuing concern to protect the separation of church and state. True religion, we believe, is free of coercion, the prerogative of the state. Most recently on that score is our conversation with the mayor to keep city programs free of religious discrimination. You will note several pieces on science and religion, following our work on the City Zoo controversy and our anticipation of more bills in the next legislature to weaken the teaching of science under the guise of "Intelligent Design."

Most importantly note the announcement of our next major event, "The ABCs of Advocacy" workshop on January 8<sup>th</sup>. This is an attempt by the interfaith community, along with the League of Women Voters and other civic groups, to provide the tools for getting involved politically, so that our deepest values may begin to shape a truly just and beloved community, state and nation.

These are difficult times in which I write you. Core values and public policies long taken for granted in this country are under attack. Among these threatened values and policies are commitments to peace, economic and social justice, civil liberties, protection of the environment and human rights. Long-standing international agreements, including the Geneva Conventions and those dealing with nuclear arms control, have been abrogated or disavowed. The biblical teaching, "to whom much is given, much is required," the basis of progressive taxation and a healthy economy, has been replaced by simple greed. Daily unfold stories of corruption and war profiteering. This is a time of sorrow if not rage.

President Bush, whether intentionally or not, signaled the kind of world we were entering, when, following 9/11, he described our nation's adversaries as evil. It was a judgment that touched something deep, and shifted political analysis to the realm of religion. That being the case, it is only appropriate, on the basis of religion, to critique the President's use of the word "evil." It is classic projection, that is, it sees evil as out there, and not also in us. The world's spiritual traditions are clear in rejecting this understanding of evil. St. Augustine said it for the Christian tradition, "Never fight evil as if it were something that arose totally outside of yourself."

The late M. Scott Peck, in *People of the Lie*, described evil as a psychological process that avoids at all costs facing the truth or speaking honestly. To protect the inner self, which is experienced as painful, a false self is projected, often cloaked in false righteousness. Understood this way, use of the word evil avoids the dualism implicit in its use to demonize and divide. If God is one, as the monotheistic faiths insist, then there is no ground for dividing the world between God and the devil or between us good guys and those bad guys.

This does not relieve us of engaging in the struggle between good and evil. Truth is always enemy of the lie. How, after all, can we know the good and pursue it if we don't recognize and oppose all that denies or undermines the good? Nor does it relieve us of the responsibility of making value claims, which is difficult for the liberal tradition, privileging as it does tolerance over judgment. Decent and fair-minded people—of whatever religious persuasion or no religion—make a serious mistake in ceding religious language, particularly the "e" word, to the religious right or politicians who would exploit our fears in the name of terrorism.

All of this is to argue for a religious faith that is courageous enough to address the spiritual condition of our time. If what is going on is something other than politics as usual, a dark night of the American soul, how do we as people of faith speak to this condition? Do we dare name the darkness for what it is?

I take heart in the fact that each of the major religious celebrations of this time of year—Advent-Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa—involves the lighting of candles. When the nights are longest, each tradition lights candles as a sign of hope. The darkness is neither avoided nor denied, but it is what gives the values and convictions we celebrate their meaning. The present darkness is overcome when the Spirit of God inspires us with a vision of a more humane world and emboldens us to struggle to bring it to pass. Let us light up the New Year recommitted to speaking moral truth to amoral power, to finding ways toward a world of ecological sanity, non-violence, healing and the divine Spirit that connects us to one another.

--Russ

## Interfaith Alliance Questions IRS on Church Investigation

Washington, November 9 -- In response to reports that the IRS is considering revoking the tax-exempt status of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California, based on a sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. George Regas prior to the 2004 election, The Interfaith Alliance released the following statement by the Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, president of The Interfaith Alliance.

"The Interfaith Alliance reaffirms our commitment to the IRS guidelines forbidding houses of worship to endorse political candidates. However, having read the sermon delivered by the Rev. Dr. George Regas on October 31, 2004, I see in it no violation of those guidelines. Dr. Regas was exercising the responsibility of all religious leaders to evaluate moral issues from the perspective of their respective religious traditions.

