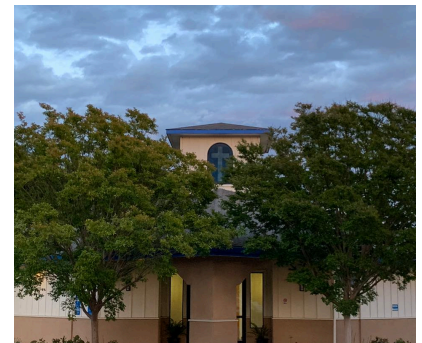


Interfaith Sustainable
Food Collaborative

10TH ANNUAL

Faith, Food, & Farms Conference

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 · 11:30-7:30 PM
Petaluma Community Center · Petaluma, CA





Interfaith Sustainable
Food Collaborative

About Us

The Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative is a nonprofit organization that works with faith communities, advocates, community based organizations and farmers. The mission of the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative is to advance the production of and access to healthy food produced in a sustainable, socially just manner by empowering faith communities with models and resources to impact local food systems and advance public policy. Since 2013, the Collaborative has advanced this mission by:

- Connecting congregations with local farmers and gardeners to increase access to local food and strengthen local economies;
- Sharing models, strategies and resources across faith traditions to help leaders bring programs and best practices to their congregations, camps and retreat centers;
- Providing one stop shopping for speakers, educational materials, and advocacy resources to help congregations engage to improve their understanding of and impact on the food system; and
- Empowering leaders to develop congregational food policies facilitating a connection between the sacred creation and what congregants consume when they come together to pray or celebrate.

Special Thanks

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Thank you to our partners for allowing us to excerpt pieces of their publications for this resource.

Connect with Us

We would like to know how this Tool Kit is being utilized; if you use it to advance a CSA project at your congregation, please share your story with us at info@interfaithfood.org. Similarly, if you have recommendations on how this Tool Kit can be improved, please contact the Collaborative.

For more information, an electronic copy of this Tool Kit, or assistance organizing a food project with your faith group, contact the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative:

(707) 634-4672

info@interfaithfood.org

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Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative

2024 Faith, Food and Farms Conference

Agenda

11:30am-12:00pm: Registration opens for conference tour participants

12:00pm-2:45pm: Conference Tours

3:00pm-3:35pm: Opening Plenary

Assembly Room

3:45pm-4:35pm: Breakout Sessions #1:

1. Plan Ahead: Securing Resources to Facilitate Food Access During Disasters

Assembly Room

2. Food Waste Reduction: Food Storage and Gleaning

Activity Room

3. Religious Dietary Restrictions and Food Preparation During Emergencies

Conference Room 2

4:45pm-5:20pm: World Cafe, an opportunity to dive deeper in focused short conversations

Assembly Room

5:30pm-6:20pm: Breakout Sessions #2:

1. Advocating for Local, State & Federal Sustainable and Just Food Policies

Activity Room

2. Congregational Kitchens, Your Community Resource During a Disaster and Beyond

Assembly Room

3. Vacant Faithlands Transformed to Farms, Farmworker Housing and Much More

Conference Room 2

6:30pm-7:30pm: Closing Plenary and Dinner

Assembly Room

Faith, Food and Farms Conference 2024

Plenary and Workshop Descriptions

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024

Opening Plenary

3:00 pm - 3:50 pm

We'll introduce our conference theme with speakers describing ways that faith communities support food access during disasters. Hear about U.S. Department of Agriculture programs including Disaster-CalFresh and resources available to help faith groups grow their capacity to serve when the need is highest. Hear about how a religious retreat center switch gears to provide food and shelter for firefighters, and a sanctuary became a We will touch on religious perspectives on the relationship between sustainability, justice, food and agriculture.

