



Interfaith Community of
Schenectady, Inc.

May/June 2018

Vol. 46, No.4

Goal:
Sharing together,
One God —
One Community

Interfaith News

~ Over Forty-five Years of Interfaith Partnerships ~ Est. 1971 ~



May Dinner Gathering

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

6:30pm Dinner ~ 7:30pm Program

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center

1945 Union Street, Niskayuna, NY 12309

Schenectady Clergy Against Hate Panel Discussion



Rev. Robert Long, convener, Coordinating Council member

Rabbi Ted Lichtenfeld, Congregation Agudat Achim

Dr. Paul Uppal, Guru Nanak Darbar Sikh community

Rev. Kathleen Gorman-Coombs, Trinity Presbyterian Church

Imam Yaki or Dr. Saeed Khan, Islamic Center of the Capital District

Schenectady Clergy against Hate was formed in response to an increase in hate crimes in our area and an increase in bullying in the local schools. It is a non-partisan, multi-faith coalition designed to speak out against hatred, bigotry, discrimination toward immigration status, religious preferences, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and labels that divide us.

Their goals are:

- To unify diverse communities around shared and common religious values
- To advocate through moral and religious teachings for a just and compassionate society
- To create a unified pastoral voice to speak to the community against hate
- To confront actions which are rooted in bigotry
- To promote unity and solidarity through respect and fellowship
- To educate through religious traditions on issues of conscience

Presentation of the Robert & Dorothy Ludwig Interfaith Award

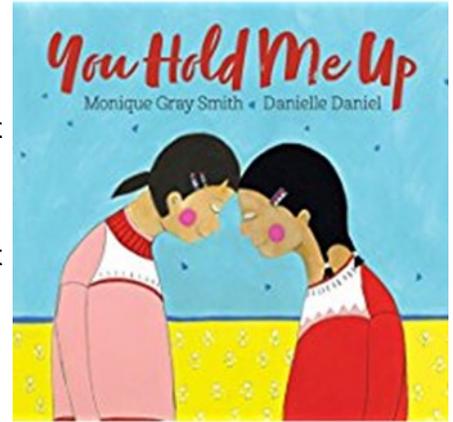
Dinner is \$15 payable at the door. Program only is free. If you require a kosher meal, please let us know at time of reservation. Reservations to the IFC office, schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com or 370-2150 by noon, May 8.



From our President

Sharing a story and a delightful book:

On April 10, I attended the annual *Friends of Schenectady County Public Library* dinner meeting, held this year at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia. Of course the food and service was excellent, if you've been to a banquet at Glen Sanders you know that goes without saying. It wasn't just the menu choices that attracted me, however, nor yet that the Friends is an organization I both support and admire. It was the keynote speaker, Kaela Wallman, the library's Coordinator of Youth Services, that prompted me to buy a ticket and invite a friend.



Kaela ran a summer literacy program at the old Central State Street branch for several summers and I got to know her when I volunteered with the program. I developed a deep respect for her skills and her delightful personality.

Recognizing the many gifts that the Friends provide the library both in monetary contributions and in volunteer hours, Kaela read a book to us: "*You Hold Me Up*" by Monique Gray Smith. The simple message and delightful illustrations appealed to me. Thinking of all the ways I could use it in the work I do with children and adults, I ordered a copy for myself. In sharing the text here I am hopeful that we can find ways to start a conversation about how we hold each other up.

I read this to the assembly at last month's dinner meeting thinking that one of the ways we hold each other up is through the conjoined ministry of Interfaith Community of Schenectady.

You Hold Me Up

You hold me up when you are kind to me...when you share with me...when you learn with me.

You hold me up when you play with me...when you laugh with me...when you sing with me.

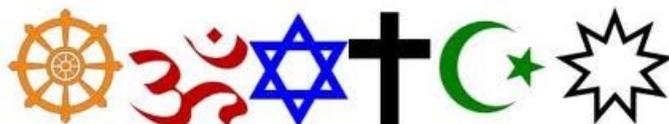
You hold me up when you comfort me...when you listen to me...when you respect me.