"The Interfaith Alliance is investigating why the IRS challenged this particular sermon and why the IRS issued a warning about the sermon at this particular moment. Knowing the Religious Right's passion for advancing H.R. 235, a piece of legislation which, if passed, would change the IRS guidelines to allow for endorsements of candidates for electoral offices from the pulpit and thus fundamentally damage the historic constitutional wall separating the institutions of religion and government. I must confess cynicism about whether or

not this challenge at this time is meant to build support for the advancement and passage of this dangerous legislation."

The Interfaith Alliance urges religious leaders, houses of worship, and candidates to honor the proper role of religion in civic participation and to read two publications by The Interfaith Alliance, *One Nation, Many Faiths. A Campaign Season Guide for Houses of Worship* and *Religion and Politics: Running for Office in a Multi-Faith Nation*. Both publications include "Do's and Don'ts on Religion and Politics."

*Religion and Politics: Running for Office in a Multi-Faith Nation*: [www.interfaithalliance.org/candidatesguide](http://www.interfaithalliance.org/candidatesguide).

*One Nation, Many Faiths. A Campaign Season Guide for Houses of Worship*: <http://www.interfaithalliance.org/Election2004/Election2004.cfm?ID=5380&c=82>

See more of the Election Year Program: [www.interfaithalliance.org/elections](http://www.interfaithalliance.org/elections).

Read a summary of IRS guidelines: Adapted from IRS Publication 1828, *Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations* - February 2004 <http://www.irs.gov/charities/charitable/article/0,,id=120703,00.html>

## Scientific Religion and Religious Science?

In the August '05 (10:4) issue of TIA News and Notes, you published "An Open Letter Concerning Religion and Science." I am unable to sign it but suggest a letter I would be happy with:

*"Within the community of Christians there is a variety of ways by which the validity of passages in the Bible are evaluated. Among the ways is that espoused by Christians who do not accept as scientifically or historically useful or meaningful certain of the biblical stories--including those describing the "creation of the world".*

*"Theories" are logical devices conceived by scientists in order to account for the relationships of facts, which they have collected by sense-perception. Theories are always tentative. Each theory is tested and re-tested and it is modified when new and relevant facts are discovered. Science's only "proof" of any theory lies in demonstrating that it makes logical sense (remember your course in Euclidean "Plane Geometry" with its "Givens" and "Theorems"?). But a scientist does not identify any theory as "truth"*

*The theory of evolution is one of many which are considered by scientists. It passes the tests applied to theories accounting for those facts far better than do the biblical creation stories--which are, it is to be emphasized, also scientific theories. After all, they claim to describe facts. Their literary beauty and cultural influence should not be permitted to blind us to their being scientific and logically inferior to modern cosmological theories.*

*Any other theories attempting to account for facts must also pass the logical tests imposed by facts, or scientists will not accept them as useful.*

*The idea of a god is not susceptible to scientific testing; it is a metaphysical rather than physical concept. Science has no relationship to the metaphysical--which is properly the responsibility of philosophers (including theistic ones).*

*Therefore, science does not reject or accept the concept of a god-creator. To do so would be to encroach on the philosopher's jurisdiction.*

*Scientists prefer the theory of evolution to that exhibited in the two ancient theories recorded in the Torah about the process and results of "creation". It does so because the theory of evolution does a more comprehensive and logical job of accounting for the facts than do any other theories yet proposed. And the advance of experimentation and discovery--which are the source of facts--will produce changes in the theory of evolution. Darwin and his fellow-biologist, Russell, are honored as significant contributors, but they did not say the last word. Such is the fate of all scientific theories.*

Of course, there is a place in the study of the history of science for alternate theories about "how the world came to be"--just as there is for the theory that demon-possession accounts for abnormal human behavior--but scientifically modern psychological and neurological theories are more adequate to account for such human behavior. And there is a place in the history and study of philosophy for "the argument from design" (or I.D.).

Science is not concerned with "truth," which is left legitimately and exclusively to the speculations of philosophers.

Religion, a cultural complex, is not theology, a subset of philosophy.

Science and religion are not complementary—unless apples and oranges are. Each has demonstrated that it can exist without the other and often has."

Harold Hill, Associate Professor of Religion, University of Tulsa, retired

## Pat Robertson blows cover off "Intelligent Design."

Advocates of Intelligent Design (ID) have claimed that it's a scientific theory, a legitimate rival of the Darwinian theory, that warrants being taught in the science classes of America's public schools.

