

ILAD Honors Philanthropic Organizations

InterFaith Works recognized the commitment of Central New York's major philanthropic organizations at its 33rd Annual InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner, held May 6, 2015, at the SRC Arena and Events Center.

The Allyn Foundation, Central New York Community Foundation, The Gifford Foundation, The Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York, The Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation, The John Ben Snow Foundation and the United Way of Central New York were honored for their contributions and commitment to the quality of life in Central New York. This is the first time that they had been honored collectively.

Tim Atseff and Peggy Ogden served as honorary co-chairs of the event. For 24 years, Ogden served as president and CEO of the Central New York Community Foundation and later as interim executive director for the Allyn Foundation. Atseff retired after a 40-year career with the Syracuse newspapers. He had served most recently as managing editor and later as marketing and new product development manager, where he created *The Good Life*, *Central New York* magazine.

Jim Clark was the evening's master of ceremonies. Currently, professor of



Representing their philanthropic organizations at the ILAD dinner are (from left to right) Peter Dunn, Central New York Community Foundation; Meg O'Connell, Allyn Foundation; Linda Alexander, The Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York; Robert Falter, The Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation; Jonathan Snow, The John Ben Snow Foundation; Frank Lazarski, United Way; and Dirk Sonneborn, The Gifford Foundation.

theater management and associate dean at Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts, he previously had served as producing director at Syracuse Stage for 15 years and as managing director for 17 years before that. Clark is a recipient of InterFaith Works' prestigious Racial Justice Award for his commitment to engaging Syracuse Stage to help promote racial justice and understanding.

The John Ben Snow Foundation; and Syracuse Media Group. A complete list of sponsors appears on www.interfaithworkscny.org.

The 2016 ILAD will be held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at the SRC Arena and Events Center on the Onondaga Community College campus.

Justice sponsors of the evening included the Allyn Foundation; Bond, Schoeneck & King; Nancy and Bill Byrne; Christopher Community; Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi Foundation; M&T Bank; and Stickley, Audi & Co. Diversity sponsors included Dr. Shawky and Mrs. Lauren Badawy; Bowers & Company CPAs; Central New York Community Foundation; Crouse Hospital; Episcopal Diocese of Syracuse; The Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation;



Members of InterFaith Works' Round Table of Faith Leaders processed into the arena and joined event honorees, co-chairs and agency leadership in front of the stage during the invocation.



InterFaith Works' President/CEO Beth A. Broadway (left) expresses thanks to Peggy Ogden and Tim Atseff for their service as honorary co-chairs of the event.



Beth A. Broadway

Is there more to *say* today in the wake of all that has been said about Charleston? Perhaps not, but there is certainly more to *do*.

President Obama said: “This is not the first time that black churches have been attacked, and we know that hatred across races and faiths poses a particular threat to our democracy and our ideals. The good news is I am confident that the outpouring of unity and strength and fellowship and love across Charleston today from all races, from all faiths, from all places of worship indicates the degree to which those old vestiges of hatred can be overcome.”

I was 11 when the bombing took place in 1963 at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., that killed four young black girls. It rocked my world. My mother, a brand new widow and PTA president of my grammar school, took the strongest stand for the integration of our little suburban Chicago school district. She said, “NO

Much Yet to Do

child will be treated with disrespect here,” and lived out her commitment each day. She paid for her stance when the neighbors shunned her and our lawn was set fire with a gasoline cross. That year, she taught me the importance of doing what is right, regardless of the loneliness or ostracizing that it engendered.

Our community celebrated the lives of the nine Charleston martyrs and committed itself to renewed vigor to end the injustice and inequity that still manifests in racism at a full-house prayer meeting at Hopps Memorial CME Church. Our faith leaders and speakers called for continued dialogue and action to end racism. Our Board member, Dr. Keith Alford, who was born and raised in Columbia, SC, has offered a reflection on the removal of the Confederate battle flag which helps to inform our discussions (see below).

Syracuse’s dialogue on ending racism is the longest running dialogue of its kind in the United States, and it has taken many forms: Community Wide Dialogue, SU’s Conversations About Race and Ethnicity, Seeds of Peace, Starting Small, Corporate Cultures,

Sustained Dialogues for Communities in Conflict, Police-Community Dialogues, and the Courageous Conversations About Race Initiative. Each of these has reached a different corner of our community, including elected and appointed civic, educational and corporate leaders, third grade and middle school students meeting across the city-county divide, high school students, college campuses, and every day folks. More than 12,000 of us have grown a new racial lens through which we now view the world.

