

InterFaith works

Affirm Dignity

3049 E Genesee St, Syracuse, NY 13224 T: 315.449.3552 F: 315.449.3103 www.interfaithworkscny.org VOL. 10 / ISSUE 1

The New Decade Brings a New Era

Millicent Davis Begins Tenure as Board President

As a new decade commences, Millicent Davis begins her tenure as the new InterFaith Works of CNY Board President. Millicent is approaching a 10-year relationship with InterFaith Works, her association beginning as a Community Wide Dialogue participant.

Along with her annual volunteer work with the popular Duck Race program, she has also served on the Interfaith Leadership Award Dinner, Advancement, and Nominating committees. Having served two terms as a Board member, she will now take the ultimate volunteer step in serving as the Board President.

Millicent is familiar with the local non-profit community, as her resume includes Volunteer and Registration Chair for the Komen Foundation's Race for the Cure, Court Appointed Special Advocate for the Center of Community Alternatives, and AIDS Walk volunteer.

The Bronx, New York native is a graduate of Syracuse University, and she is currently with AXA Equitable Insurance Company as an Information Technology Analyst. She also holds a number of various progressive professional certifications in several areas of information technology and systems development.

"InterFaith Works as an organization is delighted Millicent has taken on this important responsibility," says Immediate Past President Dennis R. Baldwin. "She has the

talent, sensitivity and energy needed for this agency at a critical time in its history."

InterFaith Works, among many local, national and global nonprofit organizations, faces the new decade with the shifting economy and financial landscape presenting crucial challenges. "Millicent is just right for this new era," continues Dennis. "She will do a tremendous job in helping to bring InterFaith Works to the next level of service to the community."



"Of course I am honored to be able to serve the agency in this capacity," says Millicent, "but I am

also very excited about the possibilities the future holds for InterFaith Works. Throughout my years in serving the agency," she continues, "I have seen the power of

collaboration by people from all walks of life - from many different religions, races, cultures, ages and various social and economic positions - all coming together to achieve significant goals.

Those life altering common efforts and outcomes continuously demonstrate our agency's ability to fulfill our mission."



Additional new members beginning terms with the Board in 2010 also include Narinder S. Bains; Gustav Niebuhr; Jonnell Robinson; and Carolyn Sterling Welch. Rev. William Redfield has been appointed Convener of Round Table of Faith Leaders.



The Blind Gardner

Though the Central New York winter is upon us, underneath all that snow lies the seed of summer's beauty. As I start my work as your new Executive Director, I am reminded of a recent summer day that gave me unexpected joy. My husband asked me to pick up a package for him at a home in Dewitt. I easily found the house, and getting out of the car, caught my breath at the profusion of color, shape, and hue in the gardens leading up to the front door of this little cottage. The door was open, and I called into the cool darkness inside. Shortly, a woman

appeared in the shadows and I told her I was there for the pick up. "Not here," she said. "You must mean to be at the address on the Road, not the Street." And so I was. "But I was meant to be HERE," I said, "to see this magnificent garden. Is it yours? Did you do all of this?"

She stepped onto the porch, white cane in hand, and smiled yes. It was, indeed, her garden. And she was, indeed, blind. "But how..." She laughed, showed me around, and said "You wonder how a blind woman can make a garden like this." And I also wondered why – when she could not enjoy the visual display. She did it for the neighbors, she said, who worked and had no time to garden. The garden kept her connected to the neighborhood and its people, to the sunshine, to the earth, to her Creator.

To me, hers was the embodiment of a giving life, a life in service to others, a life given to pursuits that one could not always enjoy oneself.

As I assume my new duties, I want to recognize another person who has given much in service to others, our outgoing Executive Director, Dr. Jim Wiggins. Jim leaves us to retire, maybe even for real this time, to enjoy the rest of his life after giving of himself to this agency and this community for over eight years after his first retirement from Syracuse University. Jim came into the agency at a time when it was struggling, and helped it survive. He joined the staff almost at the moment the Twin Towers were destroyed, and helped our community stay together across religious boundaries that were being strained in many parts of our land. He helped us change our name to be more inclusive, modernized our Center for New Americans, and fed our souls with Amazing Faiths dinners. He has been a stalwart supporter of the work of each program, and I am particularly grateful to him for the many conversations we had about bringing racial equity to this community.