Critics of ID—and this includes almost all actual scientists who have weighed in on the matter—have declared that ID isn't science at all. Instead, they say, it is a way of sneaking religion into the public schools, an idea directly descended from the 'creationism' whose inclusion in the public school curriculum the courts have found to be an unconstitutional government 'establishment' of religion.

Now, in his latest fit of pique, Pat Robertson has blown the cover of ID.

The object of Robertson's ire on this occasion was the citizenry of the town of Dover, Pennsylvania. These people just recently voted to replace a school board that had mandated the teaching of ID in the local public schools with another slate of candidates opposed to putting ID in the science curriculum.

"If something bad happens to you" Robertson said to the people of Dover, "don't bother turning to God. He might not be there for you," he warned them, "because you just voted God out of your city."

So there it is. If rejecting the inclusion of Intelligent Design is to be understood as "voting God **out**," then surely it follows that what ID is about is bringing God **in**. Sounds like religion to me.

Which leads me to a question for all those Christians out there who have been militating for ID in the public schools. Did you already know what Pat Robertson seems to have known, that ID is about religion, and not science?

If the answer to that question is yes, I have another question for you. In your understanding of Christian morality, is honesty very important? Or does your Christian ethic say that the end justifies the means, i.e. that it's OK to lie about what you're up to, if what you're up to is making sure that children get indoctrinated with your religious beliefs?

But if the idea that ID is not about science, but about promoting your religion, comes to you as a surprise, then I wonder, would that discovery lead you to withdraw your demand that ID be taught in our public schools?

America's Founding Fathers sought to erect that wall of separation for a good reason. It is not because they were hostile to religion (though the Deism toward which many of our Founders leaned was a worldview rather different from what many Christian conservatives nowadays suppose in their declarations that the United States was founded as "a Christian nation"). No, it was not any aversion to religion but rather a love of peace and a respect for individual liberty.

Our Founders knew well the costs of allowing coercion and faith to marry. Europe had been through a couple centuries of the most brutal religious warfare. In their wisdom, America's Founders attempted to set up a society that would not recapitulate such bloody sectarian strife. And a vital part of their strategy was to keep government neutral in matters of religion.

And they also believed in the rights of individuals to find their own path in life, thinking it more suitable for the dignity of human beings that they be allowed to make their own mistakes than that they be compelled to hew to a path someone else had determined to be right.

The state is unique as a component of society. What makes it unique, as the political scientists have long said, is its "monopoly on the legitimate use of force." Paying taxes for our public schools is not optional: our house can be forcibly taken from us if we refuse to pay our property taxes. The courthouse is not a church: we can choose not to attend a church, but if we are caught up in a legal battle there is only one courthouse, and its decisions get enforced.

Thus, keeping the state out of the business of taking sides in religious matters is vital both to maintaining social harmony and to preserving human liberty.

continued

## Tulsa Interfaith Alliance Welcomes New Members

But there's another basis, too, for good Christians in America today to relent in their quest to put the might of the state behind their own religious views. It runs counter to the core ethical teaching of the man they regard as Christ the Lord. Jesus taught: do unto others as you would have others do unto you. What could be clearer?

If you would not want a majority of Hindus to be able to mandate that your children would be indoctrinated with Hindu beliefs, then do not use your power, as a majority, to subject the children of Hindus (and Muslims and Buddhists and atheists and Unitarians and all the rest) to **your** beliefs.

As you would have others do unto you. What could be clearer?

--Andrew Bard Schmookler, None So Blind-Blog-  
November 14, 2005—[www.nonesoblind.org/blog](http://www.nonesoblind.org/blog)

### Invest Your Rebate

In one of the more egregious examples of political harlotry, the state legislature decided to ignore pressing state needs and to dissipate recent surpluses in tax rebates. Before we cash our checks from the Tax Commission, David Blatt, public policy analyst for the Community Action Project (CAP), asks us to consider some basic questions:

- Why is Oklahoma providing \$93 million in tax rebates when our schools remain underfunded, our prisons are overcrowded, and 700,000 Oklahomans lack health insurance?
- Why has the legislature enacted \$200 million in permanent tax cuts without any projections of state revenues and spending obligations beyond the current year?
- Why has the legislature passed income tax cuts that overwhelmingly benefit the top income earners and corporations when low income Oklahomans pay twice as much of their income in state and local taxes as the wealthiest 1% of households?