Is there light at the end of this tunnel of racism that has been the original sin of our nation? I believe there is, in my heart of hearts. But it will take all of us to change the deeply embedded attitudes and the structures that keep racism in place. I promise to keep doing my part. What will *YOU* do?

Sincerely,

Beth A. Broadway
President/CEO

The following piece was written by Keith Alford, PhD, ACSW, associate professor, Syracuse University School of Social Work, and a member of the InterFaith Works’ Board of Directors.



Dr. Keith Alford

A Positive New Beginning

Tears have been flowing knowing that a symbol of destruction, bigotry and racial disdain (battle flag of the Confederacy) came down from the state house grounds in my hometown of Columbia, SC, on July 10. This is a history-making period regrettably at the expense of nine wonderful lives. And, yes, each life displayed *amazing grace*.

Years prior to the Charleston massacre, I shared my profound sadness over this “symbol” that flew aloft in the place I called home. I once said that it would be hard for me to ever move back to South Carolina as long as the battle flag remained in such an elevated place. It deeply hurts to think about the heinous treatment of my ancestors whose phenotype I share.

The flag was and is a reminder of enslavement, Jim Crow, lynching, covert and overt discrimination, and mental injury. I applaud South Carolina’s state senators and members of the House of Representatives who voted in favor of the flag’s removal. I also applaud South Carolina’s governor for making the right decision to be on the right side of history by signing legislation to take this symbol of hate down. It is obvious where I stand, but clearly, our overwhelming applause should be lifted in solemn respect for the courageous nine. Yes, nine incredible individuals whose spirits

will live on in perpetuity and whose collective sacrifice we shall never forget. They now join a special place in history like the four young girls who died as a result of a hate-filled Birmingham church bombing in 1963, the numerous individuals brutalized on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Alabama 50 years ago, and the high profile tragic deaths of T. Martin, E. Garner, W. Scott, J. Gammage and F. Gray.

It is my hope that our moral compass as a nation will direct us to greater understanding and dialogue of past pains, so that we will be aptly suited to embrace our future’s promise. I would also add the importance of embracing the promise of our present. There is much work to do right now. Thank you for allowing me to offer these thoughts at a very critical and personal time in my life as a native South Carolinian. I appreciate your indulgence and seek your well wishes for a positive new beginning.

Race Day Was Just Ducky

Nearly 1,000 people of all ages, races and walks of life attended InterFaith Works' Duck Race to End Racism held at the Inner Harbor on June 6. For 13 years, the free, family festival has engaged school-aged children and their families, faith communities, corporations and the Greater Syracuse area to raise awareness about racism and racial inequality.

Proceeds from the event support the programs of the Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue, which facilitates the longest running dialogue program on ending racism in the United States. Since its inception in 1996, more than 12,000 people have participated in dialogue to help encourage understanding among those of varied racial, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted the day of the event, including more than 40 members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Melanie Littlejohn of National Grid and Eboni Britt of POMCO served as event co-chairs. Emcees were Karin Franklin and George Kilpatrick.

National Grid was this year's presenting sponsor, and Wegmans was the leadership sponsor. Major sponsors were Lockheed Martin and O'Brien & Gere. Supporting sponsors included Bowers & Company, CPAs, PLLC; C&S Companies; Colonial Laundromat; Crouse Hospital; Destiny USA; Eric Mower & Associates; Hansen's Advisory Services; iHeart Media; Inficon; NewsChannel 9; POMCO; Syracuse Crunch; SUNY Educational Opportunity Center; and Upstate Medical University. Byrne Dairy generously donated the day's ice cream.

The first ducks to cross the finish line, and their respective prizes, were: corporate duck: Lockheed Martin, which drew the name of the non-profit organization (First Baptist Church of Syracuse) that won \$1,000; third grade classroom duck: Ms. Buchman's classroom at Enders Road Elementary, a diversity library; and community duck: Ann Fletcher, a \$1,000 shopping spree at Destiny USA.

Next year's Duck Race to End Racism is scheduled for June 11, 2016.

