

**PENINSULA INTERFAITH ACTION**

## A NEW CHAPTER AT PIA

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By Diana Reddy, PIA Co-Chair  
Woodside Road United Methodist Church

At the end of June, we will officially turn the page on Chapter One: PIA's First Ten Years. David Mann will be retiring, leaving PIA a strong, accomplished organization, secure in its reputation, its resources, its highly committed professional staff and its dedicated and skilled leaders. David has been with us since the beginning when fifteen congregations founded PIA ten years ago. Now we have thirty diverse member congregations that can proudly point to ten years of "Building Justice through Faith" and David's positive imprint is present everywhere in our success stories. We will miss David's passion, insight, inspiration, wisdom and daunting challenges.

My own sadness is tempered by excitement as we open the door to Chapter Two: PIA's Second Ten Years. The PIA Board of Directors is very pleased that Wesley Woo, a Community Organizer with PIA for almost three years, has agreed to serve as Director for the Interim for the coming year. Wesley's solid background, his commitment to PIA and its growth, and his calm nature will help us greatly through this transition year. Wesley will shepherd us well as we embrace PIA's multiculturalism project, as we examine more fully who we are as an organization, and as we reach back to our own congregations to talk about what role we all play in this work of seeking justice through faith. I am excited, and I invite you to join PIA as the page to Chapter Two is turned!

*On June 21 we will celebrate David with a retirement party.  
See Page 6 for more details.*

# PIA Community News and Views

MAY/MAYO 2007

Artículos en español en las paginas 4 y 5



Linda Kilby and Gabriel Ventura participate in a one-on-one discussion during PIA's Multicultural Workshop on May 5 to 6. Thirty-six PIA leaders attended this two-day, overnight workshop facilitated by VISIONS, Inc., as part of our effort to recognize, understand and appreciate cultural differences. Leaders worked to understand the perspective of persons from other cultures and to realize how their own cultural assumptions impact themselves and others.

## PIA LEADERS UNITE TO PROTECT FAMILIES AND HALT ICE RAIDS

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Last September PIA held an exploratory workshop on Immigrant Justice and now several PIA congregations are working hard to create opportunities to improve the lives of immigrants on the Peninsula. PIA congregations El Buen Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Athanasius and St. Joseph (along with the Day Worker Center) are now working together for immigrant justice.

"We object to federal government action that has broken up families, left citizen children abandoned, and traumatized whole communities," stated Rev. Lange-Soto, pastor of El Buen Pastor Episcopal Church in

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## How to Contact PIA

### Peninsula Interfaith Action

1336 Arroyo Avenue  
San Carlos, CA 94070-3913  
Phone: 650-592-9181  
Fax: 650-592-9183  
E-mail: PIAPICO@SBCGLOBAL.NET  
Visit us on the web at: [www.piapico.org](http://www.piapico.org).

## PIA Staff

Wesley Woo, Interim Executive Director  
David Mann, Outgoing Executive Director  
Lori Abrahamsohn, Office Manager  
Krystal Caves, Community Organizer  
Carolina Cervantes, Community Organizer  
Lisa Hicks-Dumanske, Development Director  
Mary Klein, Community Organizer  
Shoshanna Spector, Community Organizer

## How You Can Get Involved

### PARTICIPATE

Local organizing with congregations is the heart of PIA's work. If your congregation has a PIA Local Organizing Committee, talk to your leaders and get involved. If your congregation is not yet working with PIA, talk to your clergy about exploring a relationship between PIA and your congregation. Please call PIA at 650-592-9181 for further info.

### CONTRIBUTE

**Because PIA is a 501 ( c ) ( 3 ) nonprofit organization, your donations are tax-deductible. Please send donations to the PIA office using the envelope included in this newsletter or visit [www.piapico.org](http://www.piapico.org) to make a contribution with your credit card.**

PIA seeks to build a stronger base of individual donors. Your giving affirms PIA's work and makes our organization more self-sufficient. PIA needs the support of individuals, businesses and groups who want to invest in what we are doing.