Speakers Include: Jesus Mendoza, Jr., Regional Administrator with the U.S. Dep't. of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service; Katie Evenbeck, St. Dorothy's Rest Retreat Center (fmr.) and Congregation Shomrei Torah, Sonoma County

Breakout Session 1 (Workshops 1-3)

4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

1. Plan Ahead -Securing Resources to Facilitate Food Access in Disasters

Speakers: Pastor Floyd Thompkins, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church; Kristen Sales, Zero Waste Sonoma; Linda Mansell, Windsor Presbyterian Church

Moderator: Mimi Enright, UCCE

Natural disasters are increasingly frequent as a result of climate change. Congregational sites are crucial resources to help local residents and first responders access food in the wake of a disaster. Commercial kitchens, cold storage, and lists of organized volunteers are all key assets that your congregation can make available to the community. Get planning ideas about how you can safely and legally ensure your kitchen can be a community resource during a disaster such as a fire, flood, earthquake, or power outage. Learn about congregations that accessed government dollars to help individuals evacuated during recent fires, including offering shelter from smoke exposure.

2. Food Waste Reduction - Food Storage and Gleaning

(Activity)

Speakers: Alison Eckert, Petaluma Bounty; Monica Ravizza, ExtraFood

Moderator: Rob Bennaton, Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Consultant

Gleaning is a tradition that goes back to the old Testament. Learn how modern gleaners work with groups of volunteers to harvest fruit that is not being picked by others, and made available by farmers. The session will also look at food recovery in terms of accessing prepared meals that would go to waste for individuals in need. While feeding neighbors, food waste reduction also serves to reduce climate change. You'll hear from representatives of groups in Marin, Lake and Sonoma counties.

3. Religious Dietary Restrictions and Food Preparation Assistance During Emergencies. (Conference 2)

Speakers: Sandy Rashid, Islamic Center of North Marin Charity Fund; Rabbi Shalom Bauchner, B'nai Israel Jewish Center

Moderator: Zachary Twist, Islamic Center of North Marin

Ever wonder what Halal and Kosher are all about? Learn about restrictions guiding what is acceptable to eat for Muslims, Jews and Sikhs. The workshop explores how a food pantry that becomes an emergency meal distribution site can be in a position to accommodate religious dietary restrictions as much as possible. Hear about basic steps your congregation can take to prepare meet the diverse food needs of your community during a disaster.

World Cafe- Small Group Discussions

4:50 - 5:20 pm

Breakout Session 2 (Workshops 4-6)

5:30 pm - 6:20 pm

4. Advocating for Local, State and Federal Sustainable and Just Food Policies (Activity Room)

Speakers: Andy Naja Riese, Agricultural Institute of Marin, Marin HEAL Collaborative; Rocco Cunningham, Sonoma County Farm Bureau; Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Food

Faith-based advocates have shaped the outcomes of a range of social and economic policies throughout U.S. history. Learn about how congregations can impact grassroots and national campaigns to influence public policy in 2024, including the "Save Market Match Campaign" for state funding of nutrition incentives including Senior Farmers Market Bonus Bucks. Learn about the state-wide bond effort to provide infrastructure dollars for food security and climate resiliency and how faith community advocates can help. You'll hear from a local farmer how a Sonoma County ordinance addressing animal livestock threatens the livelihoods of family farmers. Also learn about how faith community advocates can help direct the \$1.4 trillion federal Farm Bill to support food justice and sustainability initiatives. Look into the crystal ball of advocates to see key policies we'll be asking faith-based advocates to work on in the coming months. (Mobile Farmers Market and WIC bill)

5. Congregational Kitchens Your Community Resource During a Disaster and Beyond

Congregational kitchens are an important asset held by faith groups large and small. While some are used to cook for the community several days a week, others are used as 'serving kitchens'. Several thousand faith-based groups have licensed commercial kitchens in the Bay Area that are not being used more than a few hours a week. Some of these kitchens have been utilized during floods, fires and the COVID Pandemic. You'll learn about a congregation in Rohnert Park that has stepped up repeatedly in disasters to provide food to people in need, and course corrections in their approach and partnerships during the time from the 2017 Tubbs fire to today. Speakers will touch on permitting issues and considerations related to perishable foods. Get an update on regional efforts to prepare for future disasters by inventorying resources of various faith communities to facilitate connections to the larger secular community that address food access and emergency shelter during disasters.

