

# News Brief: March 2-15, 2016 edition

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South Valley clergy who participated

## **Clergy unite to strengthen bonds of interfaith community**

The refugee crisis from the Syrian civil war is resulting in untold numbers of suffering and displaced people. In response to fearful reactions to this crisis, local clerical leaders united to address their concerns regarding fears, prejudice and racial or religious intolerance. They are committed to strengthen the bonds of the interfaith community through actions from both clergy and the lay community, according to Rabbi Debbie Israel with Congregation Emeth in Morgan Hill.

One such action was an interfaith service, led by 15 local clergy, and held Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day. About 250 people attended the service, held at Advent Lutheran Church and led by clergy from many of the local religious organizations, representing the Christian, Islamic, Jewish, and Hindu communities.

These religious organizations have also created an interfaith planning committee, which envisions facilitating gatherings that lead to finding common ground.

Community members interested in taking part should look for future announcements of interfaith activities. Additionally, any clergy or religious institutions not currently involved who would like to be included should contact Rabbi Debbie Israel at [templerabbi@Emeth.net](mailto:templerabbi@Emeth.net).

*- By Staff Reports*