## Newsletter Editor

Lori Abrahamsohn

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Redwood City, a new PIA member congregation. Rev. Lange-Soto was speaking at a PIA press conference called as part of a national effort, headed by PICO, to call on congress to halt Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids and hold hearings to investigate ICE behavior.

Those impacted by ICE raids include Isabel Aguirre, of St. Francis of Assisi, a mother of four children born in the United States, who was placed under house arrest last month and is therefore unable to go to work and earn to money to meet her family's basic needs, while her husband was immediately deported without appeal or legal counsel. Mrs. Aguirre has lived in the Palo Alto area for over 20 years, has a work permit, and was trying to become a legal resident.

PIA leaders will meet with Representative Anna Eshoo, 14<sup>th</sup> District, on July 21 to continue to explore opportunities for a just reform for immigrants.

PIA has a new website!  
Check it out at  
**[www.piapico.org](http://www.piapico.org)**.

You will find calendars, event flyers, staff contact info, articles about our work, a donation page and lots more info about PIA and our work.



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY at PIA**  
**Would you like to volunteer a few hours a week at the PIA office? If you are interested, please contact Lori at 650-592-9181, ext. 10 or at [piapico@sbcglobal.net](mailto:piapico@sbcglobal.net)**

## PIA YOUTH ORGANIZE FOR GANG PREVENTION EFFORTS

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On May 9, Youth Motivated for Action and Involvement (YMAI) in Mountain View participated in its first PIA action, working alongside experienced LOC members from St. Athanasius Church and St. Joseph Church, gathering 250 concerned residents of Mountain View. The youth provided stories and information about their needs and the reality of gang activity in Mountain View. Two City Council members were asked to help make youth a priority in Mountain View by creating a teen center, printing recreation department information in Spanish, and increasing the scholarship funds for recreation department activities.

YMAI started with just five teenagers in February. These youth began to do one-on-ones and listen to the issues facing the young people in their community. The main themes that have come up are racism in schools, gangs and violence, and the image of teenagers in the city. YMAI hosted its first event at the end of February with about thirty teenagers from various races and schools. The focus of the meeting was to look at power and issues teens face. Since then, we have grown into a core team of twelve youth and a base of over thirty teenagers in the city.

YMAI is an outlet for youth to not only talk about issues such as racism, but to think about them analytically. Even though YMAI is fairly new, one can already see the changes happening in the youth themselves, as they learn to view the world differently and gain confidence in themselves and in the possibility of being able to create changes.

Mountain View youth address crowd of 250 at May 9th bilingual community forum with city council members to urge creation of a teen center, Spanish language printed materials about recreation programs and more scholarship funds for rec programs.



Maria Marroquin (far right, kneeling), Director of the Dayworker Center and member of the PIA LOC at St. Joseph, attended the PICO National Network assembly in Washington DC on March 6 to 8 for children's healthcare and immigration reform with a fourteen-person delegation from PIA with whom she is pictured above.

## PIA SEEKS HEALTHCARE FOR ALL CHILDREN

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By Maria Marroquin, Translated by Tere Aicardi

I am pleased to have an opportunity to report on my experience in Washington D.C for PICO National Network's Faith and Families summit. I want to note that this is not the first time I have visited Washington for the purpose of facing our elected representatives. I make this clarification to highlight that I am not easily impressed. However, this time, our federal officials gave us a great and respectful welcome when we mentioned that we were there representing PIA. We, as PIA's representatives, went with the responsibility to express the needs of our congregations and the communities they are in. I believe that we achieved our goals.

PIA's delegation was part of a larger and not less well-known and respected organization, the PICO National Network. We were approximately 400 representatives united for the same goal: to seek justice in the area of immigration reform and of healthcare for children. Together we visited 91 legislative representatives of our different locations, making the same request to each of them: **realize the critical need for immigration reform and reauthorize funds for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).** Most of the representatives promised to vote on behalf our petitions, advocate for our cause with their colleagues and visit us in our home towns in the near future.

