



**InterFaith Works**  
**El-Hindi Center for Dialogue**  
**Racial Justice Award Honorees**  
February 24, 2016



embodies

**Bonke Rugira** will receive the Racial Justice Award -Youth. A native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bonke and his family were granted asylum in the United States and arrived in Syracuse on September 22, 2008. A leader among his peers, Rugira is valedictorian of his senior class at Fowler High School in the Syracuse City School District and a captain on the soccer team. He is involved in diverse school activities, including being a facilitator in the El-Hindi Center for Dialogue’s Dialogue to End Racism program between Fowler and Skaneateles high schools. He is a positive force in his interactions with people everywhere and social justice through peaceful actions at all times.



**Timothy Bond** will receive the Catalyst Award. Bond has held leadership positions at regional theaters throughout the country for the last 25 years, and is in his 8th season serving as Producing Artistic Director of Syracuse Stage. Each season he has included at least one play addressing race or ethnicity as a way to educate the Central New York community about stereotypes and assumptions. As thousands have attended these plays over the years, Bond has made a significant contribution to informing the community about social inequity and racial justice as well as inspiring further conversation and action.



**Bill Byrne** will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his lifelong commitment to addressing issues of racial and social equity in the CNY community. Byrne is Chairman of the Board for Byrne Dairy, following his recent retirement after a 42-year career at the dairy, including 10 years as President (1997- 2006), where he has been committed to keeping the company locally owned and operated. Byrne has devoted himself to social justice causes - he served 3 years as Chair of the Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative from 2003 to 2005, raising local funds to augment \$50 million in federal funding used to improve local housing. He is an 18-year member of the local Salvation Army Advisory Board, including 2 years as Board Chairman, and has served as a volunteer for a number of organizations, including Interfaith Works, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, Northeast Dairy Foods Association, and the NY Federal Reserve Board.

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The 2016 Racial Justice Awards will be presented on **Wednesday, February 24, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.**, at Syracuse Stage. The reception and award ceremony will be followed by the Syracuse Stage production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* at 7:30 p.m. The suggested ticket donation is \$30 - \$150 (any gift over \$30 is tax deductible). For reservations call 315-449-3552, ext.119, or email [cfid@interfaithworkscny.org](mailto:cfid@interfaithworkscny.org).



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