If you don't need your \$45 or \$90 rebate, invest it in a teacher, who provides supplies for his or her students out of salary. Or, invest it in a local agency that deals with children's issues, such as the Parent Child Center, that has to turn away at risk parents, because of budget cuts. Or, buy a membership in the Alliance for Oklahoma's Future, CAP, Public Policy Department, 4606 S. Garnett Rd, Suite 100, Tulsa 74146 (382-3228), [dblatt@captc.org](mailto:dblatt@captc.org).

Since the Annual Meeting last spring, "official" membership in the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance has more than doubled. Some of these are people who became interested through their opposition to the efforts by religious fundamentalists to install the Genesis account of creation as an exhibit at the Tulsa Zoo. Others were people who receive information on the TIA email list but were not dues-paying members.

TIA is trying to get as many as possible from the email and newsletter list to send in a minimum contribution (tax deductible) of \$25 and become official members. *The larger our official membership base, the stronger will be our voice when we speak out and seek action to preserve the right of every individual to worship (or not worship) as she or he chooses, without having to observe or pay lip service to the religious interpretations of dominant groups within our society.*

The TIA mailing list is relatively large, but official, dues-paying membership still is relatively small. The Board is now engaged in strategic planning aimed at increasing the effectiveness of TIA against ever-stronger encroachments on religious and civic freedom. To do more than we presently are doing, we need the support of a larger membership.

If you do not know whether you are current with your donation, you may email or call Janet Storts, [storts@bigfoot.com](mailto:storts@bigfoot.com) or 747-7777; OR, better yet, just mail in your donation. Membership now is on an anniversary-month basis, and your donation will extend your membership. The address is P. O. Box 4173, Tulsa 74159-0173.

The Tulsa Interfaith Alliance welcomes those who have joined or re-joined this year.

Bradley Byers  
[bradbyers@earthlink.net](mailto:bradbyers@earthlink.net)

## IN MEMORIAM

Member of our board of directors, Judy Richardson Gard died of cancer November 26 at the age of 67. Her husband of 47 years, Robert; son Michael and his wife Nicole and their children Gunnar and Anika; and son Matthew and his wife Malia and daughter Bobbie Elizabeth survive her, among others.

Judy was born in Woodward, Oklahoma on March 11, 1938 and grew up in Muskogee. Bob and Judy lived in Omaha, Nebraska, Wiesbaden, Germany, Bethesda, Maryland and in the Houston area for 23 years prior to moving to their current home in Sand Springs in 1992.

Judy was a successful artist from an early age and became nationally known as a watercolor artist and teacher. Her paintings were sold through galleries in Tulsa, Houston, San Antonio, Taos and elsewhere. With awards from and membership in national watercolor academies and societies, she took most satisfaction in her artistic career from knowing she encouraged and helped others discover their own artistic talent.

A defining moment was an earlier bout with cancer in 1973. Her survival and recovery against long odds shaped her outlook and enabled her to face her most recent illness without fear or sorrow.

Rather than floral tributes, Judy suggested those who wished to mark her passing give to an organization or cause of their choice. Judy was a strong supporter of public education, religious tolerance and separation of church and state. A memorial service will be held December 18, 2:00 p.m. at the Fellowship Congregational Church, 2900 S. Harvard Ave.

May her memory be a blessing and her legacy lead us to a world of respect and beauty.

## The Science of Novelty and Complexity in Life Forms

The discovery that the subunits of DNA and proteins have similar sequences in very different organisms is one of the least appreciated but most important discoveries in twentieth century biology. Not only are the sequences of such macromolecules similar, they are more similar among more closely related organisms. . . . The molecular evidence shows incontrovertibly that species have come into being gradually throughout the history of life on Earth. Darwin could not have dreamed of such a spectacular confirmation of his theory of descent with modification. For creationists, this must be a nightmare, for any sensible model of creationism would predict cows to have cow molecules, goats to have goat molecules, and snakes to have snake molecules.

So creationists have shifted ground to promote a theory called “intelligent design,” which asserts that the complexity of features such as the vertebrate eye or the molecular motor that drives the

flagellum in bacteria must have arisen instantaneously as a result of purposeful and intelligent design. Although the designer is not specified, this sly dissimulation is a transparent attempt to dodge Supreme Court rulings, holding that the First Amendment prohibits any state from requiring teachers to promulgate religion.