Speakers Include: Randi Lachter, Marin VOAD; Silvia Rodriguez, Iglesia Cristiana SE; Penny Janetvillay, Wat Lao Saysettha

Moderator: Deacon Josephine Borgeson, Russian River Deanery, Episcopal Diocese No. Cal.

6. Vacant Faithlands Transformed to Farms, Farmworker Housing and Much More
(Conference 2)

For decades religious organizations have been operating community gardens and farms on their properties, and even leasing large parcels to farmers and ranchers. Since 2017 Interfaith Food has been central the work of faith groups and farmer advocacy organizations that are looking to coordinate this work and realize the opportunity to serve beginning and immigrant farmers and others with limited access to land to grow food. With the passing of California Senate Bill 4 last Fall increasingly decision-makers for religious community owned properties are looking at affordable housing properties on their vacant or underutilized land. Hear about the demand for farmland access, and the opportunity to combine a religious mission with producing of food to grow community.

Moderator: Rev. Ambrose Carroll, Green the Church

Closing Plenary

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Leaders from Ohio and the North Bay will inspire us by sharing innovative programs that put faith community assets to use beyond traditional religious programming to serve neighbors and grow community food security. Learn about the 10-acre farm on the campus of the Methodist Theological Seminary in Ohio which has reinvigorated that institution's teaching mission, and become a jewel within the growing FaithLands movement. Hear about how Latter-Day Saints are preparing for disaster food response on a regional and national level while also facilitating resilience of individual congregants. A brief question and answer session will follow. Dinner will be served at the beginning of the hour.

Speakers: Tim Van Meter, Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio; Trevor Bergon, Stake President, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Note: Plenary sessions, World Cafe and other sessions are in the Assembly Room unless otherwise stated.

2024 Food Faith and Farms Conference Speaker Bios



Mimi Enright

Mimi Enright was born & raised in the Bay Area and spent many happy days as a child exploring the Santa Cruz Mountains. She worked in the technology industry for 17 years before moving to Sonoma County in 2000 to pursue her passion as a garden designer. She completed the training to become a UC Master Gardener in 2011 due to her interest in helping educate Sonoma County residents on the topic of sustainable landscaping. Mimi completed a Sustainable MBA with a concentration in Food Systems in 2014. She has been with the University of California Cooperative Extension, Sonoma County since 2013 in a dual role as the Master Gardener Program Coordinator and Program Manager focusing on community based food systems with a

particular focus on emergency food response and food recovery.



Sylvia Rodriguez My name is Sylvia Rodriguez and I am the daughter of Mexican immigrants who came to this country looking for a better future for their family. I was raised with a strong work ethic, always keeping in mind humility, compassion, service and love for our others.

I have had the privilege of working for the County of Sonoma for the past 16 years in the Human Services Department. I truly enjoy all aspects of my job, as I feel it is important work, helping the most vulnerable in our community.

I have two passions, God and serving others. I am a member of Iglesia Cristiana SE, where I actively serve on the board and am the outreach coordinator. In the past years we have been very active in the community.

During the 2017 Tubbs Fire and then again in the 2019 fires, we opened as a shelter and provided resources for the dislocated. During the pandemic we organized a weekly food drive where we provided healthy food choices for 75-100 families for 6 months. Currently alongside my team “Compassion in Action” we have a monthly food and diaper distribution, serving over 100 families monthly. It is a blessing to be a part of this amazing and beautiful community!



Monica Ravizza: Monica is responsible for overseeing the operations that source thousands of pounds of fresh food and then deliver it to the people in the Bay Area who need it most. Monica is committed to the cultivation of food donors, support of volunteer programs, building and maintaining relationships with our nonprofit recipient partners, and management of vehicles and drivers, as well as coming up with creative solutions to obstacles that inevitably arise.