Photos by Chuck Wainwright



Capturing the spirit of the day is the "We Are All One" duck.



Duck Race mascot Quackers and an Open Hand Theater puppet participate in the third grade parade.



Thank you to the many volunteers who not only canoed in the creek, cleaned up ducks, drummed and danced, but, most importantly, helped spread the message "don't duck racism."

Two Dialogue Circles Piloted

InterFaith Works' Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue has been busy over the past few months conducting pilots of two future dialogue programs: a Syracuse police-community dialogue and an interfaith dialogue.

April saw the conclusion of the City of Syracuse police-community dialogue, a pilot developed by InterFaith Works and based on a curriculum from Everyday Democracy, entitled "Protecting Communities, Serving the Public." This curriculum has been used nationwide, including previously in Syracuse.

"We are grateful to Phil Rose and Melody Holmes for co-facilitating this dialogue, and we want to give special thanks to Police Chief Frank Fowler for his support and endorsement of this important initiative," says Peter Willner, director of the El-Hindi Center for Dialogue. The next steps are to begin training facilitators and to launch a community-wide police-community dialogue this fall, says Willner.

In early July, InterFaith Works concluded a pilot interfaith dialogue using a guide called "Seeking Common Ground: An Interfaith Dialogue Guide for Central New York." The dialogue was co-facilitated by Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone and Kendra Hatfield-Timajchy. The Interfaith Dialogue Design Team will reconvene later this summer to receive feedback from the facilitators and dialogue participants and to make adjustments to the dialogue guide.

Interfaith dialogue team members included: Imam Khalil Abdulkhabir, the Rev. Clifford Auth, Sharif Bey, the Rev. Nebraska Carter, Marc Clay, Dr. Miriam Elman, Kendra Hatfield-Timajchy, Jenifer Moss, Rabbi Andrew Pepperstone, Dr. Bobby Pohar, the Rev. Dr. Peter Shidemantle, Robert Tornberg and Dr. James Wiggins. InterFaith Works' staff participating in and supporting the committee include Beth A. Broadway, president/CEO; Daryl Files, volunteer and donor coordinator; Kathy Ferro, Center for Dialogue administrative assistant; and Peter Willner, director of the El-Hindi Center for Dialogue.

A free community-wide Interfaith Dinner Dialogue will be held on Thursday, Sept. 17 (see sidebar at left for more information).

If you are interested in learning more about interfaith or police-community dialogues, including how to participate, contact Peter Willner, El-Hindi Center for Dialogue director, at 315-449-3552, ext. 102, or email pwilner@interfaithworkscny.org.



InterFaith Dinner Dialogues, during which small groups of people share their personal thoughts about life, faith and spirituality, will be held on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in host residences in and around Syracuse.

Gathering over a meal, a trained facilitator guides and moderates the dialogue, so participants feel comfortable sharing their thoughts.

A simple vegetarian meal is provided by those who host a dialogue session. Eating together symbolizes tolerance, respect and understanding, and is an outward expression of unity among those with varied beliefs and religious traditions.

There is no charge to participate in a dinner dialogue, and dialogues for both adults and youth will be held.

For more information, or to sign up as a host or facilitator, contact Daryl Files, InterFaith Works' volunteer coordinator, at dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org or call her at 315-449-3552, ext. 208.

Information as well as a registration form are available at www.interfaithworkscny.org under Events on the homepage.

We're Blooming!



InterFaith Works is blooming with gratitude for the Cornell Master Gardener volunteers who spruced up the agency's landscaping in June. The Master Gardener Program is a national program of trained volunteers who work in partnership with their county Cooperative Extension office to extend research-based information to home gardeners throughout the community. Many thanks to Susan Parker (second from left), who organized the volunteer project, and to the gardeners themselves for spreading mulch — and sunshine! Information about the Master Gardener Program is available on Facebook @ Onondaga County Master Gardener Program or at www.extendonondaga.org.

25th Annual Spiritual Care Day Will be Held Oct. 22

Join us as we celebrate the 25th Annual Spiritual Care Day on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 8 a.m. to noon, at Crouse Hospital's Marley Education Center. This year's event, "Overcoming Barriers to Healthcare: What Spiritual Caregivers Need to Know," will feature a keynote address by Indu Gupta, MD, Onondaga County health commissioner. Following the keynote, breakout sessions focusing on barriers to healthcare — maternal and infant; racial, ethnic and cultural; aging; and mental health challenges — will be hosted by professionals in each respective area.