In many ways, Jim was InterFaith Works' blind gardener, planting seeds that he may not ever see come to fruition, but planting them nonetheless. Thank you, Jim. May you feel the blessings of a life well lived, and receive many unexpected joys in the years to come.

Beth A. Broadway,

Executive Director
February 2010

President: Ms. Millicent Davis, FLMI, ACS
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 Secretary: Ms. Sara L. Farchione, M.D.
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 Immediate Past President:
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 Rev. Kevin Agee
 Mr. Narinder S. Bains
 Mr. Charles Beach
 Mr. James A. Bowers, CPA
 Ms. Patricia A. Burak, D.A.
 Mr. Philip Doughty, Ph.D.
 Rev. Aaron James
 Ms. Lisa Kaufmann, M.D.
 Mr. Masood M. Naim, M.D.
 Mr. Gustav Niebuhr
 Mr. Bandaru V. Ramarao, Ph.D.
 Ms. Jonnell A. Robinson
 Mr. Michael Slade
 Mr. Louis Sogliuzzo, S.J.
 Ms. Carolyn Sterling Welch
 Rev. Thomas V. Wolfe, Ph.D.
 Ms. Clara Woodall
 Mr. Shamim Zubair

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 Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
 Franciscan Ministries
 Gobind Sadan USA
 Hendricks Chapel, Syracuse University
 Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance
 Islamic Society of Central New York
 Northeastern District Baptist Association
 Presbyterian Church (USA)
 Rabbinical Council
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 Rescue Mission of Syracuse
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse
 Sikh Foundation
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 Syracuse Friends Meeting
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 The Salvation Army
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 Zen Center of Syracuse, Inc.

2010 Census: Be Counted!



The United States Constitution includes the phrase “[An] Enumeration shall be made within three years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct.” Congress first met in 1789, and the first national census was held in 1790. Now, in 2010, InterFaith Works is pleased to be doing our part to support our democratic system of government by becoming a part of the Complete Count Committee in the City of Syracuse.

The 2010 Census will take a snapshot of every person residing in the United States, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, or country of origin, delivering accurate information about our diverse and growing population. The Census helps ensure a fair distribution of political representation and federal funds among state and local governments, and communities. In order to achieve a complete count, the Census Bureau is partnering with local community leaders, businesses, and other institutions, including communities and organizations of faith, to help raise awareness about the upcoming count. Here in Syracuse, the Complete Count Committee is a group of nearly 30 local non-profit organizations, community associations, and local government representatives who are working together to be sure that every one in Syracuse is counted! Collaborating in this way is critical to a successful census because faith-based leaders and organizations have powerful bonds with their constituents. Community members rely on faith leaders, youth groups, and ministries not only for spiritual guidance, but also for trusted information that is relevant to their lives.

The 2010 Census is easy. Questionnaires will be mailed to households across the country in March 2010. With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest ever. Respondents complete the form and return it in a postage-paid envelope.

The 2010 Census is safe. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents’ answers with any government agency. No court of law can access individual responses. Census workers are sworn to secrecy – any breach of confidentiality is punishable by up to a \$250,000 fine and a jail term of up to five years.

The 2010 Census is important. Census data affect your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census data are also used to define legislative districts, school district assignment areas and other important functions of government. In addition, every year more than \$400 billion in federal funds is awarded to states, local governments and communities based on census data. Census data also guide local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, including where to build new roads, hospitals and schools.

The Census Bureau cannot achieve a complete and accurate count alone. Faith-based communities and a variety of other partners play a vital role in communicating that the 2010 Census is easy, safe, and important. You can also help with the effort. Find out what your faith community is doing to support the census. Tell your friends and family to participate, and don’t forget to fill out your census questionnaire when it arrives in the mail in March.

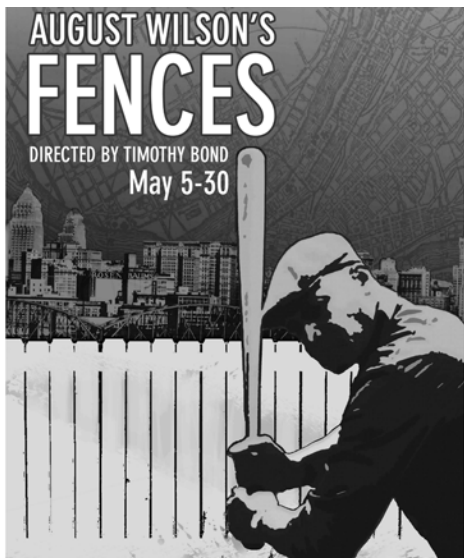
Be counted!