*Three weeks after the trip, Congress included \$50 billion in new funding for children's health in the budget. But the fight to provide health coverage for all children is not over. Congress must still reauthorize SCHIP. PIA, along with PICO, will continue to press for speedy reauthorization that will help states move ahead with covering all children.*

## LOS LIDERES DE PIA SE UNEN PARA PROTEGER A LAS FAMILIAS Y DETENER LAS REDADAS DEL ICE

Traducido por Tere Aicardi

En el mes de septiembre de 2006, PIA realizó un taller exploratorio sobre Justicia al Inmigrante y ahora varias congregaciones de PIA están trabajando arduamente a fin de crear oportunidades para mejorar las vidas de los inmigrantes en la Península. Las congregaciones de PIA como el Buen Pastor, San Francisco de Asís, San Atanasio y San José (conjuntamente con el Centro de Trabajadores) trabajan conjuntamente en el tema de la justicia para el inmigrante.

“Nosotros nos oponemos a la acción del gobierno federal que ha separado a familias, que ha dejado a niños ciudadanos abandonados y ha traumatizado a comunidades enteras”, manifestó el Rev. Lange-Soto, pastor de la Iglesia Episcopal el Buen Pastor, en Redwood City, una nueva congregación miembro de PIA. El Rev. Lange-Soto estuvo hablando en una conferencia de prensa de PIA convocada como parte de un esfuerzo nacional, encabezada por el clero de PICO, a fin de llamar la atención del congreso para detener las redadas del [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] o ICE (por sus siglas en Inglés) y para crear oportunidades que sean escuchadas y para investigar la conducta de funcionarios del ICE.

Entre los impactados por las redadas del ICE se incluye a Isabel Aguirre, de la Iglesia de San Francisco de Asís, madre de cuatro niños nacidos en los Estados Unidos, a quien se puso en arresto domiciliario el mes pasado y por ello, no puede salir a trabajar y ganar el sueldo para satisfacer las necesidades básicas de su familia, mientras tanto, su esposo fue deportado inmediatamente sin lugar a apelación o consulta legal. La señora Aguirre ha vivido en el área de Palo Alto por más de 20 años, tiene un permiso de trabajo y estaba tratando de ser una residente legal.

Los líderes de PIA serán reunirse con la Representante del Distrito 14, la Sra. Anna Eshoo como el 21 de julio para explorar oportunidades para conseguir una reforma justa para los inmigrantes.



Frente a 250 residentes, la juventud solicitó a dos miembros del Consejo de la Ciudad, la creación de un centro de adolescentes, asimismo pidió que se imprima la información sobre los programas de recreación en español y se aumenten los fondos para becas para las actividades del Departamento de Recreación.

## LA JUVENTUDE DE PIA ORGANIZA ESFUERZOS DE PREVENCIÓN CONTRA LAS PANDILLAS

Traducido por Tere Aicardi

El pasado 9 de mayo, el grupo Juventud Motivada para la Acción y el Compromiso (YMAI) en Mountain View participó en su primera acción con PIA, trabajando al lado de experimentados miembros del Comité Organizador Local de las iglesias de San Atanasio y de San José, congregando a 250 residentes preocupados de Mountain View. La juventud proporcionó historias personales e información acerca de sus necesidades, así como la realidad de la actividad de las pandillas en Mountain View. Se solicitó a dos o los miembros del Consejo de la Ciudad que traten a la juventud como una prioridad en Mountain View.