The event will begin at 8 a.m. with registration and a full buffet breakfast. At noon, a 25th anniversary celebration of the InterFaith Works' Spiritual Care Program and its chaplains will conclude the event.

A fee of \$30 (\$25 for those 62 years or older) covers all activities. For more information and to register, contact the Rev. Roberta Yackel, director of the Spiritual Care Program, at 315-449-3552 ext. 111, or email ryackel@interfaithworkscny.org.



Dr. Indu Gupta

My Experience: The Blessings of Being a Chaplain

By Pastor Penny Hart,
Chaplain, Elderwood at
Liverpool



Pastor Penny Hart ministers to residents of Elderwood, a long-term care and rehabilitation facility. InterFaith Works' chaplains minister to those in hospitals, nursing homes and justice centers.

I believe that God lays out a path for us to follow and, sometimes, we try very hard not to follow it. However, our Creator can be very insistent. I think my path started when I decided to volunteer on the hotline at Contact Community Services. I learned how to truly listen to others, without judging them or trying to fix their problems. I would simply listen. Eventually, I became a trainer for new hotline volunteers.

Not long after that I decided to enter the ministry. While I was going through the process, a friend asked me if I would become a pastoral visitor at Birchwood — now Elderwood — a long-term care facility and rehabilitation center. I wasn't sure what I was getting into, but I dutifully visited my assigned section and spoke with the residents, offering conversation, prayer and listening. When the current chaplain decided to leave that position in 2010, I was asked if I would like to take over.

After taking a whole day to decide, it has turned out to be one of the best decisions I ever made. I love being the chaplain. I have found that I not only minister to the residents but also to the staff. Residents are in a wide range of life stages. While some are sharp as a tack, others are in various seasons of dementia or Alzheimer's Disease. This often brings me to ministering to family members as well.

Besides visiting, I also hold a bimonthly Care and Share Program, which consists of an hour of old hymns, scripture, stories and conversation. We also hold biannual memorial services for residents who have passed away during the previous six months, inviting family members to attend.

One of my greatest gifts is to pray with residents who seem non-responsive or even appear to be sleeping. Yet, when I say the Lord's Prayer, I see them following along. I know that much more of what I say gets through to them than one would ever think. I have sat with someone during their final hours, and know when their spirit is no longer present.

Another gift is being asked to officiate at the funeral of a resident. I always tell the family that I feel it is an honor to be part of the celebration of someone's life.

Nursing home residents are full of surprises, from the woman who saw me going down the hall and said to an aide, "There goes that Bible thumper," to the woman who said I was in the wrong room because she was an atheist. I told her we could still talk, and our conversation was fascinating. She was a Holocaust survivor and had an amazing life story. When I left, I asked if I could say, "God Bless You," and she said, "Yes."

Something we instituted at Elderwood last year is the annual Blessing of the Hands. With a cart, pitcher of water, bowl and paper towels, I accompany the activities director from floor to floor, department to department, asking staff and volunteers if they would like to be blessed. I tell each of them that, whatever their capacity, they are the hands of God for the residents. At times, some become very emotional, and have their own personal need for blessing.

I know being a chaplain is not for everyone, but for me it is truly a blessing and a gift.

InterFaith Works' newsletter features the stories of those associated with our agency. Pastor Penny Hart has served as a chaplain for the InterFaith Works' Spiritual Care Program for five years.

Welcome to New Staff Members

InterFaith Works welcomed two new staff members recently: Diego Costa has been appointed the agency's accounting manager and Ana Guerrero has been appointed employment services specialist with the agency's Center for New Americans.

As accounting manager, Costa is responsible for InterFaith Works' contract management, financial statements preparation, cash flow analysis and general ledger reconciliation. He had previously served as a fiscal aide at the Spanish Action League of Onondaga County and as vice director of finance at the International Tourism Institute, Santiago, Cuba. Costa holds a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Oriente, Santiago, Cuba.



