

# Reno Birth 2012 Presentations Available Online



The greater Reno community gathering to celebrate “the shift in consciousness occurring now” from noon Friday, December 21-Saturday, December 22 was videotaped and presentations are now available online at the organization’s web site. Participants from the International Community of Christ were Reverend Gary Buchanan and Bishop Gene Savoy Jr.

To read more about the event and to see videos of the presentations, [follow this link to renobirth2012.tumblr.com](http://renobirth2012.tumblr.com) and the [“presentations and cameos” page](#) or go directly to the [YouTube channel for Reno Birth 2012](#) .

Rev. Buchanan spoke on the Community’s perspective of the year 2012, cycles, and changes in the sun. On the YouTube presentations page, scroll down to #28 “Historical Cycles of the Sun.”

Bishop Savoy participated in a panel of interfaith leaders that included a protestant, a member of Latter Days Saints, two Jewish rabbis, a Buddhist priest, a Hindu, a Muslim, and an atheist. The group spoke on the topic “How can the religions Get Along?” To see this presentation on YouTube, scroll down to #21 “Northern Nevada Religious Leaders discuss how to get along.”

Also of interest may be the presentation by long-time friend of the Community and president of the Satyachetana Movement in the United States, David Mitchell. To see his presentation, scroll down the YouTube page to #32 “The Scientific and spiritual Meaning of 2012.”

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# 27th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Memorial Service Held



Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales of the MLK Holiday Committee welcomes the gathering for the Memorial Service. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

The 27th annual Interfaith Community Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Service, sponsored by Northern Nevada Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Committee and the Nevada Clergy Association, was held on Sunday, January 20, 2013, at 3 p.m. at the Second Baptist Church, 1265 Montello Street, in Reno. The International Community of Christ, along with the Nevada Clergy Association and Northern Nevada Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Committee, both of which organizations Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. is president, were among the main sponsors of the event.



Keynote speaker Rev. Michael L. Randle addresses the congregation.  
PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

This year's program theme was "Moving Forward with the Dream." The keynote speaker, the Reverend Michael L. Randle, pastor of Second Baptist Church and president of the African-American Clergy Council of Northern Nevada, asked, Who will take the mantle of the prophet and carry on the work?

The late Onie Cooper, a civil rights activist in Northern Nevada for 40 years, was remembered on Sunday with the first presentation of the Onie Cooper humanitarian award. It was Rev. Cooper who helped begin the annual interfaith community memorial service 27 years ago in honor of his hero, King. In 2010, one year before Cooper died, the Reno activist visited Rev. Gene Savoy with a request. "He came to me and said 'I'm passing away,'" Savoy said. "He said 'I want you to be the chairman of the organization.' It was extraordinary."



The Reverend Onie Cooper Humanitarian Award was presented to Elder William "Bill" Moon, who serves on the Executive Committee for the Reno-Sparks chapter of the NAACP. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

The award went to Bill Moon of the Reno-Sparks NAACP branch executive committee and was presented during the interfaith memorial service "Moving Forward with the Dream" at the Second Baptist Church of Reno.



Rachelle Pellissier, regional vice-president of VOA in northern Nevada, accepted the award for VOA. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

The Humanitarian Award was also presented to Volunteers of

America (VOA), the non-profit organization that runs the family homeless shelters in downtown Reno. Rachelle Pellissier, regional vice-president of VOA in northern Nevada, accepted the award.

Bishop Gene Savoy, Jr., chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission and president of the Nevada Clergy Association, congratulated the recipients of the Onie Cooper Humanitarian Award for their “service and dedication to helping others as we celebrate the life and legacy of a great American, especially in the context of the issues that face us today.”



NCA President Gene Savoy Jr. addressed the congregation with closing remarks. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

NCA President Gene Savoy Jr. also addressed the congregation with a few closing remarks before the members of the gathering joined hands to sing a final song, “We Shall Overcome”:

*“We are all familiar with Dr. King’s legacy – clergyman, activist and civil rights leader – and that he was the foremost American proponent of using nonviolent methods following in the footsteps and in the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. He truly is a national icon in the history of America. . . .*

*“His vision of expanded American values and that of a color blind society established his reputation as one of the greatest orators. And we also know that he became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to end racial segregation and racial discrimination through nonviolent civil disobedience. . . .*

*“By the time of his death, he had refocused his efforts on ending poverty and advancing the concept of economic justice – a principle of Gandhi’s as well. Unfortunately, neither were successful in this regard due to their untimely deaths. . . .*