Before joining ExtraFood Monica was the Project Director of COPA, a physical activity and nutrition education training program in underserved Los Angeles elementary schools. She has a Bachelor's in Psychology as well as a Master's degree in Social Welfare from UCLA. In her free time,

Monica can be found exploring new bakeries and restaurants (she rarely meets a pastry she doesn't like), studying the medicinal qualities of local plants, tending to her bees, and planning her next backpacking trip.



Allison Eckert: [Allison Eckert](#) is a certified nonprofit manager who leverages her skills in program management, partnerships, and fundraising to help food systems and conservation organizations expand their reach. Currently, she manages food recovery programs at [Petaluma Bounty](#), a farm-based community food security project, where she works to create climate resilience and ensure that everyone in Sonoma County can access fresh, farm-direct produce. Allison also serves on the [Felidae Conservation Fund's](#) Board of Directors; as the lead coach for ecology students at the [Nikkei Farm History Project](#); and she is a member of the 2024 class of the [UC Master Gardener Program](#).



Jean Farmer

Land Stewardship Committee Member, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Jean Farmer has always felt a deep connection to the natural world which has manifested in her love of gardening, and the study of plant medicine. After retiring from her nursing career, where she worked with the local indigenous community at Sonoma County Indian Health Project, she studied permaculture design with Toby Hemenway, Kendall Dunnigan and Brock Dolman through Daily Acts in Petaluma. This education inspired her to consider a permaculture garden at St. Stephen's. Jean is actively involved with the Land Stewardship committee at St Stephen's Episcopal Church in Sebastopol.

This committee, with the mentoring of Kendall Dunnigan from Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, developed and implemented a plan for a perennial garden, the Seed to Soul Food Forest. The Church's vision is that it provides nourishment and respite for all who enter. Jean experiences the Sacred through her relationship with the land and invites others to experience this blessing.



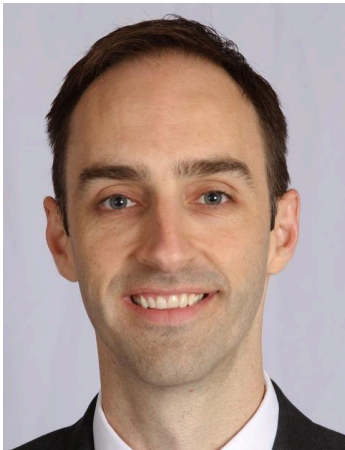
Rabbi Shalom Bochner serves as the Rabbi and Education Director for the B'nai Israel Jewish Center in Petaluma, California. He started there in July 2023 after ten years of serving Congregation Beth Shalom in Modesto, CA. Rabbi Shalom has a BA in Sociology and Judaic Studies from the State University of New York in Albany, a Masters in education from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, and received traditional rabbinical ordination in Jerusalem, Israel in 2004 from Pirchei Shoshanim. He is a member of the Northern California Board of Rabbis

and Ohalah: the Jewish Renewal rabbinical organization, as well as an avid hiker and biker and musician.



Melissa Gordon, Senior Associate, Resilience and Wealth Building at California FarmLink.

Melissa supports the educational programs and farmer resilience survey at California FarmLink. Her team currently runs two courses on farm business management (one in English and one in Spanish) and a new course on being a farm employer. In graduate school, she studied urban planning and food and agricultural policy, and completed a master's thesis about BIPOC Farmers and Farmland Ownership in Massachusetts. She lives in Oakland, California and loves cooking, trying new foods, gardening, and hiking.



Trever Burgon is president of the San Rafael California Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. In this capacity, he oversees six congregations (4 English speaking, 2 Spanish speaking) in Marin and southern Sonoma counties. Trever has served in several other lay church leadership positions, including bishop, president of the young men's organization, president of the men's organization, and full-time missionary in São Paulo, Brazil. Professionally, Trever is General Manager of QURE Healthcare, a company that helps physicians apply evidence-based guidelines in their patient care. Trever lives with his wife and three daughters in San Rafael.