Diego Costa

Guerrero will assist the Center for New Americans' refugee clients with job preparation and in finding and retaining employment. Before joining InterFaith Works, she was most recently a career coordinator for the Spanish Action League of Onondaga County and had served as the chief operations officer and as a consultant for Mecánicas Draguer in Barcelona, Spain. Guerrero holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in human resources management and administration from Barcelona University in Barcelona, Spain.



Ana Guerrero

Faith Communities Enjoy Coffee and Connecting

InterFaith Works hosted "Coffee and Connecting" in June to thank its Faith Partners for all they do to support the agency and the Central New York faith community. InterFaith Works' program directors shared information about their respective programs, emphasizing how they interconnect, and faith leaders shared their organizations' community collaborations and projects.

InterFaith Works continually seeks to build partnerships that leverage the combined skills, assets, technologies and resources of the public and private sectors – including faith communities – in order to positively impact Syracuse and Central New York. Such partnerships enable everyone to achieve more collaboratively than any single entity could individually.

Faith Partners join with InterFaith Work in affirming the dignity of each person and every faith community by building bridges of understanding across the divides of color, creed, ethnicity and socioeconomic background.

The Faith Partner Program provides faith communities with the opportunity to access the resources of InterFaith Works, including sharing of faith community news through the agency's *Constant Contact* e-newsletter; authoring "Daily Inspiration" columns that appear in *The Post-Standard* and on Syracuse.com; participating in InterFaith Works' programs, including Dialogue Circles and the free monthly Lunch & Learn presentations; and obtaining discounted tickets to InterFaith Works' events such as the InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner and Racial Justice Awards Celebration.

To learn how your organization may become an Interfaith Works' Faith Partner, contact Daryl Files, volunteer and donor coordinator, at 315-449-3552, ext. 208, or email dfiles@interfaithworkscny.org.



Representatives of local faith communities attend "Coffee and Connecting" at InterFaith Works to learn more about the agency and one another.

Board Members Receive Awards

Mensch of the Year Award

Robert Doucette was honored by Temple Concord in May with the 2015 Mensch of the Year Award. Mensch is defined, simply, as a good person.

Doucette is a cofounder and partner of Paramount Realty Group, LLC, and is president of Armory Development & Management. He has been a pioneer in the downtown revitalization efforts in Syracuse, with his most notable projects including the redevelopment of the Labor Temple Building, Hogan Block Building, Center Armory, Loews Building and the Dey's Plaza.

Doucette has won several awards for his work in the Armory Square District of Syracuse and he serves on boards of several organizations, including InterFaith Works of Central New York.



Robert Doucette

Most Powerful and Influential Woman Award

Eunice Williams will receive the 2015 Most Powerful and Influential Woman Award for her excellence in leadership. The award is presented by the Tri-State Diversity Council, which seeks to enhance appreciation for and understanding of the value of diversity and inclusion in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York. Williams will receive the award at the Tri-State Diversity and Leadership Conference to be held in New York City in August.

Williams, who joined InterFaith Works' board in January, has worked at Onondaga Community College since 1996. Currently the college's vice president/chief diversity officer, she is responsible for providing leadership and support for the college's Diversity Council, working with college groups and college administrators in the formulation and review of programs and policies pertaining to the needs of diverse and underrepresented populations and advising college constituencies on multicultural/diversity issues, trends and program activities. In addition, she serves as an adjunct instructor in the General Studies Department.

Williams received a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Professional Service in 2013.



Eunice Williams

2015 Board of Directors

Chair: Ms. Camille Tisdell

Chair Elect: Ms. Louise Thurlow, Esq.

Vice Chair: Mr. Shiu-Kai Chin, PhD

Secretary: The Rev. William C. Redfield

Treasurer: Mr. Dennis R. Baldwin

Convener, Round Table of Faith Leaders: Rabbi Daniel Fellman

Mr. Keith Alford, PhD

The Rev. Clifford Auth

Mr. Shawky Badawy, MD

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Mr. Robert Sykes

Mr. Mirza Tihic

Ms. Maryam Wasmund

Ms. Eunice Williams

Thank You to Our Newest Capital Campaign Donors

Due to the generosity of our donors, InterFaith Works' *Building Community/Affirming Dignity* Capital Campaign has now raised \$1,457,815 of its \$1.8 million goal to fund the purchase and renovate its new home at 1010 James Street, Syracuse.