En sus comienzos, YMAI se formó con cinco jóvenes, en Febrero. Estos jóvenes empezaron a realizar entrevistas de uno a uno y a escuchar las circunstancias que otros jóvenes están pasando en su comunidad. Los asuntos más común son el racismo en las escuelas, pandillas y violencia, y la imagen de los jóvenes en la ciudad. YMAI tuvo su primer evento a finales de Febrero, al que atrajeron a unos treinta jóvenes de varias razas y escuelas. El enfoque de la junta fue el poder y los asuntos de los jóvenes. Desde entonces, hemos crecido a grupo integrado por doce jóvenes y una base de más de treinta en la ciudad.

YMAI es una forma de que los jóvenes hablen sobre asuntos como el racismo, y también es una forma de que analicen dichos asuntos. Aunque YMAI es nuevo, ya pueden verse los cambios en los jóvenes, están empezando a ver el mundo de forma diferente y a tener confianza en ellos mismos y en la posibilidad de crear cambio.

## PIA TRABAJA POR CUIDADO DE SALUD POR TODOS LOS NIÑOS

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Por Maria Marroquin  
Iglesia de St. Joseph y El Centro de  
Trabajadores de Día en Mountain  
View

Gracias por la oportunidad de compartir mi experiencia en Washington D.C.

Debo resaltar que no es la primera vez que viajo a Washington con el mismo propósito, (encarar a nuestros representantes legislativos), aclaro esto solo para destacar que no soy muy fácil de impresionar, sin embargo, esta ocasión destaca por la gran acogida que los mismos nos dieron, al decir que íbamos en representación de PIA, la bienvenida fue mas cordial y respetuosa. Los catorce representantes de PIA teníamos la responsabilidad de expresar las necesidades de nuestras respectivas comunidades (y congregaciones) escribe honestamente creo que cumplieron con su cometido.

La organización de PIA fuimos parte de un grupo mayor y no menos reconocido y respetado: PICO, sumamos 400 representantes unidos por un mismo fin: Influir de manera preponderante persiguiendo la Justicia Social, juntos visitamos a 91 representantes legislativos de nuestras diferentes localidades pidiendo lo mismo: una comprehensive reforma migratoria y la reactivación de la programa estatal de segura de salud por los niños (SCHIP).

Conseguimos el compromiso de la mayoría de ellos de votar a favor de nuestras peticiones y abogar por nuestra causa ante sus colegas, además de compromiso para reunirse con nosotros en nuestra localidad en un futuro próximo.

Tres semanas después del viaje, el Congreso incluyo \$50 billones para nuevos financiamientos relacionadas con la salud de los niños en el presupuesto. Pero la lucha para poder suministrar cobertura de salud para todos los niños no se ha terminado. El Congreso tiene todavía que volver a autorizar al SCHIP. PICO continuará presionando para una re-autorización *rápida que contribuirá a que los Estados puedan ir hacia la cobertura de salud para todos los niños.*



Maria Marroquin (al derecho en la foto), Directora del Centro de Trabajadores, asistió a la Asamblea de la Red Nacional de PICO celebrada en Washington DC del 6 al 8 de marzo pasado donde se trataron los temas de Servicios de Cuidado de la Salud para los Niños y la Reforma Inmigratoria con una delegación conformada por 13 personas de PIA (en la fotografía abajo).

## DESDE EL DIRECTOR DE PIA

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Traducido por Tere Aicardi



El próximo 1º de Julio del presente año 2007, será efectiva mi jubilación como Director Ejecutivo de PIA. Me gusta pensar en esta fecha de jubilación como la de un cruce hacia un “refinamiento”. Mi esposa, Penny, ya se ha despedido y ha prometido ser un “mentor”. Luego de 38 años de ministerio – de los cuales 24 han sido aquellos dedicados a la organización con la Red Nacional de PICO – será un cambio profundo.

