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See Crista Jeremiason's photo gallery featuring the dogs enjoying Friday's return of Water Bark by visiting pressdemocrat.com

Call for end to violence 'in name of God'

Keegan Leadership luncheon speaker hopes Muslims, Jews, Christians will end wars through religious tolerance

By **MARTIN ESPINOZA**

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

For the past seven years, author and interfaith peace activist Frank Romano has been bringing Muslims, Jews and Christians in the Middle East to the same table to ask them a key question.

Sometimes over hummus and Turkish coffee, he'll have them share key chapters from the Koran, Torah and the Bible before he asks, "does it make sense to kill in the name of God when you share the same God?"

He hopes it will at least begin a dialogue that can lead to greater understanding in the future.

Romano, an assistant professor at the University of Paris Ouate and an adjunct professor at Golden Gate University School

of Law, shared that hope in his keynote speech at the 17th annual James and Billie Keegan Leadership luncheon Friday in Rohnert Park.

The event was sponsored by St. Joseph Health System Sonoma County.

This year's award recipients were Russ Green and Henry Trione, who founded the Keegan Leadership Awards.

Romano, a Santa Rosa High School graduate, talked about the origins of his interfaith work.

During his senior year at UC Davis, Romano studied abroad, first in Belgium and later in Paris, and after graduating, he traveled to the Middle East.

His journey to the Middle East via North Africa was cut short after he met an Imam in Casablanca, who belonged to an extremist group that held him against his will and tried to recruit him, he said.

After he escaped, his dream of interfaith work took a 25-year hiatus, during which he continued his studies in law and became focused on academia and well as private law practice in Paris and California.

He is a member of the California and Marseille Bars. It wasn't until he met a Jewish professor giving a talk at the University of Paris in 2004 that his dream was rekindled. The professor invited him to do interfaith work in the Holy Land.

"Back in my mind, I wanted to test that original vision that I had," Romano said during a brief interview before his speech.

Since then, Romano has traveled extensively to Jerusalem and the occupied territories. He told those attending the Keegan luncheon, including Bishop Robert Vasa of the Santa Rosa Catholic Diocese, that his priority is finding common ground.

"We all have something in common. We all have our challenges for making this place a better world," he said.

Trione and Green received a standing ovation and were recognized for their contributions to the community, as well as their work in creating the Keegan Leadership awards.

Since 1996, the event has raised more than \$750,000 for the Palliative Care Unit of

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bat to kill mother

Rampage started in RP, ended with SF shootout

By **RANDI ROSSMANN**

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Dianne Hughes, 66, was bludgeoned to death with a baseball bat by a son who was angry at being ordered to move out of her Rohnert Park home, according to investigators.

A day after her body was discovered on Tuesday, detectives tracked Dennis Hughes, 41, to a San Francisco apartment where he was shot to death during a police standoff.

Hughes had been living at his mother's Bernice Avenue home since January.

"He was keeping her up at night, rummaging around the kitchen, starting to act a little strange," Lt. Jeff Taylor of the Rohnert Park Public Safety Department said Friday.

Family members told police Dennis Hughes told his mother he'd go, but changed his mind.

"And then he destroyed senti-

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