



InterFaith Works of CNY

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NEWS RELEASE

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BILL BYRNE, TIMOTHY BOND AND BONKE RUGIRA TO RECEIVE 2016 RACIAL JUSTICE AWARDS

Syracuse, NY– [InterFaith Works of CNY](http://www.interfaithworkscny.org) will honor **Bill Byrne, Timothy Bond** and **Bonke Rugira** with its **2016 Racial Justice Awards on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2016**. The ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m. in the Syracuse Stage Sutton Pavilion. Attendees also are invited to attend Syracuse Stage's presentation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* 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. **Byrne** will receive the **Lifetime Achievement Award**. **Bond** will receive the **Catalyst Award**, and **Rugira** will receive the **Youth Award**.

Byrne, a resident of Jamesville, NY, is chairman of the board of Byrne Dairy. Recently retiring after a 42-year career with the company, he had served as president for 10 years and was committed to keeping the company locally owned and operated. Devoted to social justice causes, Byrne served three years as chair of the Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative. He is an 18-year member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, serving two years as chairman. He is also associated with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, Northeast Dairy Foods Association and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Bond, a resident of Syracuse, NY, has been producing artistic director of Syracuse Stage for eight years. 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. Bond has made a significant contribution by informing thousands of people about social inequity and racial justice as well as inspiring further dialogue and action.

A native of the Democratic Republic of Congo, **Rugira, a resident of Syracuse, NY**, is valedictorian of his senior class at Fowler High School and captain of its soccer team. Committed to promoting social justice through peaceful actions, he has served as a facilitator for the El-Hindi Center for Dialogue's Dialogue to End Racism between Fowler and Skaneateles High School students.

For **tickets to the event**, contact Kathy Ferro at (315) 449-3552, ext. 119, or email her at kferro@intefaihtworkscny.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 & Elizabeth El-Hindi Center for Dialogue](#), as well as [Senior Services](#) and [Spiritual Care Programs](#).

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