*“In 1959, with the assistance from a Quaker group, the American Friends Service Committee, Martin Luther King visited Gandhi’s birthplace. He was deeply moved and inspired by Gandhi’s success with non-violent activism, and it affected him in a profound way. He was able to deepen his understanding of non-violent resistance and his commitment to America’s struggle for civil rights and social justice. . . .*

*“On his final evening in India, King said, ‘Ssince being in India, I am more convinced than ever before that the method of nonviolent resistance is the most potent weapon available to oppressed people in their struggle for justice and human dignity. In a real sense, Mahatma Gandhi embodied in his life certain universal principles that are inherent in the moral structure of the universe, and these principles are as inescapable as the law of gravitation.’ . . .*

*“The rest is history, but, as history teaches us, there is still much to learn. And that is our task and our work.”*



PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling



Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. hold up prototype of the sign that will identify cars in the MLK Highway caravan. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

On Monday, January 21, 2013, participants in the 15th annual Community Memorial Caravan gathered at Second Baptist Church at 10:30 a.m. to drive a portion of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway (I-580) to honor King. After the caravan, a reception was held at the church.

[Link to the article on the MLK Memorial Service in the Reno Gazette-Journal.](#)

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## Reno Birth 2012 Event Well Attended



Left to Right: Reverend Ron Arnold, Doyle Brown, Daniel Sanchez, Rabbi ElisaBeth Beyer, Bishop Gene Savoy, Jr., Rajan Zed, Dr. Sherif Elfass, Dan Jacobsen, Reverend Phil Bryan, Sue Kennedy. PHOTO: Andy Hill

The greater Reno community was part of a global gathering to celebrate “the shift in consciousness occurring now.” The 30-hour event from noon Friday, December 21 through 9:00 PM Saturday, December 22 was attended by a number of groups and individuals. Participating from the International Community of Christ were Reverend Gary Buchanan and Bishop Gene Savoy Jr.

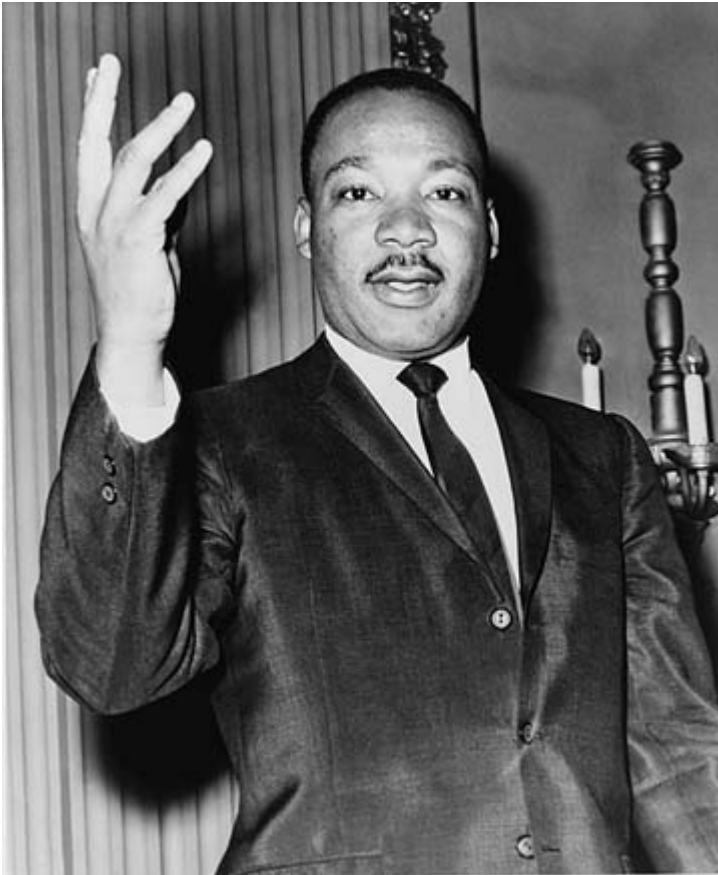
Rev. Buchanan spoke on the Community’s perspective of the year

2012, cycles, and changes in the sun. Bishop Savoy participated in a panel of interfaith leaders that included a Protestant, a member of Latter-Days Saints, two rabbis, a Buddhist priest, a Hindu, a Muslim, and an atheist. The group spoke on the topic “How can the religions get along?” Bishop Savoy promoted the fact that “heightened consciousness in the post-2012 world is the only viable way for people and religions to work together and transcend their differences.”

For more information on the Reno Birth 2012 event, [read the attached PDF flyer](#).