Yo voy a extrañar profundamente al personal aquí y a todos los numerosos líderes increíbles de PIA. Estos diez años con PIA están entre los más ricos de mi jornada entera de ministerio. El hecho de saber que PIA se mueva hacia buenas y competentes manos contribuye a disminuir la pena. Wesley Woo, un ministro ordenado Presbiteriano quien ha sido uno de nuestros funcionarios por casi tres años, será un Director Interino súper. Además, nosotros contamos con un equipo de funcionarios muy trabajajeres, creativos y maravillosos y con amplia experiencia. Espero con mucha expectativa escuchar noticias del crecimiento de PIA y de su ascendencia.

Yo sólo tengo dos puntos claves que mencionar al dejar la escena. El éxito de PIA radica en nuestra adherencia al modelo de PICO donde las relaciones vienen primero y la Fe está al centro de todo. ¡Vayan Con Dios!

You are invited to a dinner in honor of

## David L. Mann

on the occasion of his retirement as

Executive Director of

Peninsula Interfaith Action

and in celebration of

38 Years of Social Change Ministry

Thursday, June 21, 2007

six o'clock in the evening

Community United Church of Christ

1336 Arroyo Avenue, San Carlos

\$10 - \$100 per person (sliding scale)

RSVP by June 5, 2007!

Visit PIA's website at [www.piapico.org](http://www.piapico.org), or  
call 650-592-9181, ext. 10, for more information.

Usted esta invitado a una comida en  
honor de

## David L. Mann,

con ocasion de su retiro como

Director Ejecutivo de

Peninsula Interfaith Action y

con motivo de celebrar 38 anos de

Ministerio para

un Cambio Social

Jueves, el 21 de Junio, 2007

a las 6:00 de la tarde

Community United Church of Christ

1336 Arroyo Avenue, San Carlos

\$10 to \$100 por persona (dependente en su  
abilidad de pagar)

Responder por el 5 de Junio

Vea a [www.piapico.org](http://www.piapico.org) o llame a  
650-592-9181, x10 para mas informacion

## Health Coverage for Everyone on the Peninsula!

PIA Public  
Meeting with  
County Supervisors

Adrienne Tissier & Liz Kniss

**Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 7:30 — 8:45 p.m.**

Woodside High School, 199 Churchill Avenue  
(Woodside Road & Alameda de las Pulgas)

- Interpretation provided
- Buses provided
- For more info, call Mary Klein at 650-796-4160
- Baby-sitting provided

## ¡Cobertura médico para todos en la Península!

Reunion pública  
con PIA y las  
Supervisoras

- Interpretación en español
- Servicio de guardería
- Transportación
- Para más información, llame a Shoshanna Spector, 650-714-5259

## PIA Community Heroes Honored on April 27, 2007

PIA's sixth annual Community Heroes Luncheon was held on Friday, April 27, 2007. 450 people from all over the Peninsula representing the faith community, foundations, corporations, non-profit organizations and government gathered together to honor those who work to build more just communities. This event was PIA's largest and most successful yet! The number of people attending our event, the scope of PIA's issue work and influence, and the inspired testimony was impressive. Congratulations to the heroes listed below whom were honored at this year's event.



PIA leader Tom Quinn, center, poses with San Mateo County Supervisors Rose Jacobs Gibson (left) and Richard Gordon (right), as Tom receives a Community Hero Award at our April 27 luncheon. Tom was one of 23 local heroes chosen by their congregations to be honored for their important contributions to community change. Supervisors Gordon and Jacobs Gibson were also honored as PIA's Public Sector Heroes for 2007. Congratulations and thank you to all our heroes whose names are listed to the left.

