



Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

May 7, 2018

Dear friends at ING

A-salaam-u-lekum. Greetings of peace.

On behalf of the 110 congregations and members of Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County, please accept my heartiest congratulations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of all the great work Islamic Network Group has been doing. ING has not only survived, but dare I say, has thrived despite serious challenges faced by the Muslim and the Interfaith communities.

ING is a leader in promoting Interfaith harmony through its various programs such as Interfaith Speaker Bureau, Know Your Neighbor (KYN), educational presentations at schools, hospitals, with first responders and at places of worship, as well as the recently launched Jewish-Muslim council to promote understanding and harmony between Jewish and Muslim groups. You have also developed robust educational programs- both online and through the Interfaith Speakers Bureau that has undoubtedly made a positive difference in the communities we live. You have partnered with numerous religious and secular organizations to combat Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of hate and bigotry, and have stood in solidarity with other faith groups and minorities when they need the support the most.

There is no doubt that ING has contributed significantly to building bridges between Americans of various backgrounds.

Our Interfaith Council is proud to have been a sponsor and a supporter of ING in some of the collaborative work and position statements on various issues facing our faith communities. I hope this relationship will continue to grow, especially in these troubled times when our freedom of speech and freedom of religious expression, as well as our civil liberties have been increasingly compromised.

Once again congratulations to all the good work your leadership and community teams are engaged in so tirelessly. Thanks for making our communities a better place to live. You have made a big difference!

"Envisioning a World of Interfaith Peace."

Shalom, Peace, Salaam, Om Shanti, Solh, Amani, Paz, 평화, Ping On...

Rev. Will McGarvey, Executive Director