In *The Plausibility of Life*, Mark W. Kirschner and John C. Gerhart propose a theory for the origin of variation that demystifies the evolution of novelty and complexity. . . . They are shown to emerge from adaptive mechanisms perpetuated in the genomes of the organisms themselves—not, as proponents of intelligent design would have us believe, from mysterious forces operating outside the realm of observation, experiment, and scientific understanding.” ---Daniel L. Hartl, Higgins professor of biology, Harvard University, in *Harvard Magazine*, 11/05, p. 22.

## Ethical Consumption for the Holidays--

You don't have to buy stuff to be loved. It's better for the environment if you don't.

We in Western countries are 20% of the world population, but we are consuming over 80% of the earth's natural resources, causing a disproportionate level of environmental damage and unfair distribution of wealth.

The average North American consumes five times more than a Mexican, 10 times more than a Chinese person, and 30 times more than a person from India.

Advertisers make us feel that we are worthless if we don't spend a lot of money on holiday gifts and give us this false image that we will achieve family bliss, sexual success, and love if only we spend enough money on extravagant gifts. But love cannot be bought, and many people find themselves depressed at the holidays, either because they've increased their debts or because they find themselves lonely or disappointed with family interactions in which gifts are substituted for real loving encounter. And the spiritual meaning of the holidays is lost in a frenzy of spending.

We at the Network of Spiritual Progressives— an interfaith organization of people committed to peace, social justice, and providing an alternative spiritual voice to that of the Religious Right, are seeking to build a New Bottom Line in which materialism and selfishness are replaced with love, caring, generosity, kindness, ecological sensitivity and awe and wonder at the grandeur of creation. To build such a world, we need to start living in accordance with our own highest ideals.

Among the things you might do: Give a gift of your time or something intangible. Make something. Buy locally or from a place that sells fair trade items. Use your imagination.

These ideas are brought to you by the Network of Spiritual Progressives, a project of the Tikkun Community. Join the Network, subscribe to Tikkun, and more info: [www.Tikkun.org](http://www.Tikkun.org) or write [community@tikkun.org](mailto:community@tikkun.org).

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### A National Conference on Politics and Spirituality

Sponsored by Sojourners and the Center for Action and Contemplation, a conference on "Politics and Spirituality" will be held in Washington, DC, January 14-16. Featured speakers are Jim Wallis, Anne Lamott and Richard Rohr. For conference schedule, registration and hotels visit [www.cacradicalgrace.org](http://www.cacradicalgrace.org) or call 505-242-9588. "The biggest questions we face are ultimately connected to moral and spiritual choices," Jim Wallis.

### A New Ministry Venture in Tulsa

They call it "Church Sharing." It involves Trinity Episcopal Church opening its beautiful facilities to Higher Dimensions Family Church. Seeking to make it a special time of fellowship and friendship in our city, services are held each Sunday at 1 p.m. at Trinity, 501 South Cincinnati, with Bishop Carlton Pearson preaching. "We believe the heart of the New Testament is inclusiveness. We believe in a loving God, and we are committed to a ministry of radical hospitality." Call Higher D at 249-5900 or Trinity at 582-4128 for further information.

**Friends of Religion and Science (FORS) becomes part of the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance (TIA)**  
Friends of Religion and Science is pleased to announce that it has joined forces with the Tulsa Interfaith Alliance. FORS was formed this past summer as an independent coalition working to stop creationist efforts to undermine science at the Tulsa Zoo. As a special task force of TIA, FORS will continue the important work of defending the integrity of science in our public institutions. We trust that together TIA and FORS will be an effective counterbalance to those who would use our schools and museums to advance their own narrow religious agendas ---Brian Cross

## Vigils for a Moral Budget

Later this month Congress will decide whether to pass a morally bankrupt budget that will cut food assistance, health care, and other services to families already struggling to make ends meet. At the same time Congress will decide whether to give a Christmas bonus of tax breaks to the richest Americans. So on December 14th a coalition of religious and non-religious folks will gather to pray in the Capitol rotunda. As an act of civil disobedience, they will seek to call attention to this injustice and to the needs of a growing number of our citizens. If you wish to be a part of this gathering or locally organize a vigil go to [www.sojo.net/capitol](http://www.sojo.net/capitol).

