



InterFaith Works of CNY

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NEWS RELEASE

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FRANCIS MC MILLAN PARKS, LISA ALFORD AND RANYA SHANNON TO RECEIVE 2015 RACIAL JUSTICE AWARDS

Syracuse, NY— [InterFaith Works of CNY](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org) will honor **Lisa Alford, Francis McMillan Parks** and **Ranya Shannon** with its **2015 Racial Justice Awards on Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2015**. The ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the Syracuse Stage Sutton Pavilion. Following the ceremony, attendees are invited to attend Syracuse Stage's presentation of the Tony Award-Winning South African classic *Sizwe Banzi Is Dead* at 7:30 p.m.

Winners of the Racial Justice Award are Central New York residents whose passion and skills have produced change or have contributed toward change in ending racial injustice and promoting social equity. The award has been presented as part of InterFaith Works' Center for Dialogue's Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism, since 2006. McMillian will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award. Alford will receive the award in the adult category, and Shannon will receive the award in the youth category.

Deputy Commissioner of the Onondaga County Department of Adult and Long Term Care Services, **Alford, a resident of Manlius, NY**, is immediate past president and board member of the Syracuse Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), a sorority that sponsors such as events as "Silence Is NOT Golden," which discussed the stigma of mental health in minority communities. She is a committee member on the League of Women Voters and serves on the boards of the American Heart Association and Health Foundation for Western and Central New York.

McMillan Parks, a resident of Syracuse, NY, is an educator who, prior to her retirement, served as Director of Students Offering Service and African American Programs at Syracuse University's Hendrick's Chapel. During her tenure at SU, she founded the Sojourner Storytelling Conference, held each February to celebrate stories of peace, justice and freedom. She currently serves on the Board of the Community Folk Art Center and Erie Canal Museum.

A resident of Syracuse, NY, Ranya Shannon, a senior at Nottingham High School, is an active participant in the Seeds of Peace summer camp, held in Otisfield, Maine. Through Seeds, she recently attended the three-day Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Seminar. She is involved in InterFaith Works' Community Wide Dialogue Program that helps bridge the gap between Syracuse's inner city and suburban high schools.

For tickets to the event, contact Kathy Ferro at (315) 449-3552, ext. 119, or email her at kferro@intefaithworkscny.org. Suggested ticket donation is \$30 to \$150. Any amount donated over \$30 is tax deductible.

[InterFaith Works of CNY](#), through education, service and dialogue, affirms the dignity of each person and every faith community and works to create relationships and understanding. Founded in 1976, InterFaith Works addresses deeply embedded social divisions leading to community action and policy change. Empowering people in need, including refugees, the elderly and institutionalized, InterFaith Works' service and educational programs include the [Center for New Americans](#), [Ahmad and Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue](#), as well as [Senior Services](#) and [Spiritual Care Programs](#).

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PHOTOS/CUTLINES:



Lisa Alford



Francis McMillan Parks



Ranya Shannon

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