

## Why a Center for Dialogue?

### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN DUE TO INTRACTABLE DIFFERENCES

### STALEMATE ON I-81 DECISION

### NEIGHBORS ABORT PLANS FOR SAMARITAN CENTER FEEDING PROGRAM

### ONEIDA LEADERS CALL FOR AN END TO NATIVE STEREOTYPES IN MAJOR LEAGUE MASCOTS

### RURAL NEIGHBORS DIVIDED BY HYDRO-FRACKING DEBATE

To answer the question “why dialogue?” simply read today’s headlines! Our democracy **DEPENDS** on dialogue. Dialogue enables us to weigh different values and points of view, to define the basis of our common problems **TOGETHER**, and to find a way through our differences towards understanding and common purpose.

In true dialogue, we recognize the inherent equality of all people. We acknowledge the need for creating solutions that strengthen *equity* for all people. Without thoughtful dialogue, we end up shouting at each other from across party lines, picket lines, or property lines.

Dialogue is *different* from a debate, discussion, or a presentation by a panel of experts. Dialogue draws upon the wisdom of the many citizen voices that make up a community. Dialogue affirms our differences, and then encourages us to work towards common ground. Dialogue invites a willingness to be changed by what we hear. Dialogue teaches us that solutions to shared problems come from bringing together people whose experiences are different.

As InterFaith Works prepares to launch the Ahmed and Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue, we are drawing on the

wisdom of The Kettering Foundation and Everyday Democracy. These two national dialogue-to-democracy organizations work with local communities to enhance civic engagement and to support citizen dialogues about race and community concerns. The dialogue materials they provide represent a diversity of opinions, and help policy-makers, community leaders, and community members make better decisions.

**Everyday Democracy defines civic engagement** as “individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern...” Civic engagement is about the right of the people to define the public good, determine the policies by which they will seek the good, and reform or replace institutions that do not serve that good.”



**The Kettering Foundation** seeks to identify and address the barriers to effective democracy through programs that focus on citizens, communities, and institutions. Kettering’s research suggests that democracy requires:

- responsible citizens who can make sound choices about their future;
- communities of citizens acting together to address common problems; and
- institutions with public legitimacy that contribute to strengthening society.

### The special place of race and faith in our work

InterFaith Works was founded on the principles of equality among people of all different faiths and all different ethnicities. Racism is rooted in our country’s history and is embedded in our culture. Judgments on the basis of a person’s faith have also marred our nation. These divisions prevent us from fulfilling the promise of our democracy.

InterFaith Works envisions a Central New York where local communities create and sustain public dialogue and problem solving. In the Center for Dialogue:

- everyone’s voice is heard, equally and respectfully;
- people of different backgrounds and views routinely work together to solve public problems;
- elected officials have many opportunities to hear from and respond to everyday people;
- people have ways to *inform and shape* public policy, and to *work with* officeholders to solve public problems.

The need for dialogue has never been greater. We face complex social issues across the globe, in our nations and states, and right here in our own backyard. We strive to become a national model for this work, to create a path for other communities to follow. Help us welcome the Ahmed and Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue in the coming year!

## Abundant Love



Beth A. Broadway

This past June, I received a cancer diagnosis. It was early phase, operable, and I'm recovering. Thanks be to God.

The outpouring of support that came in my direction was humbling. The good medical people of our community did their jobs with great competence. My husband was a champion. Each day, people filled my mailbox with cards. Colleagues sent bouquets of flowers, a new bunch long before the last one faded.

Baskets of fresh raspberries, lentil soup and homemade bread began to appear on the doorstep. One day a fat package of books arrived, and then, more books with lavender scented soaps.

And people prayed for me. Fr. Jon Werner turned me over to the person in his parish who prayed the best. Shyalpa Rinpoche, the spiritual leader for the local Tibetan Buddhist center, offered to pray. My own church, St. Lucy's, and my childhood church held me in prayer. My Episcopalian priest 'brother,' and my friend, Rabbi Dan Fellman, and even my "swimmin' women," all engaged the Almighty on my behalf.

This intentional, personal act on the part of so many was a human manifestation of the power of God. The abundance of love, food, books, flowers, and generosity blew me away, and it blew cancer away.

But cancer rocked my world. Cancer caused me to look at my work, my life, and my family with more gratitude. It made me want to plant a thousand tulips, in case I wasn't here in the spring, so my husband would know how much I loved him. It made me want to put a name on each of my quilts so that everyone I love would have a memento. It made me slow down and begin the process of deepening towards a more authentic pace and path.

