

34th Annual ILAD to Honor Nine Community Leaders

Radical Empathy

Radical
[rad-i-kuh l]
adjective

1. Going to the root or origin.

Empathy
[em-puh-thee]
noun

1. Reaching beyond one's own world view to understand others' experiences and emotions.

This year, the InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner (ILAD) will honor nine individuals—Charlie and Beth Beach, Tanweer Haq, Dr. Rhea Jezer, Clarence Jordan, the Hon. Langston McKinney, Dr. Frederick and Virginia Parker, and the Rev. William Redfield—who personify radical empathy in their personal and professional lives. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 3, at the SRC Arena and Events Center on the Onondaga Community College campus. A reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., with dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m.

These extraordinary people are being recognized for their radical empathy, which has led to a better life for thousands of our Central New York neighbors. Whether through business, volunteerism or faith, our honorees have worked tirelessly for a just community where human rights are protected and all people receive equitable treatment and share in community resources. InterFaith Works is honored to recognize their commitment and service to others.

See page 4 for a list of our generous sponsors.



2016 ILAD honorees are (front row, left to right) Dr. Rhea Jezer, Beth Beach, Virginia Parker, (back row, left to right) the Hon. Langston McKinney, Clarence Jordan, the Rev. William Redfield, Charlie Beach, Tanweer Haq and Dr. Frederick Parker.

Affirming Dignity for 40 Years

InterFaith Works of Central New York celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2016.

In 1976, a formidable group of faith and civil rights leaders founded what was then known as the Syracuse Area InterReligious Council. The first order of business was to advance cross-racial understanding.

As the agency grew and worked toward interreligious understanding (first among Jews, Catholics and Protestants, and then extending to include Muslims, Sikhs, Mormons and other faiths), its name evolved to the InterReligious Council and then to InterFaith Works of Central New York, as it is known today.

Through the agency's El-Hindi Center for Dialogue, InterFaith Works embraces diverse people and faith communities to address deeply embedded social divisions and to help the community find common ground. Its social services programs – the Center for New Americans, Senior Services and Spiritual Care – address the needs of and empower people who are vulnerable, low income and targets of oppression, including refugees and the elderly.

Although 40 years have passed since InterFaith Works' founding, one thing has remained constant: our mission to affirm the dignity of each person and every faith community and to create relationships and understanding among us.

Some things never change.



Beth A. Broadway

40 Years of Radical Empathy

The word “imbroglio”—meaning an extremely confused, complicated or embarrassing situation—is what I have come to call this presidential election.

It speaks to a divided America. And don't we know that “divided we fall?”

The work of our El-Hindi Center for Dialogue is more important than ever, breaking down stereotypes, building alliances across our differences, and working together to build a true democracy.

InterFaith Works was founded 40 years ago in the hopeful wake of the Civil Rights movement and the signing of the Civil Rights Act, the threatened democracy of the Watergate era, the Ecumenical Movement to bridge religious divides, the end of the Vietnam war, and the movement for women's liberation. This time has been called the time when the shell cracked open, like the shell of a seed:

“Life does not accommodate you; it shatters you. Every seed destroys its container, or else there would be no fruition.” - Florida Scott-Maxwell

Just so, our founding was at a time of the shattering of American Democracy, when the call for increased citizen participation, a questioning of the old ways, and a widening of opportunities for all people shattered glass ceilings and made room at the table for the rest of us.

Our founders were made up of a large group of leaders from faith and civic life who believed in the ideals of freedom, justice and liberty, and who had worked together for over a decade on issues of civil and human rights, coupled with interfaith understanding. They were determined to bring a sense of radical empathy to the forefront of our community.

To honor our founders, we have chosen to use Radical Empathy as the focus for the selection of this year's InterFaith Leadership Awards. Our honorees have demonstrated at the most root level of their beings a kindness, a willingness to walk in the shoes of another, and a way through their careers and civic lives of going beyond typical service to deep compassion and responsiveness.

They helped bring us from the imbroglio of the past, and though they have not “fixed everything,” our 2016 honorees have transformed institutions and systems from judicial to medical to educational to religious to cultural, and we are all the better for it. As role models for what it means to be human, this diverse group of people have pushed and pulled us towards our deeper selves. We hope you will join us in honoring these great citizens who have chosen to live here in Central New York, and give here in ways that will reverberate for generations.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Broadway
President/CEO

**Radical
Empathy**

You are invited to join us as we celebrate the InterFaith Leadership Award honorees and our 40th anniversary on May 3rd. For more information about tickets, tables and sponsorship, please contact Denise Jochem-Robertson, development director, at drobertson@interfaithworkscny.org or 315-449-3552, ext. 120.

