



2005 Year in Review

2005 was a year of positive change, outreach and growth for The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado. You may be surprised at how many events and programs we were involved in. Here's a quick look back...

Building our Strength and Effectiveness: Organizational Activities

- We hired a part time paid staff member, administrative assistant Gwen Lipkie.
- Our board underwent intensive training conducted by the Gill Foundation.
- We began development of a strategic plan for 2006 through 2008.
- We gathered six people with extensive fundraising experience to form a 5-Star Development Commission.
- A part time grant writer was hired to help explore and secure new sources of financial support.
- We received substantial grants from The Denver Foundation, and the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, the Wolcott Family Foundation, and the national office of The Interfaith Alliance.
- We saw our membership grow from just over 600 people to over 700!

Helping Shape Colorado's Future: Public Policy Work

- In January, we staged a press conference to announce the theme of our 2005 work: "Investing in Colorado's Future: Rediscovering the Common Good."
- Our Public Policy Commission held three public issues forums, attracting over 300 people:
 - "Colorado's Budget: A Fiscal, Social and Moral Crisis"
 - "Colorado's Health Care System: A Fiscal, Social and Moral Crisis"
 - "Finding Common Ground: Funding the Common Good, The 2005 General Assembly"
- TIA-CO was an important member of Colorado Religious Communities for the Common Good, a statewide coalition that successfully worked to pass Referendum C.
- Our representatives met with Congressman Tom Tancredo, along with a diverse group of Coloradans from many faiths, to draft a statement promoting religious tolerance and opposing stereotyping.
- We defended Senator Ken Salazar on his position for filibustering as a preservation of checks and balances.
- TIA-CO participated locally in a protest, organized nationally by Sojourners in Washington, DC, against a federal budget bill that would cut up to \$50 billion from

programs providing food stamps, health care, student loans and other services for the poor.

Sharing our Vision: Outreach and Events

- Rabbi David Saperstein was featured at our Annual Meeting. He presented "Church and State: The Jewish Stake in the Debate" to an audience of almost 200 people.
- We conducted an Interfaith Dialogue at the Colorado Muslim Society, where participants learned about Islam and then met in small groups to share and discuss a diversity of faiths.
- In July, we rallied to support our friends and neighbors in the Muslim community at the Islamic Center in response to "Operation Save America/Denver picket."
- Over 800 people attended our *Sacred Celebration* Interfaith Music Festival in August.
- TIA-CO conducted monthly Meet-Up meetings in three different locations.
- We participated in the *Democracy Project* of the Gill Foundation, which provided free training and database enhancements to help with outreach and aid collaboration among fellow project participants.
- We completed Phase I of our Religious Foundations Project and developed plans for Phase II. We are excited to have commitment from a local congregation to bring in author Karen Armstrong for the final phase in 2007.

TIA-CO in the News

We were featured in the media several times in 2005, including:

- Maureen McCormack appeared on the Reggie Rivers TV show, "Drawing the Line," on January 12, speaking about the separation of church and state.
- "Groups praise Salazar for defending filibuster," Denver Post, May 10, 2005
- "Salazar's filibuster critics assailed," Rocky Mountain News, May 11, 2005
- "Concert crafted to link faithful," Rocky Mountain News, August 1, 2005
- "Tancredo, interfaith group work to smooth ties," Denver Post, August 10, 2005
- "Clergy coalition backs ballot measures," Rocky Mountain News, September 21, 2005
- "Tancredo, interfaith group split," Denver Post, November 21, 2005

Our thanks go to all of our members and supporters who helped make a difference in Colorado in 2005. We look forward to working with you in 2006.