Cancer also made me reflect on the nature of this disease, this emperor of maladies that affects so many of us. Cancer, unchecked, will consume all in its path - like the violence our community is experiencing, like the madness in our nation's capital, and the elusive racism that lies at its root, unchecked, it will consume us all. Cancer knows no boundaries, and a community bereft of resource does not stop at the city limits. We are not safe in suburban havens from grinding poverty and its twin, hopelessness. Like all the parts of the human body, all the parts of the community are connected. Central New York includes all of us. As Fr. Greg Boyle says, "There is no us and them, there is only us. Just us. Justice."

So let us turn our attention to the community cancer among us. What if we agreed to pour ourselves out towards each other like we do when one of us is sick? Our community needs love lavished on our young people, and across our divides, food enough for everyone, books and educators to open our minds, flowers and beauty on every corner, prayer to lift us up, and generosity towards all people and groups that are working so hard to set the world right.

My deepest thanks to my InterFaith family that cared for me so generously and lovingly this summer.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Broadway  
Executive Director

PS: May this season of generosity inspire you to give to those causes that mean the most to you. If you find yourself able to make a gift to InterFaith Works this year, we would be most appreciative. We promise to use your gift carefully on behalf of our community.

### 2013 • BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### 2013 • ROUND TABLE OF FAITH LEADERS

Convener of Round Table of Faith Leaders:  
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 Community Builder: Rev. William C. Redfield  
 The Right Rev. Gladstone B. Adams, Bishop  
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 Rev. Janet Fechner  
 Rev. Leslie Johnson  
 Rev. Jim Kerr-Whitt  
 Mr. Mohamed Khater  
 Capt. John Luby  
 Ms. Simone Montgomery  
 Ms. Joy Pople  
 Rev. Regina Reese Young  
 Mr. Michael Rubin  
 Rev. Dr. Peter Shidemantle  
 Mr. Ralph Singh  
 Rev. Dr. Mark Sommers  
 Rev. Dr. Tiffany Steinwert  
 Mr. Alan Thornton  
 Rev. Steve Walker  
 Rev. Edith Washington  
 Rev. Victor Wilson

### Emeritus Members:

Rabbi Daniel Jezer  
 Mr. James B. Wiggins, Ph.D.

## Center for New Americans



InterFaith Works (IFW) Executive Director Beth A. Broadway proudly sits behind the wheel of the Center for New Americans (CNA) new minivan. A generous grant from the John Ben Snow Foundation allowed IFW to purchase the van in time to display it in the World Refugee Day parade in June. Since then it has been put to use picking up newly arriving refugees at the airport, driving refugee clients to job interviews, and transporting clients to literacy programs and medical appointments. CNA caseworkers and other staff members are grateful for this new addition to the program.

## Planting Seeds of Friendship and Harmony

### 'Fresh' Project Enlists Syracuse Refugee Volunteers



InterFaith Works Center for New Americans program clients Mohamed Haroon (left) and Abdallah Adam volunteer in the fields at the Salt City Harvest Farm.

Founded in 1981, InterFaith Works Center for New Americans (CNA)/Refugee Resettlement Program is one of the five service-related programs that embody the mission of InterFaith Works. Over the years, the Center has welcomed thousands of New Americans who arrive in Syracuse fleeing war, inter-ethnic violence or political persecution in their home countries. Many come from such countries as Bhutan, Burma, Somalia and Sudan where people's daily lives often center around gardening and farming. In Syracuse, many refugee families move into small apartments or houses with no access to a private yard or garden. Some yearn for a plot of land to take up planting and harvesting again. Enter **Syracuse's Salt City Harvest Farm** - a 36-acre community farm in Kirkville, New York, established through a generous donation from the Letcher Family.

The idea for the farm was planted during a conversation in December 2012 between Brother Nicholas Spano - Director of the Assumption Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen on North Salina Street in Syracuse - and Theresa Letcher and her son Dylan, a senior at Christian Brothers Academy at the time. Their vision: to establish a community farm that would assist a struggling pantry, promote healthy eating practices, and involve the various refugee communities in Central New York.

The three quickly sprang into action, enlisting the help of many other organizations and sponsors. The Onondaga County Health Department, TOPS Supermarket and the SUNY School of Environmental Science and Forestry joined the effort. Local non-profit organizations like Syracuse Grows, Women Transcending Boundaries, Hope Print, and the Refugee Assistance Program have also become deeply involved.

