

# IM

## SPRING 2016 MOSAIC

INTERFAITH  
MINISTRIES

FOR GREATER HOUSTON

3303 Main St  
Houston, TX 77002



www.imgh.org  
713.533.4900



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# SPRING 2016 MOSAIC

A PUBLICATION OF INTERFAITH MINISTRIES FOR GREATER HOUSTON



**Martin B. Cominsky**  
President and CEO

Every season is a busy season at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston. As you will read in this edition of Mosaic, this Spring is no exception.

Topping our list is our 2016 Tapestry Gala, which was held on May 5th at the Hilton Americas-Houston and raised over \$565,000 for IM. This very special evening was a time to celebrate and raise funds for the many programs we offer to homebound seniors, refugees and the interfaith community.

This year, we were excited to honor Charles and Lily Foster with the 2016 Tapestry Award. We chose to recognize the Fosters for their work in helping people, regardless of their country of origin, with remarkable dignity and service. A noted immigration attorney, Foster serves as Honorary Consul General of the Kingdom of Thailand in Houston and is the former Chairman of the Board for IM. Lily Foster is an accomplished actress and community activist. The Fosters followed in a long line of distinguished honorees that have included Dr. Sushma and Devinder Mahajan; Dr. John and Anne Mendelsohn; and Marie and Vijay Goradia.

Secretary and Mrs. James A. Baker, III were this year's honorary Gala chairs. The Gala's co-chairs were: Honorary Consul General and Mrs. Phillip Aronoff; Mr. and Mrs. Shahzad Bashir; Mr. and Mrs. Alan Crain; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Everett; Mr. and Mrs. David B. Jones; and Mr. Bill King.

This year's Gala brought some changes from previous years, including an attractive selection of silent auction items that brought in over \$17,000 for IM. I would like to thank all our auction donors, especially Alan Helfman of River Oaks Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram who donated an impressive array of sports memorabilia. We also had a fantastic multimedia presentation, thanks to a generous in-kind donation from Deutser. The evening included a moving interfaith prayer, and inspiring musical selections.

You can read about other exciting events that we have coming up in this issue of Mosaic. Thank you for your ongoing support of Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston. It means so much to the people that we help!

Sincerely,

Martin B. Cominsky  
President & CEO

### March For Meals



### Best Friends Brunch



Our 2016 **Best Friends Brunch** was a howling success! Nearly 300 guests attended the January 30th event at Hotel ZaZa. IM raised more than \$112,000 at the brunch for aniMeals on Wheels, a program that provides food for pets belonging to IM's Meals on Wheels seniors. Guests at the champagne brunch included honoree **Leisa Holland-Nelson**, the 2016 aniMeals on Wheels Champion and brunch chairs **Laura Max Rose** and **Ben Rose**.

IM celebrated March for Meals with an appearance on **Great Day Houston** and meal deliveries with State Rep. **Gene Wu**, Harris County Judge **Ed Emmett**, Channel 13 reporter **Courtney Fischer** and Sunny 99.1's **Dana Tyson**. March for Meals is a national celebration recognizing March 22, 1972, when President Richard Nixon signed into law a measure that amended the Older Americans Act of 1965 and established a national nutrition program for seniors 60 years and older.





## Dinner Dialogues



The Interfaith Relations Department will hold a Dinner Dialogue on Thursday, June 4, 2016. Dinner Dialogues are the cornerstone of our interfaith program. This event focuses on conversations held in private homes where groups of eight to 12 participants gather to learn about the faith practices and traditions of others.

In February, Dr. Rad and Ragini Miryala served as dinner hosts for a Dinner Dialogue event. Rad shared some of his thoughts about this popular event:

"I am happy to report that the evening was a great success. After appetizers and introductions, we were able to meet individuals from several different belief systems extending from Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Spiritualist beliefs and even Agnosticism... Several members of the group commented on how much they enjoyed learning about each other's faiths and how they felt that our faiths had more similarities than differences. It was also noted that all the faiths shared fundamental themes of love, tolerance, and brotherhood.

I am proud to live in the great city of Houston which offers so much diversity of cultures working in a unified effort to make the city a better place. It is encouraging to see organizations like Interfaith Ministries building a common dialogue between the many faiths that make up our city and that through these discussions we are able to build a community based on love and tolerance."

The title of the June 4 dialogue is: "Expanding the Circle: Interfaith Dialogue Needs You, Houston Needs Interfaith Dialogue." Dinners start at 6:30 p.m. and last until 9 p.m. The cost is \$20. If you are a prior Dinner Dialogue attendee, bring a new attendee for free! For more information and to register, go to [www.imgh.org](http://www.imgh.org).

## Labels of Love

Looking to personalize your giving? IM's new Labels of Love program provides businesses, congregations, organizations and generous individuals with an opportunity to put a personal touch on their giving. We call it our "Labels of Love" Campaign, and by donating just \$1,000, as has Houston's Spanish United Pentecostal Church, you can feed all 4,000 seniors for one day! In return, we'll recognize your contributions on a label affixed to each meal we serve that day. You can imagine the 4,000 smiles your generosity will create!

To learn more, contact Jackie Armstrong at 713-533-4925, or [jarmstrong@imgh.org](mailto:jarmstrong@imgh.org).



## Operation IMPact

Hunger doesn't stop for storms, but sometimes Houston's foul weather makes it impossible for IM's drivers to deliver meals to our homebound seniors.

For those times when inclement weather prevents us from making our rounds, like the recent floods, we provide each senior with a box of "self-stable" food and a case of bottled water. Delivering 4,000 boxes takes a Herculean effort, so this year we are inviting the public to help with this project, called Operation IMPact.

Groups are invited to join us at one of five locations on Saturday, May 21, 2016. To sign up or learn more, contact Tabinda Ghani at [tghani@imgh.org](mailto:tghani@imgh.org), or go to [www.imgh.org](http://www.imgh.org).

Just a few hours of your time can go a long way toward keeping seniors fed when weather keeps us from fulfilling our mission.

## EID for Refugees

IM will once again be hosting an Eid for Refugees event this June. On June 18th, volunteers will put together gift baskets for refugees who need our help. There will be a kick off to the event on June 17th that will feature an interfaith iftar. During this Islamic holiday, which falls at the end of the holy fast of Ramadan, Muslims are encouraged to remember Abraham's willingness to sacrifice by sharing a meal with family, neighbors, and those in need. Special thanks to the Itani Family Gift Fund, Eid for Refugees sponsor. Look for more information on Eid for Refugees at [www.imgh.org](http://www.imgh.org).

## aniMeals on Wheels

Last month, IM held a pet food drive for its aniMeals on Wheels program. The need for donations and volunteer drivers keeps growing, as does the number of seniors' pets we feed. Each month we need over 9,000 pounds of pet food. Thank you to all our aniMeals sponsors, especially Fred & Linda Marshall. To learn how you can help, contact Heather Mann at 713-533-4936 or [hmann@imgh.org](mailto:hmann@imgh.org).