Thank you to the following corporations, foundations and individuals who, since Jan. 1, 2015, have moved us closer to our goal:

Emily Bowe
The Rev. Jim and Joyce Bresnahan
Brown & Brown of New York, Inc.
Community Bank
El-Hindi Foundation
Jewish Federation of CNY
Dr. Louis Kriesberg
Marcy and Dennis Lerner
Carol Murphy

Nancy and Stephen Rogers
Rotary Club of Syracuse
The John Ben Snow Foundation
Debi Spencer - *In honor of Reba Spencer*
Temple Adath Yeshurun
Bonnie Totten Adkins
Janet and John Whitt
The Rev. Dr. Thomas and the
Rev. Marilyn Wolfe

Many thanks to our dedicated capital campaign committee members: Co-chairs Dennis Baldwin and Maryam Wasmund; Charles Beach; Beth A. Broadway, InterFaith Works' president/CEO; Daryl Files, InterFaith Works' volunteer and donor coordinator; Craig Heim; Keith O'Brien, InterFaith Works' development specialist; and Virginia Parker. For more information regarding how to be a part of InterFaith Works' capital campaign, contact Denise Jochem-Robertson, development director, at (315) 449-3552, ext. 120, or email drobertson@interfaithworkscny.org.



In celebration of July 4, members of InterFaith Works' staff (dressed in red, white and blue) gathered in front of the donor wall in the lobby. All capital campaign gifts of \$1,000 or more are recognized with a hand-carved wooden plaque displayed on the wall. A number of naming opportunities also are available.

Coleman Scholarship Applications Due Sept. 25

Individuals preparing for ordination are invited to apply for financial assistance from the Melvin C. Coleman Interfaith Theological Fund, administered by InterFaith Works. Applications are due Sept. 25. The Coleman Fund provides a stipend to be paid annually to select Central New York applicants beginning graduate study, or who are currently enrolled in a graduate program, in preparation for ordination. The award will be made to qualified individuals in financial need, regardless of religion or creed.

The scholarship is named for Melvin Coleman who was a punch press operator for Carrier Corp. When he was 49 years old, Coleman had limited education and couldn't read or write. His friend Bob Colvin taught him the basics of reading and writing. Realizing the importance of these basic skills, Coleman then attended adult education classes and eventually earned his GED. In 1965, he became a charter member of the Literacy Volunteers of America Board of Directors, representing student interests. Literacy Volunteers of America was merged into ProLiteracy in 2002.

For more information about the scholarship and an application, contact Marcy Bowles at 315-449-3552, ext. 101, or email mbowles@interfaithworkscny.org.

In Support of Nepal

InterFaith Works and members of the Bhutanese Community of Syracuse held an interfaith service on May 12, for victims of the April earthquake in Nepal. Nearly 100 supporters walked in unison from InterFaith Works on James Street to the top of Lincoln Park for the service, which culminated in a candlelight vigil.

InterFaith Works has settled many Bhutanese refugees in Syracuse. Due to persecution in their native Bhutan, many refugees fled to Nepal and lived in refugee camps before being resettled in the United States. Many Syracuse Bhutanese still have family and friends in Nepal.

InterFaith Works and the Bhutanese Community also partnered to gather donations to benefit the victims and help the country with rebuilding efforts. More than \$8,000 was donated to InterFaith Works to support the relief and reconstruction efforts of UNICEF.



Photo by Dave Mason

Organized by InterFaith Works and the Bhutanese Community of Syracuse, an interfaith service for victims of the earthquake in Nepal was held in Lincoln Park in May.

Reading to Raise Awareness

To Kill a Mockingbird, authored by Harper Lee, was read by InterFaith Works' President/CEO Beth A. Broadway at a Barnes & Noble Read-a-Thon, held at the DeWitt store on July 13. The book was selected to be read by Barnes & Noble in celebration of the release of Lee's new book, *Go Set a Watchman*.

To Kill a Mockingbird tells the fictional story of a respected Alabama lawyer who defends a black man against fabricated rape charges, thus exposing racism and stereotyping to the attorney's family and community.

Peter Willner, director of InterFaith Works' El-Hindi Center for Dialogue, and Luke Kelsey, a Denison University student who is volunteering at the Center for Dialogue this summer, also read portions of the book.

InterFaith Works is collaborating with Syracuse Stage and will host its Racial Justice Awards in concert with the production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* on Feb. 24, 2016.



Reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* at a Barnes & Noble Read-a-Thon is Beth A. Broadway, InterFaith Works' president/CEO. The fictional book, set in the 1930s, exposes racism in a small Southern town.

Quilts of Many Colors



Members of the Towpath Quilt Guild created more than 60 handmade quilts for refugee families who are settled by InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans. Draped over the pews of the Fayetteville United Methodist Church's sanctuary, the quilts were presented to InterFaith Works' staff members, including Resource and Referral Specialist Marwah Alobaidi (right), during the guild's June meeting. Thank you to quilt guild member Barbara Christen (left) for organizing the service project and to each and every quilter for her loving gift. The quilts will add warmth and beauty to the lives of refugees who have fled war and persecution to begin new lives in Central New York.

Resettlement Program Moves Its Warehouse

In collaboration with Christopher Community, the Center for New Americans' Refugee Resettlement Program has moved its warehouse to a more convenient location — the St. Clare Theater at Assumption Church, 1119 N. Townsend St., Syracuse. At 5,400 square feet of usable space, the former theater has almost 2,000 more square feet of storage space than the previous location, and the spatial layout is much more conducive to the program's needs.



InterFaith Works' new warehouse is located at 1119 N. Townsend St., Syracuse.



Before a refugee family arrives in Syracuse, the Resettlement Program's Housing Services Office coordinates residential provisions based on the incoming family's size and needs, and sets up an apartment or house with the requisite household goods, including furniture, blankets and linens. The warehouse stores these goods, which have been donated by members of the community, and uses them to set up each newly established refugee residence.

InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans Refugee Resettlement Program provides resettlement and post-resettlement services to help refugee families reestablish their lives. The program typically resettles between 500 and 600 new refugees each year, and serves an additional 1,200 families who have been in the U.S. for less than five years.

Syracuse Celebrates Its Refugees

With soccer and volleyball tournaments, ethnic food, an interactive art display and cultural performances, Syracuse celebrated World Refugee Day at Schiller Park on June 20. Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner welcomed attendees with the reading of a World Refugee Day proclamation.

World Refugee Day was established by the United Nations to honor the courage, strength and determination of the women, men and children who are forced to flee their homes under threat of persecution, conflict and violence.

World Refugee Day in Syracuse raises awareness of the difficulties faced by refugees and celebrates the achievements of those who have settled in Syracuse. Each year, InterFaith Works' Center for New Americans settles hundreds of people from some of the most troubled places on earth, including the Middle East, Asia and Africa. Many make their permanent home in Syracuse.



Dancers provide colorful entertainment at this year's World Refugee Day, held in Syracuse on June 20.

Keep In Constant Contact

In addition to this printed newsletter, InterFaith Works produces an e-newsletter, called *InterFaith Words*, which is distributed twice a month via an email delivery program, Constant Contact. If you would like to stay up to date on happenings at the agency as well as our Faith Partners and other not-for-profit organizations, email Keith O'Brien, development specialist, at kobrien@interfaithworkscny.org or call him at 315-449-3552, ext. 114, to be put on the distribution list.

If you had previously received *InterFaith Words*, but have not received it recently, please contact us to make sure we have your current email address. Many activities are happening at InterFaith Works and in our community, and we want to help you stay informed.





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LOOKING AHEAD

Senior Companion Volunteer Recognition Luncheon
Wednesday, Sept. 16
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn Liverpool

InterFaith Dinner Dialogues
Thursday, Sept. 17
6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Various Host Residences

Spiritual Care Day
Thursday, Oct. 22
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Crouse Hospital-Marley Education Center

Save the date!



LIKE us on Facebook and FOLLOW us on Twitter!
facebook.com/InterFaithWorksCNY twitter.com/InterFaithCNY



Our Mission

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

Our Vision

InterFaith Works builds bridges of understanding to affirm the dignity of all people in Central New York. Working with the different faith communities and the diversity of the region's people, we address deeply embedded social divisions. Informed and influenced by the values and ethics of the faith traditions, we work with the community to find common ground on its issues. Using the tools of interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue, we create life-changing experiences that lead to actions for the creation of a more equitable and loving community.

Our Programs

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 & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue, as well as Senior Services and Spiritual Care Programs.