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For Immediate Release

Dozens from different faiths to break bread and begin understanding

***Amazing Faiths Dinner Conversations
Conversations on Faith, Understanding and Respect
Thursday, November 13, 2008***

Syracuse, NY - InterFaith Works and Women Transcending Boundaries are pleased to present a transforming program of conversations on faith, understanding and respect to be held in the Greater Syracuse Area on the evening of Thursday, November 13. The event, Amazing Faiths Dinner Conversations Project, encourages people to come together to explore their faith traditions, spirituality, and shared values. The Offices of the Mayor of Syracuse and the County Executive of Onondaga County are supporting this initiative – the first to be held in the northeastern United States.

Mayor Matthew J. Driscoll said, “Our citizenry benefits tremendously from the many programs that InterFaith Works and Women Transcending Boundaries have hosted in the City of Syracuse. We are pleased to support the “Amazing Faiths Dinner Conversations Project” and wish the participants much success in their exploration of traditions, faith and issues affecting our community.”

"InterFaith Works and Women Transcending Boundaries are both groups who recognize that the more we can understand about our neighbors the better neighbors we will be. I am proud to support the Amazing Faiths Dinner Conversations event as an opportunity for the community to come together and share different beliefs with gracious consideration for those of other faiths," says Onondaga County Executive Joanne Mahoney.

The Amazing Faiths Project began in Houston in 2007, launched by two interfaith groups and supported by the Office of the Mayor of Houston. The first dinner conversation drew more than 250 people; the second dinner more than 850 people from throughout the Houston area. This year Amazing Faiths Dinner Conversations will be taking place on November 13, 2008, simultaneously in Austin, Chicago, Greenville, Harrisburg (TX), Houston, Oklahoma City, San Antonio, Washington, D.C., and Syracuse.

In Syracuse, dozens of participants will sit around tables in the homes of volunteer hosts who prepare a simple evening meal for 8-10 guests. These guests break bread together, share their personal thoughts about faith and spirituality, and listen to the thoughts of others from different faith traditions. Each group will have its own trained facilitator

guiding the discussion. Participants will learn about the beliefs and traditions of others through conversation and exploration aimed to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. There is no fee for the event or for the meal. The deadline for registering to participate is Monday, November 3.

Dr. James Wiggins, Executive Director of InterFaith Works, describes the event: “The dinners aim to help transform the way people view and experience the diversity of faiths that surround us. They are designed to help people think of this diversity as a source of common good and shared values rather than a source of conflict and enmity.” Women Transcending Boundaries President, Ann Eppinger Port, was drawn to the project “because of our commitment to the belief that we can all learn from each other and draw strength from what makes us unique.”

To Register go to: www.amazingfaithsproject.com For more information on how to sign up or be a host contact Sarah Beth Lardie, InterFaith Works of CNY, sblardie@interfaithworkscny.org, 315-449-3552 Ext. 120 or Betsy Wiggins, Women Transcending Boundaries, bwiggins@twcny.rr.com , 315-446-1694