You hold me up.

I hold you up.

We hold each other up.

In peace, Miranda Rand, President





Awards

Each year the Interfaith Community of Schenectady presents two awards:

The **James Stamper** award recognizes an organization that works in Schenectady County to fill a need not covered by government agencies.

This year's recipient was **Sustain Ministry** an organization run out of the First United Methodist Church of Schenectady that provides eligible Schenectady County members with toilet paper, soap, diapers, pull-ups, feminine hygiene items, adult incontinence products and assorted personal hygiene items. Distribution is twice a month between 11:30am and 1pm ~ Phone 518-374-4403 (ext. 103) for more info.

Congratulations to Sustain Ministry!

The **Robert and Dorothy Ludwig Award** recognizes individuals who make an outstanding contribution to the interfaith community.

This year's recipients are **Dr. Saeed Khan and Mrs. Humera Khan**. Dr. Khan is chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care at Ellis Hospital and a member of the Islamic Community of the Capital District, where he has served on the Board of Trustees including a term as President (2011-2013). He continues as a member of the outreach committee and as coordinator of the education programs at the Islamic Center. His wife, Humera, serves on the Coordinating Council of our organization, on the Muslim/Catholic Dialogue of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany and the Salaam/Shalom Committee of Muslim/Jewish Friends, works with refugee resettlement programs, domestic violence victims in the community and helps run the Food Pantry at ICCD.

Congratulations to Dr. Saeed and Mrs. Humera Khan!

Some Things to Note about the Interfaith Community of Schenectady

- Our purpose is to bring together peoples of differing faiths for dialogue, mutual growth in understanding and outreach together.
- When you make a reservation for a dinner meeting but are unable to attend at the last moment (Monday in the week of the meeting is the cut-off), please note that the IFCS is still financially responsible to the hosting organization for the number of reservations made. Please send a \$15.00 check per person to IFCS, 811 N Brandywine, Schenectady, NY 12308.
- The majority of our meetings are at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center, 1945 Union St., Niskayuna. Because many of their guests have allergies to strong perfume, the retreat house is a scents-free environment. When you attend dinner meetings, please be mindful of this and refrain from using perfume, heavily scented deodorant or after shave.
- Membership and participation in IFCS events are open to all individuals and congregations of differing faiths in the area. The various categories for annual dues are as follows:
 - **LIFE:** \$600.00 per person which can be made in five annual installments
 - **Patron:** \$100.00 per year, individual or household
 - **Sustaining:** \$60.00 per year for individual, (\$70 per year per household)
 - **Contributing:** \$35.00 per year for individual, (\$45 per year per household)
 - **Supporting:** \$25.00 per year for individual, (\$35 per year per household)

Financial support to IFCS is eligible for matching funds through the General Electric Matching Gifts Program.

Watch for our 2018-2019 Dinner Gathering Dates!

Enjoy your summer!



The Interfaith Community seeks to keep its member information up-to-date. However, from time to time we need to make a concerted effort to bring our data "current." If you are a member of Interfaith, you should be receiving a Newsletter. Will you kindly provide any "new" information about yourself [name or address change, new phone number, email address (if you will), etc.]. You may mail changes to the Interfaith Office at 811 N. Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308, or phone them to Interfaith [370-2150, there is an answering machine when no one is in the office] or email them to Schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com. Your assistance in this way is appreciated.

If you have not yet made a 2018 donation to the Interfaith Community this is the time to financially support the solid interfaith engagement which the Interfaith fosters. You will find listings of donation categories on the Membership page near the end of this newsletter.

Litany of Sorrows

(Adapted from: *Earth Day 2018, Prayer to the Earth*; published by the Dominican Sisters of Peace)

We ask forgiveness for littering your majestic Pacific Ocean with 10 metric tons of plastic fragments (grocery bags, straws and soda bottles) every day in the Los Angeles area.

