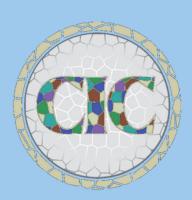
# 11th Annual Interfaith Banquet

Honoring Dr. Anita Joshi & Rabbi Lew Weiss









April 6th, 2025 Indiana Roof Ballroom

Reception 4:30-5 pm Dinner and Ceremony 5-7:30 pm



"To create a community that pursues peace through interfaith understanding and cooperation."

# The 11th Annual Interfaith Banquet is presented by



Thank you HCTI, for all your continued generosity and support for the work and the dream of CIC's mission and vision.

# Welcome to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation's 11th Annual Interfaith Banquet

2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year:

Dr. Anita Joshi



Interfaith Lifetime Achievement Award:

Rabbi Lew Weiss

# Welcome!

Greetings Beautiful Humans,

I'm so excited to welcome you to the 11th Annual Interfaith Banquet hosted by Center for Interfaith Cooperation. I have been looking forward to this night since I started at CIC on March 3rd. To have all of you here together, celebrating this year's Interfaith Ambassador, Dr. Anita Joshi, and this year's Interfaith Lifetime Achievement Awardee, Rabbi Lew Weiss, is a dream come true.

I'm a big fan of dreams. Dreams tell us about our deepest desires. They express our creative energy as a species and they are gateways to the spirit, showing us all that is and might be possible in the world around us. In dreaming we become co-creators with the source of life and without dreams, and believing in their ability to become true, we would not be able to accomplish much.

But here we are tonight, a gorgeous tapestry of various beliefs, practices and traditions, celebrating each other and our differences. The differences that might normally be seen to separate us are what bring us together tonight, in a beautiful array of colors and expressions. And we do this because of our shared dream to create and promote a more compassionate and peaceful community for us all.

In the world today, this night alone is a dream come true. If you take anything away from this night, I hope it is that dreams do come true. I hope you will never stop dreaming, no matter how challenging things may feel. Together, our dreams become reality. Please, never stop dreaming.

In gratitude for your support and your dreams,

The Rev. Erin E. Hougland, MDiv

Executive Director

Center for Interfaith Cooperation

#### CIC Staff Members

The Rev. Erin Hougland MDiv. **Executive Director** 

Deborah Niederer Saxon, Ph.D. Program Director

> David Love Office Administrator

Rebecca Orisadare Project Assistant

Charlie Wiles **Director Emeritus** 

Amelie Davis CIC Intern, Philosophy & Religious Studies Department Butler University

# Interfaith Enrichment Corps

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Dr. Joni Clark Center for Interfaith Cooperation

> Demou Drame Al-Hagg Foundation

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> David Halhulh Hope for Tomorrow

Matteo Hodge Indianapolis Muslim Community Association

> Sherrita Niles Laundry & More

Imani Sankofa Center for Interfaith Cooperation

> Mohab Sayed-Elawad Masjid Al Mumineen







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The Center for Interfaith
Cooperation Staff, Executive
Committee, Board and Stakeholders
want to give thanks for all our
sponsors at this year's banquet.
Without your generosity the dream of
CIC could not become the reality we
see today. We have grown and we
will continue to do so with your
continued support.



Thank you!





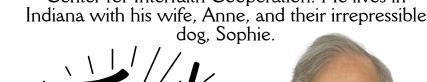
Freddie Kelvin was born in Leeds, England after his parents narrowly escaped the increasingly dangerous grip of the Nazis in Austria. There, he grew up in a highly protective Jewish community. He rebelled against this restrictive background by changing his last name to Kelvin and abandoning any connection to Jewish social circles.

He became a doctor, even though he didn't understand science. It wasn't until late in his career, he had an epiphany . . . realizing that his heart lay truly in the arts, not science.

Traveling far and wide outside the United States, he experienced many different cultures. He developed a passion for the performing arts and photography.

These varied travels abroad greatly expanded his perspectives on life.

Inspired by the wanderings of both his parents and himself, he developed an urge to write his memoir, Urban Nomad, which was published in August 2022. His intense curiosity about cultures and faiths of the outside world led him to join the board of Center for Interfaith Cooperation. He lives in





#### 2025 INTERFAITH AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

Anita Joshi, MD, FAAP was born and raised in New Jersey and is a graduate of UConn Medical School. She has been an Indiana resident since 1998 and is the owner of Joshi Pediatrics, a private pediatrics practice in Crawfordsville, IN.