Dylan knocked on doors across the community and made countless presentations about the project to his many friends and family members. His tireless work and project promotion raised over \$10,000 in donations. The project was launched with an initial planting of 300 fruit trees. Volunteers from the Refugee Assistance Program led the transportation team while a local bus refurbishing company generously contributed a bus and a driver. The North Side Learning Center has allowed use of their mini-vans to transport groups of volunteers to the farm site.

Grape vines and strawberry patches now line the pathways on the farm grounds - while corn, tomatoes, Ethiopian kale, radishes, broccoli, and other vegetables and herbs are thriving. The future of this collaborative effort is bright. The partners have plans to launch agricultural micro enterprises, children's gardens and cooking classes.

The project has resulted in another unintended but inspiring outcome: Dozens of new Americans including Bhutanese, Somalis, Sudanese and Burmese have reached across ethnic, religious and racial divides to share soil and plant seeds of friendship. Together, they embody all aspects of IFW's mission and vision.

To learn more about the Salt City Harvest Farm, view photos and track their progress, follow their blog at <http://saltcityharvestfarm.blogspot.com/>

## Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism

### Seeds of Peace Redefining Cool

With contributions from  
Jose Cossa, Ph.D

For generations, American teenagers have struggled to gain social acceptance. Definitions of “cool” ebb and flow, but peer pressure is a constant presence in our schools and communities. As a nation, we continue to reel from shocking stories about teens committing suicide in response to chronic bullying. For refugee and immigrant youth, the pressure to fit in is no less acute. Some youth arrive in Syracuse having spent many years in isolated refugee camps. For them, attending an American public school can be an alienating or even traumatic experience. Many face discrimination and intolerance while trying to navigate the culture of “cool” in their new school environment.

Enter InterFaith Works (IFW) Seeds of Peace Program, which has been redefining notions of “cool” since 2011. The program, which brings together refugee and American-born high school students, grew out of a partnership between the Syracuse Chapter of Say Yes to Education and the Syracuse City School District (SCSD). Each year, students - known as Seeds - travel to Otisfield, Maine, where they spend two weeks at the Seeds of Peace Summer Camp. While there, they build relationships with peers from different backgrounds, learn how to manage conflict, and address bullying in their schools and communities. For some, the experience is life-changing and transformational.



Abdinoor Mohamed, a senior at Corcoran High School, steps off the Syracuse-to-Maine transport bus, arriving to a unique welcome and receiving line at Seeds of Peace Camp in August.

*“It occurred to me that life indeed could be full of such kind accepting people of different races and backgrounds all joining together with the common goal of making the world a better place.”*

- Ranya Shannon  
Seeds of Peace Youth Participant

This past summer, Ranya Shannon, a sophomore at Nottingham High School, boarded the bus to Maine with 22 of her peers from all five SCSD high schools. In addition to the traditional camp activities like swimming and sports, Ranya joined other campers each day in facilitated dialogue sessions. “We would talk about everything from problems in our community to the most personal aspects of our lives.” Ranya and her peers spoke openly and candidly about racial identity

and the forms of discrimination and bullying they witness on a regular basis. Trained facilitators encouraged them to contemplate their commonalities and shared humanity, and to consider the different ways to foster peace and justice in their own communities. Along the way, the Seeds developed greater empathy for each other and widened their circle of friends. “It occurred to me that life indeed could be full of such kind accepting people of different races and backgrounds, all joining together with the common goal of making the world a better place,” Ranya reflected.

By forming Seeds of Peace Clubs in their respective high-schools, participating youth begin to plant seeds of tolerance and acceptance back home in Syracuse. IFW has big plans for the program’s growth and expansion. Our goals include recruiting community members to serve as mentors for Syracuse Seeds, bringing more facilitated dialogue sessions into the schools themselves. Ultimately, we hope to make community action for social justice a “cool” enterprise for high school teens everywhere.

#### Seeds on WCNY

Josse Cosa, Ph.D., Seeds of Peace Program Coordinator, and three Seeds, Cimone Jordan, Ella Neville and Ranya Shannon, presented at the Thursday Morning Roundtable at Drumlins Country Club on October 3. WCNY-FM radio broadcast the presentation on air October 6. To listen to a podcast of the presentation, visit the WCNY Thursday Morning Roundtable webpage: <http://www.wcny.org/radio/shows/tmr/>

## Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism

### Nominate a Leader for the 2014 Racial Justice Award



2013 Racial Justice Award recipients (left) Gretchen E. Lopez and Pastor Daren C. Jaime

Since 2006, Community Wide Dialogue (CWD) has been honoring individuals who have made a difference in the Central New York community through their commitment and efforts toward addressing issues of racial injustice.