Rocco Cunningham is a Sonoma County native. He owns and operates Integrity Trading LLC, a local company that provides feed and nutrition services to livestock operations throughout Sonoma County and California. In his early years, Rocco attended Petaluma Christian Academy, and Harvest Christian School, and grew up attending Elim Lutheran Church. Elim sponsored his grandmother's family from Germany shortly after WWII ended. Rocco attended Petaluma High School, and Modesto Junior College, and received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University in Animal Science and Business. He built a foundation for his faith during his early years at PCA and is now an active member of Bayside Church Santa Rosa. Rocco is 4th generation in Sonoma County Agriculture and is raising the 5th generation with his wife Betsey. They have two little ones, a daughter McCraelynn and a son

Coast.



Moderator: Rob Bennaton

Urban Agriculture and Food Policy Consultant

Rob Bennaton was the University of California Cooperative Extension Bay Area Urban Agriculture Advisor, supporting small scale food growers, extending knowledge on urban soil quality/resource management and urban ag policy. Rob teaches on urban soil management and heavy metals exposure prevention, is working with local groups on mapping urban food growing sites in the East San Francisco Bay Area, and specializes in providing technical assistance on urban ag/community garden-site governance. Based in Alameda County, he addresses urban ag

related questions and many resources can be found on the UC ANR Urban Ag Website.



Josephine Borgeson

Deacon, Episcopa Diocese of Northern California

Deacon Phina Borgeson retired from paid church work redeveloping small congregations and continues part-time work in ministry education and mentoring. The daughter of a professional gardener and an excellent home cook, her interest in all aspects of healthful, tasty, seasonal food is lifelong. She brings to that interest experience in interfaith organizing, communication, and eco-theology. Phina lives in Santa Rosa, and gardens at the Stony Point Community Garden. She is a member of the Sonoma County Food System Alliance and the Anglican Society of Ordained Scientists, and serves on the advisory board of ISFC.



Moderator: Dr. Rev. Ambrose Carroll

Senior Pastor, Green the Church

Rev. Carroll is one of the nation's premiere Practical Theologians. A 1987 graduate of Oakland High School, Ambrose holds a B.S. in Clinical/Community Psychology from Florida Memorial University, a Masters of Divinity from Morehouse School of Religion, a Doctor of Divinity from United Theological Seminary, and a Masters of Business Administration from Golden Gate University's Ageno School of Business. In 2009, Ambrose founded the Renewal Worship Center Christian Church of Denver, CO. as one of the first foundationally environmentally friendly churches in the country. Ambrose combines theology with ecology and challenges the

church universal to embrace its mantle of creation care. Renewal was listed in the May addition of Fast Company Magazine and on CNN as one of the most innovative Business Ideas of 2011.

At present, Rev. Carroll and his family are expanding their work to the Bay Area and creating a National Campaign to “Green the Church”. Ambrose is now the Senior Pastor of the Church by The Side of The Road in Berkeley.



Steve Schwartz

Executive Director, Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative

Steve is an experienced food systems leader with over 25 years of professional experience working with community advocates, farmers and farm policy to advance food justice and sustainable agriculture. He founded the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative in 2012. He has worked with diverse Buddhist, Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities to facilitate projects connecting congregants to the food system and environment. He has presented at regional and national convening addressing the intersection of food and faith. He is the Founder of California FarmLink and served as Executive Director of that organization from 1998 until 2011 helping beginning and immigrant farmers gain access to land and capital. Before that Steve worked as Chief of Staff to two California Legislators, and served in U.S. Peace Corps Thailand. He has sold culinary mushrooms at his local farmers market since 2001!



Linda Mansell

Board Member, Windsor Presbyterian Church Food Pantry

Linda Mansell is a member of Windsor Presbyterian Church and has been a Food Pantry volunteer since its inception in 2012. Her contributions have helped steer the pantry in ways that provide for its continued success by encouraging ever-increasing community and financial support, ensuring stability and success even as client numbers grew 170% in recent years. She currently serves as a member of the 7-person “Bread* Board” overseeing the pantry. When not sourcing food or writing grants for the pantry, you’ll find her digging in her garden, doing Nosework with her dogs, or helping to translate gardening information into Spanish for the Sonoma County Master Gardeners.