Dr. Joshi has served on the Boards of Orchard School and Brebeuf Jesuit where she worked on Diversity Equity and Inclusion. She completed her term as the Vice Chair of the Board at Brebeuf and received the Heart of Brebeuf award in 2022 for her work as chair of the medical task force during the Covid pandemic.

She was a founding member of the Women for Riley Board, a charitable board member for Riley Children's Hospital, the Grants Chair for Women's Fund of Central Indiana, Executive Board member and advisory board member of Patchwork Indy, Chair of Fiscal Sustainability at the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, and chaired the Interfaith Ambassador Dinner honoring Betty Brandt in 2020.

Dr. Joshi has been a speaker at Center for Interfaith Cooperation, the Carmel Interfaith Alliance, Butler University, University of Indianapolis, Salesforce, Lilly and Corteva.

She has been an active member of the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana, serving as a teacher in the children's program, Balagokulam. She has also served as the community relations liaison for the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana and given countless tours of the temple and explained principles of Hinduism to university, high school and middle school students, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and many diverse faith congregations throughout central Indiana.

Seeing the need for more flexibility, she worked to obtain a grant from the Center for Congregations to create an individualized iPad tour for the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana that is available and still in use today. She has spoken at local congregations representing the Hindu Temple to condemn acts of violence and antisemitism, and at Martin Luther King Day celebrations. She has testified before the Indiana State Legislature on the importance of hate crimes legislation. Dr. Joshi has continued to use her voice to serve her community and was elected to the Carmel City Council in 2024 where she is serving a four-year term.



# LIFETIME INTERFAITH ACHEIVEMENT AWARD

Rabbi Lew Weiss was born and raised in Philadelphia. Ordained at Hebrew Union College of Cincinnati, he also holds degrees from Penn State University, Rutgers University, and the University of Cincinnati. He has lived in Indianapolis for over four decades with his wife, Rabbi Faedra Weiss. They have three daughters.

Representing the Jewish community at IU Health, he has served as a chaplain there for 37 years. During this time, he has mentored countless chaplaincy students on providing spiritual care to Jewish patients. He has also been a dedicated advocate for interfaith understanding and cooperation in Central Indiana.

Lew has been involved in interfaith activities and peace organizations, advocating for human rights across diverse communities. He has taught, participated in discussions, and engaged in dialogues to promote understanding. He is actively involved in various organizations, including CIC, fostering interfaith dialogue and cooperation. He has built bridges especially between the Jewish and Muslim communities in Indianapolis, and, together with his wife, continues this work even in semi-retirement.

Lew served as Interim Rabbi at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation and has volunteered as a rabbi at Hooverwood Nursing Home and Park Regency Apartments for decades. He has also held leadership roles in Jewish community organizations, receiving a service award from the

Jewish Federation, and has served as President of the Board of Rabbis

Rabbi Lew Weiss also served for over 10 years with the Indiana Guard Reserve and the Training Academy. He ended his distinguished service there as a Captain. In addition, he is a founding member of the Indianapolis International Airport Chaplaincy (since 1991) and served as a Chaplain with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and Indiana State Police, and Indianapolis Fire Department.

Finally, Lew served over 20 years on the Crisis and Suicide Intervention Service and has been a leader at the Association of Jewish Chaplains for nearly 30 years.

# Thank you to all of our sponsors









Dr. Priya Menon











# Thank you to all of our sponsors

# TABLE SPONSORS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Congregation Beth-El Zedeck

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis

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Anita Joshi Family

Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Anita Gupta

Sujata Chugh

Ramarao Yeleti

Hamilton County Democrats

Shiel Sexton

Indianapolis International Airport Chaplains



## **MENU**



#### Mocktails

Blackberry Sage Mule Mango Lassi Tea, Water, Soda

#### Salad

Mixed Greens, Zucchini Ribbons, Yellow Squash, Carrot, Radish, Toasted Cumin Dahl Dressing, Crunchy Chana Sliced Challah

#### Entrée

Chana Tikka Masala with Vegetable Biryani Tofu served with Coriander Mint Pesto Cauliflower Spiced Green Beans