In 2013, Pastor Daren C. Jaime was recognized for his work in South Side neighborhoods and the greater Syracuse community, addressing issues of racial inequality and improving the lives of Syracuse residents. Dr. Gretchen E. Lopez was honored for affecting change through education. Her research and teachings promote dialogue as a social justice tool for individuals to address inequality.

Help us continue this tradition by nominating someone for the Racial Justice award today! **Nominations are due by November 15, 2013.** Guidelines and nominating forms are available through the CWD office (315) 449-3552, ext. 119, or go to the Racial Justice Award page on the InterFaith Works' website at [www.interfaithworkscny.org](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org).

The 2014 awards will be presented at the Racial Justice Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. We are grateful for the continuing partnership with Syracuse Stage and their support of this important event. The ceremony at Syracuse Stage's Sutton Pavilion will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a presentation in Archbold Theater of *The Whipping Man*, by Matthew Lopez, directed by Timothy Bond.

## Interfaith Education and Engagement

### Nelson Mandela Celebrated at Local Interfaith Service

Adapted from *The Post-Standard/Syracuse.com* July 26, 2013 article by Meera Jagannathan

In July, Bethany Baptist Church of Syracuse hosted a celebration of the life of former South African President Nelson Mandela. The interfaith service, co-sponsored by InterFaith Works, the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse, and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, featured traditional Xhosa/Zulu music, a video biography of Mandela, and personal reflections from religious and community leaders on Mandela's international impact.

Mandela, who turned 95 years old on July 18, has been a symbol of societal change and struggle against apartheid for decades. Following a controversial 27-year imprisonment, he became South Africa's first black president in 1994. At the time of the celebration

event, the former president had been hospitalized for a recurring lung infection. He was discharged from hospital care in early September, and as recently as October 6, the British news publication *The Telegraph* reported he is responding positively to continued treatment at his home in Houghton, a suburb of Johannesburg, South Africa. "He is fine, the spirits of Africa, his ancestors, our ancestors, are keeping him for all of us," said his wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

The program included those attending joining hands and singing *We Shall Overcome*. Some speakers and faith leaders at the event cautioned against becoming complacent about inequality and race relations in today's society. They urged attending community members to continue supporting community service agencies engaged in this important work. Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism and the Interfaith Education and Engagement Program provide opportunities for community members to participate in similar awareness events.



Evelyn Wingfield of Syracuse attends the service *A Celebration of the Life of Nelson Mandela*. Hosted by Bethany Baptist Church, the event was sponsored by the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse, Interfaith Works and Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Syracuse and Vicinity.

## Senior Companion Program

### The Senior Companion Program Celebrates 27th Annual Companion Recognition Luncheon is a Program Participant Thank You

The InterFaith Works Senior Companion Program, funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the United Way of Central New York, provides compassionate care and companionship to 200 frail and elderly Central New Yorkers each year. On September 25, InterFaith Works (IFW) held its 27th Annual Recognition Celebration for the Senior Companion Program. The event proved another heartwarming success. The gala luncheon was held at the Holiday Inn on Electronics Parkway in Liverpool.

60 Companions and their guests enjoyed the elegant lunch - a “not to be missed” event where the “best dressed” were in attendance. Elder Melvin Baker offered an uplifting invocation. The event program also included an address by Beth A. Broadway, Executive Director of IFW. She spoke eloquently about the great service Companions provide in alleviating loneliness and isolation among the many frail elderly in our community.

The program continued with remarks from Larry Crinnin, Program Director. Larry highlighted key successes from the year and also offered thanks and recognition to the program’s funders and key sponsors. Larry also expressed gratitude for the support and collaborative relationships provided by the IFW Board of Directors, the Senior Companion Program’s Advisory Board, as well as the Volunteer Stations and community partners that make the program successful and prosperous. Last but not least, he thanked the Companions for being caregivers, advocates and friends to the independent living elderly of Onondaga, Madison and Cayuga counties.

Several Senior Companions received special recognition and awards for dedicating 5 to 20 years of service to the program. The grand highlight of the luncheon was the honoring of the program’s first ever Companion to be recognized for 25 years of service. Betty Brennan (89 years old) was honored and celebrated for her quarter century of service to her elderly clients, primarily at the Buckley Landing assisted living program. Barbara Blok, Volunteer Coordinator for the Senior Companion Program, spoke passionately about the wonderful 22 years she and Betty have known each other through the program. Barbara also shared feedback that she has received from so many of Betty’s clients over the years: “We love her!”