Lord, have mercy.

We beg forgiveness for our wastefulness. The plastic thrown away each year can circle our magnificent earth four times.

Lord, have mercy.

We plead for forgiveness for not being attentive to caring for the wondrous gift of creation. We need to be aware Americans throw away 35 billion plastic water bottles every year.

Lord, have mercy.

Gracious One, be merciful to us for our ignorance and apathy toward this plastic epidemic. Eighty percent of pollution enters the ocean from the land and makes up forty percent of the world's ocean surfaces.

Lord, have mercy.

Forgive us for harming land and water creatures with our wasted plastic which becomes their food and their netted, tangled traps causing them death.

Lord, have mercy.

Save us from our lack of understanding that we all are one life. Move our hearts to protect and save the multitude of seabirds and marine life we are harming.

Lord, have mercy.

Gracious One, help us. Give us wisdom and continue to walk with us. Amen.

When the human, in the solitude of dusk, surrenders...pride of place and learns to bear the shared pain, the human can begin to understand the pain which teaches compassion and opens understanding (from Dante: Paradiso XXIV)

"We may have different religions, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race."

Kofi Annan



May Interfaith Calendar

- 1 Beltane - Samhain *- **Wicca/Pagan** Northern and Southern hemispheres
Lailat al bara'ah * - **Islam**
- 2 Last day of Ridvan * - **Baha'i**
- 3 Saints Philip & James - **Christian**
National Day of Prayer USA - **Interfaith**
Lag B'Omer * **Jewish**
- 10 Ascension of Jesus - **Christian**
- 16-June 15 Ramadan * *- **Islam**
- 17 Ascension of Jesus - **Orthodox Christian**
- 20-21 Shavuot * - **Jewish**
- 20 Pentecost - **Christian**
- 23 Declaration of the Bab * - **Baha'i**
- 27 Pentecost - **Orthodox Christian**
Trinity Sunday - **Christian**
- 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah * - **Baha'i**
- 31 Corpus Christi- **Catholic Christian**

June Interfaith Calendar

- 2 All Saints - **Orthodox Christian**
- 8 Sacred Heart of Jesus - **Catholic Christian**
- 9 St. Columba of Iona - **Celtic Christian**
- 11 Laylat al Kadr * - **Islam**
- 15-17 Eid al Fitr - Ramadan ends * - **Islam**
- 15 Saint Vladimir Day - **Christian**
- 16 Guru Arjan martyrdom - **Sikh**
- 19 New Church Day - **Swedenborgian Christian**
- 20 Waqf al Arafa - Hajj Day * - **Islam**
- 21 Solstice
First Nations Day - **Canadian Native People**
Litha - Yule * - **Wicca/Pagan** Northern and Southern hemispheres
- 29 Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul - **Christian**



Community events

Poor People's Campaign – a National Call for Moral Revival

First Presbyterian Church, 326 State Street, Albany; May 14, 11:00 am onward

The Poor People's Campaign will undertake 40 days of action as a massive movement addressing issues of poverty, racism, militarism, and ecological devastation. Each week, for six weeks, community members will gather at State Capitols around the country to raise awareness of the unique and common ways people are affected by these issues. There will be opportunities to participate in Civil Disobedience to withdraw consent from a status quo that doesn't prioritize the basic rights and needs of humankind.

Farewell to the Interfaith Center at UAlbany

The interfaith center at UAlbany will move from a stand-alone building on the outskirts of the SUNY Albany campus to an office in one of the quads. A Service of Closing is scheduled for Saturday, May 19, from 6:00pm until 9:00. 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY. Free food and beverages provided.

County of Schenectady Human Rights Commission

The Schenectady County Human Rights Commission will host its 35th Annual Human Rights Awards Breakfast on Thursday, May 17 from 7am until 9 at the Glen Sanders Mansion Tickets are \$25.00 at the door; \$22.00 presale by May 11. Contact 518-377-2982 for more information.