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Community Wide Dialogue

2010 Racial Justice Award Event



The Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism (CWD) will hold its annual Racial Justice Award event, supported by Syracuse Stage, on Tuesday, May 4th, 2010. This is the tenth year InterFaith Works has collaborated with Syracuse Stage to host this unique and educational fund raising event, with an emphasis on recognizing outstanding individuals who make a positive impact, helping their communities to foster deeper understanding and appreciation of differences.

This year's event will feature the drama *Fences*, written by noted two-time Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson. The Pittsburgh, PA, native's legacy is the ten play series, *The Pittsburgh Cycle*, for which he received two Pulitzer Prizes for Drama. Each play of the series is set in a different decade - *Fences* depicts the plight of an urban family in the 1950's - and portrays the comic and tragic aspects of the African-American experience in the Twentieth Century. In 1987, Wilson's *Fences* achieved high praise in receiving the Pulitzer Prize for Drama; the Tony Award for Best Play; the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play; and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding New Play.

CWD is seeking nominations for the Racial Justice Award, and those nominations are most meaningful when they come from community members directly affected by, and most familiar with, the individuals deserving of recognition. Please use the nomination form below, which CWD encourages you to complete and share with the award selection committee. **The deadline for submission is March 12th.**

The guidelines for the Racial Justice Award nominations are:

- Only individuals may be nominated. There are two designations: adult and youth. A youth nominee must be under 21 years of age.
- Individual nominated will have worked on the issue of ending racism for a considerable length of time. His/her efforts have produced change or will be contributing to make a change in racial injustice.
- Individual nominated must be a resident of the Central New York community.
- Individual nominated does not have to be associated or interacting through Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism.

Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Business Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email: _____

Nominator: _____

Nominator Business Phone: (____) _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Nominator Email: _____

Nominee is being nominated as: ___Adult ___Youth (under 21) Age of Youth _____

In less than 200 words, please detail the key reasons this individual has been nominated for the award.

Send nominations and any supporting documents of the individual's contribution (newspaper article, written statement by persons affected, etc.) to:

InterFaith Works
c/o Racial Justice Award
3049 East Genesee Street
Syracuse, NY 13224
Phone: (315) 449-3552
Fax: (315) 449-3103

Email: gsanders@interfaithworkscny.org

In Memory of Hazel Korrie

A Life Well Served

"Volunteering for InterFaith Works makes me feel important."

Those were the heartfelt words of Hazel Korrie, a volunteer in the Senior Companion Program for 21 years. Since its infancy and introduction to the Syracuse community by InterFaith Works as a sponsoring agency in 1988, Hazel was an important and inspirational figure.

Hazel was a vibrant, engaging and interesting woman, one who knew no bounds in giving of her time and effort to the Senior Companion Program to make others feel important. Among the many praises and accolades one may receive in memoriam, if there ever was a person who actually did make a difference in the lives of others, it was most certainly Hazel. "Hazel was appreciated and loved by the many elderly people she assisted over the years," said Larry Crinnin, Director of the Senior Companion Program. "Her caring and determined spirit will truly be missed."

One of Hazel's strengths in serving others over the years, with knowledge gained through some of her own personal

experiences, was her comprehension of social service and government programs designed to help and assist seniors. She was a savvy advisor in the matters of Medicaid and other assistance programs, and her understanding of the seniors' hardships made her an asset to everyone she served, and to the program at large.



Even in recent years, as her own age approached or surpassed the many clients she served over the years, Hazel continued to assist the program. She gave of herself above and beyond for others, and she wanted to continue assisting as many people as long as she could. She was an Ambassador for InterFaith Work's local relationship with Christopher Community, an

agency which provides housing facilities for the elderly in Upstate New York. She was also Past President of the Redfield Village Tenant Association.

Hazel's memory will resonate as a shining example of the quality of volunteers dedicated and committed to the programs they serve at InterFaith Works, making their communities a better place to live.