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Save the Date: The Duck Race is Coming June 11th!

The 2016 Duck Race to End Racism will be held on Saturday, June 11, from noon to 4 p.m., at the Syracuse Inner Harbor. As the weather turns, Quackers was recently spotted migrating his way up the east coast back to the Inner Harbor. He's looking forward to June and the Duck Race!

The 14th Annual Duck Race to End Racism is a free family festival that brings together people from all over the Central New York community. The event features a diverse line-up of children's entertainment, cooperative games, face painting, community information booths and duck races galore. It is a celebration with people of many colors, many different backgrounds, and various walks of life coming together to demonstrate what the world would look like if racism did not exist.

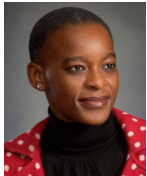
For more information about the event, sponsorship opportunities, volunteer opportunities or nonprofit 50-50 raffle ticket sales, contact Kathy Ferro at 315-449-3552, ext. 119, or email kferro@interfaithworkscny.org.

Ahmad & Elizabeth El-Hindi
Center for Dialogue's



Announcing Staff Changes!

The Center for New Americans (CNA) has undergone a revitalization in the last six months, with many staff positions being filled by new, highly qualified and compassionate people. After careful deliberation, InterFaith Works' Search Committee chose Olive Sephuma as the new CNA director. Please join us in welcoming the people who have recently joined our agency or received promotions.



Olive Sephuma has been appointed director of the Center for New Americans. She had previously served as director of community grantmaking at the Central New York Community Foundation and as director of foundation relations for Syracuse University. An immigrant from Botswana, she has 24 years of experience in philanthropic, non-profit, and governmental sectors in both Africa and the U.S., with a wide range of skills in program development, community development, and continuing multiple roles in Central New York.



Kari Cameron was promoted to associate director for the Center for New Americans. She has been on the Refugee Resettlement Program staff since July 2014, as the R&P coordinator/intensive case management. She will continue with these duties in her expanded role.



Rodney Gibson, recovery specialist, Center for New Americans. Rodney is responsible for conducting group meetings and recovery assessments, assisting with intensive case management, and coordinating English as a Second Language classes.



Reema Habayeb, recovery specialist, Center for New Americans. Reema is a social worker with credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselor certification. Prior to moving to the United States in the 1990s, she worked with UNICEF and the World Health Organization, where she was a field specialist, spending time in refugee camps and training field workers.



Terri Jennings, Senior Services, volunteer coordinator for the Senior Companion Program. Terri has many years of non-profit experience, previously serving as a program manager with Access CNY. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and social science from SUNY Oswego.



Lorina Mpinga, case worker, Center for New Americans. Lorina is a native of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and she spent time in two Tanzanian refugee camps. She graduated college with a bachelor's degree in French and Francophone studies in 2012. She has been involved with the Refugee Resettlement Program since July 2012 as a contract consultant working with and interpreting for refugee clients speaking French, Swahili and Kinyarwanda.



Abdul Saboor, Match Grant Program case worker. Abdul immigrated to the United States from his native Afghanistan in 2014, having served as an interpreter and advisor to the U.S. military. Abdul had served as a Center for New Americans' contract interpreter and translator in the Dari and Farsi languages. He has an associate degree in humanities and social science from Onondaga Community College and plans to complete his bachelor's degree in political science by the end of 2017.



J. Colby Ward, Reception and Office Support. Colby previously served the agency as a contract consultant and volunteer for the International Recovery Group, a program of the Center for New Americans.



Najah Zaaed, mental health and wellness specialist. Najah has a master's degree in social work, and an executive master's degree in public administration, both from Syracuse University. She is fluent in Arabic and English, and has worked at the Islamic Society of CNY as a counselor.

Radical Empathy

Meg O'Connell and Eric Allyn are serving as InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner (ILAD) honorary co-chairs, and the Allyn Foundation is the event Presenting Sponsor. The ILAD event would not be possible without the following sponsors (as of April 19):

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Save the date!

LOOKING AHEAD
Tuesday, May 3, 2016
InterFaith Leadership Award Dinner
SRC Arena & Events Center
5:30-8:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 11, 2016
Duck Race to End Racism
Syracuse Inner Harbor
Noon-4:00 p.m.



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