League of Women Voters Annual Dinner

Monday, June 11, 5:30pm; Turf Tavern, Scotia. Speaker: Barbara Bartoletti, retired Legislative Director of LWVNY. Ms. Bartoletti will speak on: "Being Effectively Engaged in 2018."

Entrée choices: Chicken Florentine, Roast Top Sirloin of Beef or Vegetable Sauté on Quinoa. Call Carol Furman (518-346-2746) by June 5 for a reservation. Cost \$30.00.

Organizing, Changing, Downsizing, Rightsizing

Wouldn't it be great to think about organizing your office, downsizing your spaces, rightsizing your filing system and most of all changing the things in your life that you want and need to change?

There are many questions you may have. How? When? Where? And Why?

Each month we will be gathering at the Retreat House to experiment with all the possibilities of Organizing, Changing, Downsizing and Rightsizing. We will discuss plans, processes, concerns, achievements and ongoing educations to accomplish these tasks.

So set aside a Thursday each month for two hours to join us and support each other in the world of organizing from the inside out.

Feel free to join this ongoing group for as many or as few sessions as you like.

PRESENTER: Ceil Amendolia, OPA is a Dominican Associate and is currently our Food Service Manager and Operations Assistant here at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center. Ceil is now in her sixth career, has moved 19 times to 4 different states. Ceil has started new business endeavors, helped close businesses, moved and downsized family and friends. Ceil believes that change is an integral part of living a full life. She has led weekend retreats, days of reflection and prayer services.

INFORMATION: \$15.00 per session: Reservations are requested.

Dates of sessions: 5/17, 6/14 , 10am-12pm

The Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc. was established on November 17, 1971. It is the first organization in New York State to encourage membership of diverse religious institutions and organizations. Its goal has been to foster dialogue and create better understanding between groups of different faiths.

INTERFAITH OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018

- Miranda Rand, President.....518-393-5047
- Colette Odell, Vice-President..... 518-371-0634
- Humera Khan, Secretary.....518-312-2014
- Edith Kliman, Treasurer.....518-346-0025

COORDINATING COUNCIL: Erica Berger, Karen Bond, Zarina Chaudry, Sr. Carol Davis, OP, Scott Ebeling, Rev. Joselle Gagliano, Audrey Hughes, Rev. Bob Long, Gerry Pierce

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS: Rev. Bob Long & Sr. Carol Davis, OP

Participation in the Interfaith Community of Schenectady, Inc, 811 Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308, is open to all congregations of all faiths, to individuals and to institutions.

Contribution Information

I (We) hereby subscribe to the following category of contribution:

- _____ LIFE \$600.00 per person, which may be given in five annual payments.
- _____ PATRON: \$100.00 per year
- _____ SUSTAINING: \$60.00 per year for individuals; \$70.00 per year per household
- _____ CONTRIBUTING: \$35.00 per year per individual; \$45.00 per year pr household
- _____ SUPPORTING: \$25.00 per year, individual; \$35.00 a year per household

___ My check is eligible to the GE Foundation for matching funds and has been reported.

Name(s)_____

Address:_____

City_____ State_____ Zip Code_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Contribution: New _____; Renewal_____ Amount: \$_____

Please provide the name of the congregation or religious organization to which you belong:



IFC OF SCHENECTADY

811 N. Brandywine Ave
Schenectady, NY 12308

Phone: 518-370-2150

E-mail:
schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com

office hours:
Tuesday 4-5pm
Fridays 7:30-8:30am
Others as needed
Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com



Coordinating Council Meetings

Council Meetings Visioning and planning are accomplished at the monthly Council Meetings.
Watch for future meeting dates

Council Meetings are generally held at Faith United Methodist Church, 811 Brandywine Avenue, Schenectady, NY 12308, and begin at 9:30 am. Members and participants may attend.

Do we have your email????
Please send your email address
to us at
[schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com!](mailto:schdyinterfaith@yahoo.com)
Check us out at
Schenectadyinterfaith.weebly.com



Don't forget
to like us on
Facebook!