#### Dessert

Custard Fruit Tarts
Salted Carmel Brownies
Red Velvet Cupcakes





## **PROGRAM**

Mocktail Hour

Welcome Nabiha Mahmood, CIC Board Vice Chair

> Interfaith Invocation Diane Sargeant

Dignitary Recognition

Mayor's Proclamation Mayor Joe Hogsett

Let's Dream
The Rev. Erin Hougland
CIC Executive Director

Music
The Brebeuf Jesuit Prepatory School Choir

#### Dinner

Entertainment 65th Street Klezmorim

Words from the Presenting Sponsor Hindu Temple of Central Indiana

Interfaith Enrichment Corps Recognition
Deborah Niederer Saxon, PhD
CIC Program Director

Tribute Video & Award Presentation
Jay Foster, Vice President of Spiritual Care at IU Health
JR Sandadi, CIC Board Chair
2024 Interfaith Ambassador Judge David Shaheed

Entertainment Samyoga School of Dance

Tribute Video & Award Presentation
Dr. Priya Menon, CIC Board
JR Sandadi, CIC Board Chair
2024 Interfaith Ambassador Judge David Shaheed

CIC Video

Special thank you to Nabiha Mahmood for acting as Emcee for tonight's gala.



TODD YOUNG

## United States Senate WASHINGTON, DC 20510

FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMERCE
SMALL BUSINESS

April 6, 2025

Greetings,

I am honored to congratulate Rabbi Lew Weiss on being awarded the 2025 Lifetime Interfaith Achievement Award. As demonstrated by the high regard he is held in by his colleagues and neighbors, Rabbi Weiss is truly deserving of this honor.

He has played a vital role in his community by serving as chaplain with the Indianapolis Metropolitan PolicDepartment and Indiana State Police. In this capacity, and through his service as an expert social worker, Rabbi Weiss impacts lives daily.

With gratitude for your selflessness and service to others, and on behalf of all Hoosiers, thank you for your de didion to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation and to your community.

Your friend in service.

Todd Young United States Senator

### United States Senate

COMMITTEES
FINANCE
FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMERCE
SMALL BUSINESS

April 6, 2025

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Center for Interfaith Cooperation's  $11^{\text{th}}$  annual Interfaith banquet.

Congratulations to Dr. Anita Joshi on being awarded the 2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. During her distinguished career as a pediatrician and as a committed advocate for interfaith understanding and cooperation, Anita has bettered her community and the lives of her fellow Hoosiers.

Anita's work has made a lasting impact, and those around her have taken notice of her passion and commitment. I want to thank Anita for her dedicated advocacy for interfaith relations throughout her career.

I also want to express my appreciation to the Center for Interfaith for hosting this important event. To all in attendance, I am grateful for your commitment to building relationships in Central Indiana and engaging with your neighbors. I hope you enjoy your evening.

Your friend in service,

Todd Young United States Senator



#### April 6, 2025

#### Greetings Friends:

It is my honor to welcome you to the 11th Annual Interfaith Banquet hosted by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

As our world continues to grow more interconnected, the work of CIC has never been more important. In a time when faiths, backgrounds, and perspectives can sometimes divide us, the importance of dialogue and mutual respect cannot be overstated. Tonight, we come together with the shared belief that every human life is sacred and worthy of compassion and opportunity.

This evening, we recognize Dr. Anita Joshi as the 2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year and Rabbi Lew Weiss with the Lifetime Interfaith Achievement Award. These two remarkable individuals have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to building bridges and promoting interfaith understanding in our community, and it is my privilege to celebrate their outstanding contributions.

On behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana, I would like to thank everyone in attendance and extend my gratitude to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation for its tireless efforts in advancing interfaith dialogue. Enjoy the evening's festivities!

Sincerely,

André Carson Member of Congress

(mr)--



# CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION

for

#### Rabbi Lew Weiss

I am honored to present this recognition for your Lifetime Interfaith Achievement Award, and to commemorate your unwavering dedication to fostering interfaith understanding and cooperation in Central Indiana. Your decades of service to the lewish community at IU Health have made a profound impact.

Throughout the years, you have played a pivotal role in mentoring chaplaincy students and ensuring that Jewish patients receive the spiritual care they deserve. Your commitment to service extends far beyond your professional role, as you continue to offer spiritual guidance at Hooverwood Nursing Home and Park Regency Apartments. This Lifetime Achievement Award is a well-deserved recognition of the unparalleled impact you have had on our community. Your legacy of service, leadership, and advocacy will inspire generations to come.