### Local Community Heroes

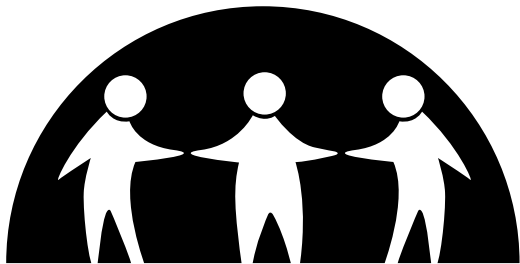
|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Karen Peterson</b>       | First United Methodist Church, Redwood City  |
| <b>Jennifer Escalona</b>    | St. Athanasius Church, Mountain View   |
| <b>Norma Olmos</b>          | St. Joseph Church, Mountain View   |
| <b>George Chippendale</b>   | St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Palo Alto   |
| <b>Jake Warde</b>           | All Saints' Episcopal Church, Palo Alto  |
| <b>Sonja Spencer</b>        | Faith Missionary Baptist Church, East Palo Alto  |
| <b>Joy Sleizer</b>          | First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto   |
| <b>Larry Moody</b>          | Fellowship of Faith, East Palo Alto  |
| <b>Gail Price</b>           | St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Palo Alto   |
| <b>Rachel Vasiliev</b>      | Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto   |
| <b>Diane Wakeham</b>        | Catholic Community at Stanford   |
| <b>Tom Quinn</b>            | Chalice Christian Church and Healthcare Access Allies<br>of PIA (including St. Vincent de Paul Society ) |
| <b>Joan B. Karlin</b>       | Congregation Beth Am, Los Altos Hills  |
| <b>Linda O'Brien</b>        | St. Peter Church, Pacifica   |
| <b>Jane Day</b>             | Woodside Road United Methodist Church, Redwood City  |
| <b>Phyllis Lippe</b>        | Peninsula Sinai Congregation, Foster City  |
| <b>Cruz Hyland</b>          | St. Francis of Assisi Church, East Palo Alto   |
| <b>LaShauna Powers</b>      | St. Samuel COGIC, East Palo Alto   |
| <b>Peggy Meadows</b>        | Church of the Good Shepherd, Pacifica  |
| <b>Olga-Barbra</b>          | Congregational Church of San Mateo   |
| <b>Harry Dehlinger</b>      | Congregational Church of San Mateo   |
| <b>Rev. Wilson de Ocera</b> | Daly City United Methodist & Broadmoor Presbyterian Church, Daly City                                    |
| <b>Richard Strock</b>       | Day Worker Center, Mountain View   |

### Public Sector Community Heroes

**Hon. Rose Jacobs Gibson**, President, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
**Hon. Richard S. Gordon**, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

### Private Sector Community Hero

**Becky Morgan**, President, Morgan Family Foundation



## PENINSULA INTERFAITH ACTION

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Artículos en español en las paginas 4 y 5.

### Director's Corner

Photo by John Sack



July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, I will be retiring from the role of Executive Director of PIA. I like to think of this retirement date as my crossing into a "re-firement". My wife, Penny, is already "re-fired" and has promised to be a mentor. After 38 straight years of ministry—24 of those organizing with the PICO National Network—it will be a profound change.

I will sorely miss the staff here and the many incredible leaders of PIA. These ten years with PIA have been among the richest of my entire journey of ministry. It eases the pain to know that PIA is moving along into good and competent hands. Wesley Woo, an ordained Presbyterian minister who has been on our staff for almost three years, will be a superb Director for the Interim. In addition, we have a hardworking, creative and wonderful staff team with lots of experience. I look forward to hearing news of PIA's growth and ascendancy.

I have just two key points to note as I leave the scene. One is that the current growth in PIA is making us a more multicultural organization. The training VISIONS, INC., is providing for PIA has the potential to make us the best model of multicultural and interfaith organizations working *together* in the Bay Area. The other is that PIA success is rooted in our adherence to the PICO model where relationships come first and faith is at the core of all. *Never let our success take PIA away from the core work that brought the achievements!*

Vaya Con Dios!

Rev. David L. Mann

### Mission of PIA

Peninsula Interfaith Action empowers ordinary people to make extraordinary changes to improve their communities. PIA is rooted in the shared values of our democratic and faith traditions. PIA's 31 member congregations create a powerful organization representing 19,000 families from diverse religious, racial, and economic backgrounds.