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## **Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Events Planned in Reno**



Reno, NV (January 2013) The Northern Nevada Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Committee and the Nevada Clergy Association announce the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Interfaith Community Memorial Service on Sunday January 20, 2013, at 3 p.m. at the Second Baptist Church, 1265 Montello Street in Reno. This year's program's theme is "Moving Forward with the Dream." The keynote speaker will be the Reverend Michael L. Randle, pastor of Second Baptist Church and president of the African-American Clergy Council of Northern Nevada.

The Reverend Onie Cooper Humanitarian Award will be presented to Elder William "Bill" Moon who serves on the Executive Committee for the Reno-Sparks chapter of the NAACP. The award will also be presented to Volunteers of America (VOA), the nonprofit organization that runs the family homeless shelters in downtown Reno. Rachelle Pellissier, regional vice-president of VOA in northern Nevada, will accept the award.

The chairman of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission and president of the Nevada Clergy Association, Bishop Gene

Savoy Jr., said, "We congratulate the recipients of the Onie Cooper Humanitarian Award for their service and dedication to helping others as we celebrate the life and legacy of a great American, especially in the context of the issues that face us today."

On Monday, January 21, 2013, the 15th annual Community Memorial Caravan will depart Second Baptist Church at 10:30 a.m. Participants will drive a portion of the Martin Luther King Jr. Highway (I-580) to honor King. The caravan will leave the church and drive north to Stead Blvd. It will proceed south to Neil Road and then back to the church, where a reception will be held.

Events are free and open to the public. For information, call Gene Savoy Jr., President, Nevada Clergy Association and Chairman, Northern Nevada Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Committee at (775) 786-1800 or e-mail [gsavoyjr@communityofchrist.org](mailto:gsavoyjr@communityofchrist.org).

[Click here to download a PDF of the event flyer.](#)

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## **27th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service Held**



Latino religious songs were performed by the group Sagrada Familia. PHOTO: Rebecca Willis

The 27th annual Thanksgiving Eve Service, a worship service of prayers, readings, and music from a variety of faith traditions, was held Wednesday November 21, 2012, at St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Cathedral in downtown Reno with over four hundred persons in attendance.

Food items were donated to the Northern Nevada Food Bank, and monetary donations were given to Good Shepherd's Clothes Closet. Nearly \$1500 was raised for the Clothes Closet, which included a \$500 donation from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

This year's service was unique in that it focused primarily on music and was meant to appeal specifically to the members of the Latino community who are among the primary supporters and congregants of St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral.



Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. delivers  
Benediction. PHOTO: Rebecca Willis

Gene Savoy Jr. chaired the organizing committee as president of the Nevada Clergy Association, which sponsors the event. He also gave the benediction, reading from the Thanksgiving Hymns of the Dead Sea Scrolls.



Radheka Patel Savoy reads Gayatri  
Mantra in Hindi. PHOTO: Rebecca  
Willis

Radheka Patel Savoy, a Hindu by religious tradition, read from the Gayatri Mantra in English and Hindi as part of the program.

Present at the service were members of the Savoy family and several other members of the Second Advent Church Community.

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# 2012 Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service Announced



PHOTO: Roger  
Weld

**THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL  
INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE**

***"COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS"***

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.**

**A WORSHIP SERVICE OF PRAYERS, READINGS**

**AND MUSIC FROM A VARIETY OF**

**FAITH TRADITIONS**

**SPONSORED BY**

**THE NEVADA CLERGY ASSOCIATION**

***THIS YEAR'S EVENT GRACIOUSLY HOSTED BY***

**CATHEDRAL OF SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS**

**DOWNTOWN RENO AT ARLINGTON AVE & 2<sup>ND</sup> ST.**

*MONETARY DONATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TO FAMILY*

*PROMISE AND FOOD DONATIONS WILL GO TO*

*THE FOOD BANK OF NORTHERN NEVADA*

FOR INFORMATION CALL 775-786-7827

OR E-MAIL [gsavoyjr@communityofchrist.org](mailto:gsavoyjr@communityofchrist.org)

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## **Congressman Berkley Meets with NCA President**



Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. and Congresswoman Shelley Berkley meet at Chancellery to discuss interfaith matters. PHOTO: Sean Savoy

In August the office of Nevada Congresswoman Shelley Berkley requested a meeting with Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. to discuss interfaith matters during the time Berkley was in Reno on her campaign trail. Bishop Savoy is president of the Nevada Clergy Association, an ecumenical organization designed to unite regional religious leaders for religious purposes. Berkley, a thirteen-year member of the US House of Representatives representing most of Las Vegas, is seeking election to the US Senate this November. The two met at the Chancellery of the International Community of Christ in Reno on the morning of Friday September 7, 2012.