Covenant Housing

Building A Future

In late November, just as the final 2009 edition of the InterFaith Works Newsletter was arriving in mailboxes, the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal Commissioner Deborah

VanAmerongen was making a special visit to Central New York, meeting local partners and touring several affordable and supportive housing projects in our area, including a project of InterFaith Works Covenant Housing Program (CHP).

Commissioner VanAmerongen made her first

stop of the day at the Syracuse Regional Office, where she met with CHP Real Estate Developer Kimberlee Dupcak, and CHP Director Marilyn Woyciesjes.

CHP has been helping to build homes for individuals with disabilities since 1989, and began creating home ownership opportunities in 2000. Kimberlee and Marilyn organized a tour of their latest project: a vacant house about to be rehabilitated and modified for Frank Graziano, who met the Commissioner at the house to show her around. The planned renovations will make the first floor of the house accessible to Frank, who is confined to a wheelchair, while the second floor will provide living space for his caregiver.

The project is being funded through a \$50,000 Community Housing Development Organization subsidy and up to \$25,000 in Access to Home money through Home HeadQuarters, a chartered member of NeighborWorks® America.



Frank Graziano (seated) with Deborah VanAmerongen (second from left), and representatives from InterFaith Works; the Division of Housing and Community Renewal; Home Headquarters, Inc.; the Covenant Housing Corporation; Access to Home; and the City of Syracuse.

Staying Current: We Need Your Help

To keep you up to date with InterFaith Works, we need changes to postal mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. To maintain communications, inform you and keep you current with the quarterly newsletter and various mailings throughout the year, please provide us with changes to your contact information.

Some of our constituents are able to enjoy a seasonal escape to warmer climes during the winter months, and we would like to have the ability to contact you, so please let us know of any alternate contact information that may help us keep you informed while you are out of town. Our database is able to track alternate contact information with a date range, so let us know what dates you will be at a particular alternate address. To report any changes to your contact information, please contact the InterFaith Works of CNY administrative offices at (315) 449-3552. We appreciate your help!

Faith Community Visit - Mark Your Calendar!

Next up in the series of Visits to Houses of Faith Traditions will be to the Islamic Society of Central New York Mosque on April 18, 2:00-4:00 p.m. The program will be limited to 50 registrants.

The Society is located on Comstock Avenue in Syracuse, and in observance of faith tradition inside the Mosque, there will be a dress code: men must wear long pants, and women should wear any clothing covering well below the elbows and knees. It is also suggested that women cover their head with a scarf inside the Mosque.

The Islamic Society of Central New York is a "purpose-built" Sunni mosque and Islamic community center. Established in 1981, the center serves the needs of Central New York's Muslim population, providing various services and outreach programs for the Muslim and non-Muslim community. The Society also administrates an Islamic cemetery, and directs the Madrasat Al Ihsan School of Excellence, founded in 1993.

This Society is formed to practice Islam according to the commands of Allah Subhana Watawala and the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammad in the ways of Sunni principles. Major Society activities revolve around the establishment of prayer, teaching and learning for the members, who gather at five prescribed times for participation in the obligatory daily prayers.

THE PROGRAMS OF INTERFAITH WORKS

OUR MISSION: InterFaith Works, through education, service, and dialogue, affirms the dignity of each person and every faith community and works to create relationships and understanding among us.

Center for New Americans—Assisting refugee individuals and families in beginning new lives in America and serving as a resource and cultural center.

Community-Wide Dialogue to End Racism—Stimulating dialogue on racism to bring about racial justice and healing.

Covenant Housing Program—Developing housing that is both physically and financially

accessible to people with special needs.

Senior Companion Program—Providing friendship and compassionate care to the home-bound elderly.

Spiritual Care Program—Offering spiritual care for hospital patients, nursing home residents, inmates, and troubled youth.

If you would like to get involved in any of these programs, visit www.interfaithworksny.org for more information.

Sunday April 18, 2010
Faith Community Visit
Islamic Society of CNY Mosque
2:00-4:00 p.m.

Tuesday May 11, 2010
InterFaith Works Leadership Award Dinner
OnCenter Convention Center
5:30-8:00 p.m.

Tuesday May 4, 2010
Racial Justice Award/Syracuse Stage Fund Raiser
Featuring the August Wilson play *Fences*
6:00-9:00 p.m.

Saturday June 12, 2010
Duck Race
Syracuse Inner Harbor
12:00-4:00 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD



A United Way Agency



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