**Bread = Building Relationships with Empathy And Dignity*



Randi Lachter: Randi Lachter is a public health professional with 27+ years of program development and management experience. She is currently working on emergency preparedness and response with Marin VOAD. Prior to joining the VOAD, she worked for Marin County Public Health as a liaison between community-based organizations and the County’s COVID response teams. She then shifted to managing the Community Response Team initiative focused on building and strengthening the public health infrastructure in collaboration with community organizations to address public health threats and emergencies more equitably. Prior to joining the county, she oversaw the state

of Minnesota’s statewide cessation programs. Randi joined the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) in 2017 as an at-large member and is currently the Chair of its Council. She enjoys coordinating meals for Homeward Bound shelters, walking her Golden Retriever and playing Mahj Jong.



My name is **Sandy Raffi-Rashed**.

I am retired from Pacific Bell/AT&T and Wells Fargo Bank where I was both a Technology Project and Account Manager.

In 1910, my family immigrated to Marin County, and I am a proud 3rd Generation Marin Resident. I was raised in San Rafael and raised my family living 26 years in Novato.

My husband, Mostafa, originally from Alexandria Egypt, and I have been married 41 years and have two sons. We spend several months a year in Egypt with our family.

I work with the Sisters Charity Fund to provide both emergency and ongoing monetary support for those in the community.

Oh, and I love to cook!

Reverend Floyd Thompkins, M.Div., is a gifted leader, preacher and teacher devoted to Christ,



and to creating a strong community. Concurrent to his new role at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Marin City, CA., Rev. Thompkins serves as the CEO of the [Justice and Peace Foundation](#), an organization continuing the tradition of building the beloved MLK community. He previously served as Vice President and Director of the Center for Innovation in Ministry of the San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was also the Associate Dean of Religious Life at two world-class institutions, Stanford and Princeton

Universities. Rev. Thompkins has published three books and many academic papers and is frequently called upon to give his perspectives and opinions on race, health care and spirituality.

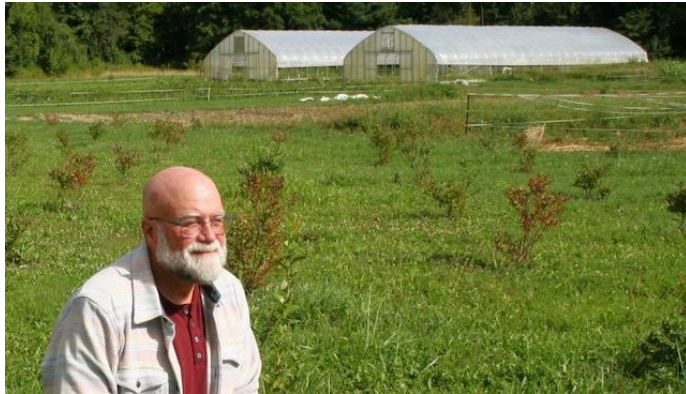


Jesus Mendoza, Jr., Regional Administrator, USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Western Region

Jesus Mendoza, Jr., became Regional Administrator with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), Western Regional Office (WRO), in May 2014. In this position, Jesus oversees 16 nutrition assistance programs in Alaska; California; Hawaii; Idaho; Nevada; Oregon; Washington; the Pacific Territories of American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and Indian Tribal Organizations in several western states. These programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); Food Distribution Programs; and other food assistance and nutrition programs. Jesus' goal is to create a positive change in programs which serve vulnerable Americans by building partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies to maintain the integrity, access, and nutritional quality of these programs.