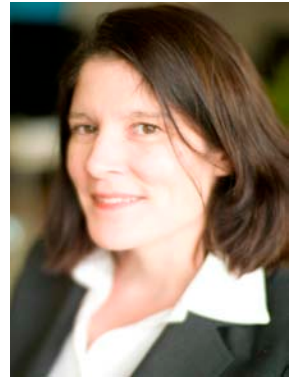


(Left to right) Senior Companion Program Director Larry Crinnin, InterFaith Works Executive Director Beth A. Broadway, Companion Betty Brennan, Senior Companion Program Advisory Board Chairperson Sandra Spittler, Senior Companion Program Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Blok.

## Other News and Updates

### Nora Heaphy Joins InterFaith Works Staff as Development Director

Nora Heaphy brings more than 15 years of non-profit management and fundraising experience to her role as development director with Interfaith Works. From 2005-2012, Nora served as Deputy Director with the Colin L. Powell Center for Leadership and Service at the City College of New York in New York City, where she led program development strategic planning and fundraising efforts. During her tenure, Nora helped staff and led a multi-million dollar capital campaign which led to the establishment of the Colin L. Powell School for Global and Civic Leadership. Previously, she served as Executive Director with Refugee Transitions, a non-profit organization providing educational and social support programs for recently resettled refugees and immigrants in the San Francisco Bay Area. Nora also served as U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Lesotho, Southern Africa from 1992-1994. A native of Syracuse, Nora earned a B.A. in international relations from Syracuse University. She also holds an MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from San Francisco State University, and a Masters in Public Administration from New York University.



Nora Heaphy

### InterFaith Works Welcomes Jose Cossa, Ph.D., as Seeds of Peace Coordinator

InterFaith Works is pleased to welcome Jose Cossa, Ph. D., as a recent addition to the Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism (CWD) program staff as Seeds of Peace Coordinator. A native of Mozambique, Jose is the founder and senior consultant at Maguiguane Consulting (Maputo, Mozambique). He is a scholar and a consultant with interests centered on justice at the local and global level. Jose holds a Ph.D. in Cultural and Educational Policy Studies, with a focus in Comparative and International Education, from Loyola University Chicago. He is the author of *Power, Politics, and Higher Education: International Regimes, Local Governments, and Educational Autonomy*, published in 2008 by Cambria Press. Jose is a Ph.D. Methodologist at Walden University; and a Dissertation Second Reader at Pan-African Theological Seminary in Togo. He has held teaching positions at Loyola University Chicago's School of Education and Colgate University; has held adjunct professor positions at Syracuse University's S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communication, Loyola University Chicago's School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and Dominican University's School of Leadership and Continuing Studies. He has also held lecturer and interim director positions at Cape Theological Seminary in Cape Town, South Africa.



Jose Cossa, Ph.D.

InterFaith Works (IFW) hosted a welcome reception in July for the new Onondaga Community College President, Dr. Casey Crabill. IFW Executive Director Beth A. Broadway welcomed Dr. Crabill to our community with the following blessing. Onondaga has been a long standing supporting partner of the work and programs at IFW.



Dr. Casey Crabill

"May the new work you have chosen here, as our community college president, excite your heart, challenge your edges, and call forth many undiscovered gifts. May integrity always be your guide. May we exceed your expectations in our encouragement, support, and contributions to the college, and may you sometimes get a little rest!"

- Beth A. Broadway



World Refugee Day participants enjoy the colorful and spirited parade of representative nations, traveling from the Northside of Syracuse to City Hall during the June celebration event.

## 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** - Assists refugee individuals and families in beginning new lives in America, and serves as a resource and cultural center.

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

**Housing and Community Initiatives** - Provides low income housing options and works to stabilize neighborhoods.

**InterFaith Education & Engagement Program** - Links city and suburban congregations to promote interfaith relationships and citizen participation.

**Senior Companion Program** - Provides friendship and compassionate care to the homebound elderly.

**Spiritual Care Program** - Offers spiritual care for hospital patients, nursing home residents, inmates, and troubled youth.



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LOOKING AHEAD  
Tuesday, January 28, 2014  
Racial Justice Awards  
Syracuse Stage - Sutton Pavilion & Archbold Theater  
5:30 award ceremony / 7:30 Syracuse Stage show  
Sunday, February 9, 2014  
World Interfaith Harmony Assembly  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Liverpool  
Time TBD



*Affirm Dignity*



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