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# Sunrise Service: All Are Welcome



Dr. Ariyaratne. PHOTO:  
[DrAri2012.com](http://DrAri2012.com)

Sunrise Divine Service on Sunday, July 15, 2012, at the Red Rock Consecrated Sanctuary in Reno, Nevada, will honor Dr. A.T. Ariyaratne, who is visiting northern Nevada from Sri Lanka for several days. Dr. Ari, as he is affectionately called, has been likened to the Mahatma Gandhi, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the Dalai Lama for his work around the world.

Visit the website [DrAri2012.com](http://DrAri2012.com) for more biographical information, as well as to see a scheduled list of events taking place from Wednesday July 11 through Wednesday July 18 throughout the Reno area.

Read the invitation [HERE](#).

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# 2012 Nevada Prayer Breakfast Held



Presenters at the 2012 Nevada Prayer Breakfast. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

RENO, Nev., April 24—Leaders of various religions and denominations participated and read prayers for the good of the state at the annual Nevada Prayer Breakfast held in Reno today, where the welcome address was read by Nevada governor Brian Sandoval.



Rt. Rev. Sean Savoy, MC of the 2012 Nevada Prayer Breakfast. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

Sandoval said that prayer was important and added that Nevada had pulled through various tragedies with the help of faith and prayer.



Governor Brian Sandoval speaking at the 2012 Nevada Prayer Breakfast. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling



Mary Cooper accepting posthumous Visions Award on behalf of her late husband, Onie Cooper. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

Organized by the Nevada Clergy Association with the theme "A Future Together," the event also gave Vision Awards to Reno area religious leader and civil rights activist the Reverend

Onie Cooper posthumously and retired priest of Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church Father George Bratiotis.



Father George Bratiotis, recipient of a 2012 Vision Award. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

Hindu statesman Rajan Zed, President of Universal Society of Hinduism, speaking on the occasion, stressed the need of taking religion seriously as it was the most powerful and pervasive social force. A more inclusive and broader understanding of religion was needed, he said, and added that dialogue would bring us mutual enrichment because we are all headed in the same direction.



Rajan Zed speaking at the 2012 Nevada Prayer Breakfast. PHOTO: Stephan Fuelling

Other speakers at this interfaith event held at the Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa included Gene Savoy Jr., President of Nevada Clergy Association; Charles T. Durante, Pastor of Saint Teresa of Avila Catholic Community in Carson City; Stefani Schatz, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church; Sean Savoy, Chancellor of International Community of Christ; Myra Soifer, Rabbi Emerita of Temple Sinai; Rafik Beekun, Board Member of Northern Nevada Muslim Community; Maria Sheehan, President of Truckee Meadows Community College; Nicholas F. Frey, area public affairs director of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Jikai' Phil Bryan, Priest of Reno Buddhist Center; Neal T. Anderson, Minister at Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada; William C. Webb, Pastor Emeritus of Second Baptist Church; Meredith Cahn, Rabbi of North Tahoe Hebrew Congregation; Sister Patty Riley of St. Mary's Hospice; and Evon Yakar, Rabbi of Temple Bat Yam of South Lake Tahoe.



Rt Rev Gene Savoy Jr addressing  
the gathering at the 2012 Nevada  
Prayer Breakfast PHOTO Stephan  
Fuelling

Shepherd's Bells, directed by Toni de Salvo; and Orfeo Men's Choir, directed by Jennifer Tibben; presented musical numbers.



Shepherd's Bells performing at  
2012 Nevada Prayer Breakfast PHOTO  
Stephan Fuelling

Nevada Prayer Breakfast is a gathering of citizens—as well as civic, business, and community leaders—who wish to pray on behalf of the State and bring the spiritual resources of the community together to bear on issues that face Nevadans.



PHOTO Stephan Fuelling

From [the online article written by Stephen Child posted at upiu.com](http://theonlinearticlewrittenbyStephenChildpostedatupiu.com).

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# 5th Annual Hindu Bacculaureate Held



5th Annual Hindu bacculaureate service  
of the University of Nevada–Reno 2012

PHOTO: Debbie McCarthy

The 5th Annual Hindu bacculaureate service and dinner at the University of Nevada–Reno was held on Sunday April 15, 2012.

At this event various leaders of the interfaith community gathered to bless the graduating class. The event is organized by the Universal Society of Hinduism. The dinner had an Indian theme. ICC Head Bishop the Right Reverend Gene Savoy Jr. attended and gave a blessing.



Religious leaders & others who  
participated in the 5th Annual

Hindu baccalaureate service of UNR.

PHOTO: Debbie McCarthy



Some of the graduates blessed at the Hindu baccalaureate service, with tilak on their foreheads.

PHOTO: Debbie McCarthy