Jesus began his career with FNS WRO in 2002 as a Program Specialist with the Special Nutrition Programs (SNP) and served as SNP Section Chief and Regional Director and Deputy Regional Administrator prior to his current position. Before joining FNS, Jesus served as Program Officer for International Planned Parenthood and worked for the World Wildlife Fund, Latin America and Caribbean Region offices. In addition, Jesus served in the Peace Corps in Ecuador and Morocco and the U.S. Army.

Jesus earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Southwest Texas State University and Master's degree in International Development Project Management from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Jesus is a native of Laredo, Texas, and currently lives in Berkeley, California.



Dr. Tim Van Meter is an Associate Professor at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). He leads ecology and justice specializations in the M.Div. MAPT, and D.Min degrees at MTSO. He directs the Master of Arts in Social Justice and the Master of Arts in Public Theology degrees. He is currently the director for a grant program funded through the Lily Endowment for pastoral and lay education exploring climate

change, antiracism, trauma informed responses, and possibilities for resilient communities. In 2023 he also led a 6-week educational engagement with young adults exploring the intersections of food sovereignty, antiracism, climate change, and the complex challenges of constructing hopeful vocation and hospitable, resilient communities. He previously led a project funded through the Luce Foundation to increase ecological content in theological and religious studies curriculum.

Dr. Van Meter serves as the Coordinator for Ecological Initiatives for MTSO. MTSO has established a 12.5 acre organic farm, integrated the farm with the dining hall serving 85% of all food from local, organic, and humane sources; commit to solar for electric and closed-loop geothermal for the primary academic buildings. His current research is at the intersections of ecological practices within faith communities, young adult activism, food sovereignty, regenerative farms/soils, and farmers' understandings of the sacred in relationship to land and vocation.



Andy Naja-Riese

Andy Naja-Riese is CEO of the Agricultural Institute of Marin, a Bay Area non-profit that works to educate, inspire, and connect communities, responsible farmers, and producers as part of a healthy, earth-friendly, equitable local and regional food system. He has worked in federal, state, and local anti-hunger, public health, and food systems work for over 17 years. He has worked in federal, state, and local anti-hunger, public health, and food systems work for 17 years. Andy is currently the Co-Chair of the Marin County Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Collaborative, serves on the Steering Committees of the Marin Carbon Project, Marin Feeding Work Group, Bay Area Agricultural Plan, sits on

the National Farm to School Network's Advisory Board, and represents AIM on the California Food and Farming Network, Food and Farm Resilience Coalition, and Save Market Match

Coalition. He received the 2022 CVNL Heart of Marin award for Excellence in Leadership and the 2023 Farmers Market Champion of the Year award from CAFF.



Kristina and Safwan Daya, Mazza Catering/St. Seraphim's Orthodox Church

Owners Safwan and Kristina respectively originate not only their roots but passion for the Mediterranean cuisine from Syria, Jordan and the greater Levant. Our inspiration for bringing flavors, techniques and dining style and most importantly cooking with Nafas. The Arabic word refers to an intangible innate factor that renders exceptional cooking. Essentially Nafas is the part of the cooking that comes from your soul.

"Mazza" in Arabic means "many plates" which are typically shared with good company at joyous occasions. Mazza Catering was created in 2011 to

provide a high end, luxury, customized catering service that would stand out highlighting the local culture and beauty of the region.



Katie Evenbeck (she/her) is the Executive Director of Congregation Shomrei Torah, a reform synagogue in Santa Rosa. Prior to coming to Shomrei Torah, for more than 17 years, Katie served as the Executive Director of St. Dorothy's Rest, an Episcopal camp and retreat center located in West Sonoma County. In 2018, Carl Higbie, Chief of External Affairs Director for the Corporation for National and Community Service (NCCC) awarded Evenbeck with the [Presidential Service Award](#). The Presidential Service Award is the highest civilian honor bestowed by the President of the United States. The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) is a national volunteer awards program that encourages citizens to live a life of service and offers presidential gratitude and national recognition. PVSA recognizes, celebrates and inspires

volunteerism, service and citizenship in the community.

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