“Those who oppress the poor in order to increase their own wealth, or give to the rich, will only come to want.” Proverbs 22:16.

## Need New Home for AFS Student

Her name is Tina and she is from Greenland. She has been attending Edison and would like to avoid changing schools. Her host family is unable to continue hosting her. Contact Erin Betlock, American Field Service South Central Coordinator at [erin.betlock@afs.org](mailto:erin.betlock@afs.org) or 1-800-876-2377 x 2235.

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*There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.*  
—A.J. Muste

## Reflecting on Spiritual Unity

As forces of hate would pull Muslims and Christians apart, love of Jesus, argues Ibrahim Hooper, writing for the Council on American Islamic Relations (12/01/05), can bring them together. Muslims also love Jesus. Among numerous Quranic citations, and one especially appropriate for this time of year, is: “Mary, God gives you news of a Word from Him, whose name will be the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, who will be held in honor in this world and the next, who will be one of those brought near to God.” (3:45). Many verses in the Quran testify to its message of spiritual unity.

## TIA Board Member Receives Award

Barbara Santee, Tulsa Interfaith Board member, received the Constitutional Heritage Award from the Oklahoma Chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.

The award was given during the group’s annual meeting in September.

The award honors Santee’s commitment to religious freedom and, most recently, her involvement in the group Friends of Religion and Science, which protested against installation of a creationist religious display at the Tulsa Zoo.

## RECOMMENDED

For information about Tulsa’s **Martin Luther King Commemoration** events, the weekend of January 15-16, call the MLK Info Line @492-9495 or TMM @ 582-3147.

“**Spiritual Uprising**” is the Winter issue of Yes magazine, chronicling the shift in dialogue as diverse religious groups unite around the shared belief: “Love your neighbor as yourself. Visit [yesmagazine.org](http://yesmagazine.org).

Explore the prophetic work of Andrew Bard Schmookler, particularly his analysis of the concept of evil and how it must be taken seriously to understand our times, through his blog, <http://www.nonesoblind.org/blog>.

The motion picture *Crash* explores the many dimensions of multiethnic and race relations in an urban thriller, where black/white, victim/aggressor collide.



# Creating a Community of Citizen Leaders

Are you ready to get involved? Ready take the next step in effective advocacy for issues you care about? Come learn the ABC's of advocacy.

The workshop will include sessions on voting, working effectively with elected leaders, crafting your message, and the latest IRS guidelines on advocacy by religious groups.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Richard Hedgecock, Rep. John Sullivan's Chief of Staff
- Martin Belsky Professor TU Law School
- Susan Neal Tulsa City Councilor
- State Senator Judy Eason McIntyre
- State Representative Ron Peters
- State Representative Jeannie McDaniel

## Register Now

Send a postcard with your name, address, name of your organization or congregation, phone and e-mail to

Juliana Keen  
Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry  
221 South Nogales  
Tulsa, OK 74127

e-mail: [jkeen@tumm.org](mailto:jkeen@tumm.org), Or  
Fax: 918-582-3159.

Please call TMM at 918-582-3147 for more information.

**Registration at the door: \$10**

**Materials will be provided at half price (\$5) for the first 50 registrants.**

## **THE ABC'S OF ADVOCACY** **Sunday, January 8th, 2 to 5 p.m.** **University of Oklahoma, Schusterman Center**

The ABC's of Advocacy workshop is presented by Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, Tulsa Interfaith Alliance, The National Interfaith Alliance, Tulsa RESULTS Group, The League of Women Voters of Metropolitan Tulsa, University of Oklahoma Democracy and Culture Program, and Oklahoma Conference for Community and Justice.

Tulsa Interfaith Alliance  
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The Interfaith Alliance is a non-partisan, grassroots organization dedicated to promoting the positive, healing role of faith in civic life and challenging intolerance and extremism.

Editor: Russell L. Bennett,  
Typing and Layout: Janet Storts.

**Check out our web site**  
**[www.tulsainterfaith.org](http://www.tulsainterfaith.org)**

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*Dissent is the highest form of patriotism.*

—Thomas Jefferson

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