



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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InterFaith Works Presents the 14th Annual Racial Justice Award Ceremony at Syracuse Stage

Syracuse, New York -- On Tuesday, January 28, 2014, beginning at 5:30 p.m., Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism (CWD), a program of InterFaith Works of Central New York, will host the 14th Annual Racial Justice Award Ceremony at Syracuse Stage, 820 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, New York. Following the award ceremony, attendees are also invited to enjoy the final dress rehearsal presentation of *The Whipping Man*, written by Matthew Lopez and directed by Timothy Bond.

The **Racial Justice Awards**, given annually to celebrate individuals residing in Central New York who work in earnest to advocate for racial justice, will be presented to one adult and three Syracuse City School District students. The Reverend Kevin J. Agee will also be presented with the Catalyst Award.

Abdulilah Al-Dubai, Cimone Jordan, Wilauer Mateo, Ella Neville and The Reverend Kevin J. Agee will be honored with a reception and award ceremony at 5:30 p.m. in the Syracuse Stage Sutton Pavilion, with a performance of *The Whipping Man*, directed by Timothy Bond, following the awards ceremony at 7:30 p.m. in Archbold Theater.

Suggested ticket donation \$30 - \$150. For reservations contact Kathy Ferro at (315) 449-3552, ext. 119, or email cwd1@interfaithworkscny.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door at the CWD reception table.

The **2014 Racial Justice Awards** will be presented to one adult and three Syracuse City School District students. The 2014 honorees are:

Abdulilah Al-Dubai: Mr. Al-Dubai is a nationality worker at the Syracuse City School District and volunteers as the assistant director at the North Side Learning Center. A native of Yemen, he came to the US in 2004, where he went to OCC for two semesters before transferring to Le Moyne College with a full soccer scholarship. He graduated with a degree in Business Administration and a minor in Economics. In 2007, he started working as a volunteer refugee coordinator for Islamic Society of Central New York, and in 2009, cofounded the North Side Learning Center.

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(14th Annual Racial Justice Awards continued)

Cimone S. Jordan: Ms. Jordan is currently a junior at George W. Fowler High School. In 2013, she took part in Interfaith Works' Community Wide Dialogue, working with Fowler peers and students from Skaneateles High School to break down barriers between rural and urban schools. For the past two years, she has also been part of Seeds of Peace, attending a two-week camp each summer. The intense dialogue sessions this past summer equipped her with the tools needed to be an ally of first year campers. She currently uses these skills to work with Fowler's Diversity Dialogue club.

Wilauer Mateo: Mr. Mateo is a senior at the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central and is studying in the Media Communications program. He is a Youth Advisor Board Member for the Near Westside Initiative. He has also participated in several community projects including the Superintendent's Cabinet, the Youth Summit at Fowler High School in 2013, Nosotros Radio, Inc. programming, the Homelessness Awareness Video Project, surveying for the Community Wide Dialogue to End Racism, the Skills USA Competition, and Teen Institute.

Ella Neville: Ms. Neville is a senior at Nottingham High School. She has been a part of Seeds of Peace in her school for three years, attended the Seeds of Peace International Summer Camp in 2012, returned as a Peer Support Leader in 2013, and was a Peer Facilitator with Community Wide Dialogue in the fall of 2013. She also volunteers regularly at Jowonio Pre-School helping children with Cerebral Palsy, and she initiated an internship in a kindergarten class at Ed Smith School.

The Reverend Kevin J. Agee will be presented with the **Catalyst Award** in recognition of his many efforts to address racial inequity in Central New York, and for being a stimulus to change, helping to take those efforts to another level.

The Reverend Agee was pastor of Hopps Memorial C.M.E. Church in Syracuse, New York, from 2007 until August 2013, when he was appointed Presiding Elder of the Washington DC-Virginia District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. He contributed to the Greater Syracuse Community in myriad ways, including serving as President of the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse, President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, Co-Chair of the ACTS Clergy Caucus, Vice President of InterFaith Works of Central New York, a member of Mayor Stephanie Miner's Transition Team and a member of Syracuse City School District Superintendent Sharon Contreras' Strategic Planning Team. He has been honored for his social justice advocacy, including being recognized as a Legacy Leader by both the Gamaliel Foundation in Chicago, Illinois, and the Alliance of Communities Transforming Syracuse for his efforts in congregation based community organizing.

Please see attached photos.

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