This Congressional Recognition is rendered on behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana on this 6th day of April 2025.

Sincerely.

16-7

André Carson Member of Congress



for

#### Dr. Anita Joshi

I am honored to recognize you as the 2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. This award speaks volumes to the respect and admiration your leadership brings to our state. From your service as Vice Chair of the Brébeuf Jesuit Board to your role on the Carmel City Council, you are greatly appreciated as an advocate for our community.

Through your unwavering commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, your efforts have fostered understanding and unity, and I look forward to the continued progress you will bring in this role.

This Congressional Recognition is rendered on behalf of the 7th Congressional District of Indiana on this 6th day of April 2025.

Sincerely,



André Carson Member of Congress





April 6, 2025

#### Greetings!

On behalf of the City of Indianapolis, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 11th Annual Interfaith Banquet hosted by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation. This celebration of religious diversity is an opportunity for Hoosiers from across the spectrum of spiritual beliefs and faith backgrounds to share in fellowship, food, and entertainment. Center for Interfaith Cooperation's mission is to strengthen connections among faith communities and foster an interreligious network which is a vital part of maintaining Indianapolis' status as a world-class city.

Tonight, it is my distinct honor to congratulate Dr. Anita Joshi as the 2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year, and Rabbi Lew Weiss as he receives the Lifetime Interfaith Achievement Award. Dr. Joshi has dedicated countless hours leading tours at the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana and building stronger diversity programs at Orchard School, Brebeuf Jesuit High School, and throughout the community. Rabbi Lew Weiss has served numerous organizations as a chaplain and first responder, including the Indiana Guard Reserve, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Indianapolis International Airport, Indiana State Police, and IU Health. Our community is stronger and safer thanks to the selfless work and dedication of Dr. Joshi and Rabbi Weiss.

To all attendees tonight, thank you for your commitment to connecting the beautifully diverse faith communities of Indianapolis. I wish attendees, honorees, and special guests all the best for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

Joe Hogsett Mavor

Mayor

City of Indianapolis





April 6, 2025

Center for Interfaith Cooperation 1100 West 42nd Street, Suite 125 Indianapolis, IN 46208

Dear Interfaith Banquet Attendees,

On behalf of the City of Carmel, I want to extend my greetings to each of you attending the 11th Annual Interfaith Banquet. Our community is stronger when we come together to recognize and celebrate our unique religious traditions.

Congratulations to Dr. Anita Joshi on being named the 2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. I cannot think of a more deserving person.

Congratulations to Rabbi Lew Weiss for receiving the *Lifetime Interfaith Achievement* award. Your service to our community as a chaplain and a first responder is an inspiration and greatly appreciated.

May we continue to recognize the wonderful gifts that all of our religious traditions bring to our community.

Sincerely,

Sue Finkam

Mayor

City of Carmel

#### Our Emcee



Nabiha Mahmood is an immigrant and student at Indiana University with a passion for community service and interfaith engagement. Originally from Pakistan, she has lived in Saudi Arabia and Dubai before moving to the U.S. in 2020.

She serves as Principal at Al Ilm Weekend School, sits on the boards of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation and Indiana Multifaith Network, and volunteers at Indiana Women's Prison. Nabiha is committed to fostering understanding and awareness across communities.

As an active member of the CIC Executive Committee, Nabiha brings amazing cheerleading, optimistic perspective, strategic wisdom and open-hearted and honest communication. CIC is deeply grateful for her work and contributions to the CIC organization and community.

#### Hindu Temple of Central Indiana



All of us at the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana want to congratulate Dr. Anita Joshi for being named the 2024 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year! We are proud of you and recognize the interfaith work and community service you have been engaged in for years. All our best to you in the years to come.

OM Shanti, Shanti, Shanti!





# Hindu SwayamSevak Sangh (HSS, USA)

#### hssus.org

It is with great joy that Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) congratulates **Dr.** *Anita Joshi* on being honored as the **2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year**. Over the years, she has passionately led seminars, interfaith tours, and community education efforts to share the richness of Hindu tradition and culture. Her unwavering commitment, boundless energy, and humility continue to inspire all who know her.

Balancing her roles as a dedicated mother, physician, Carmel City Councilor, and a leadership role at the Hindu Mandir of Indianapolis, she embodies the spirit of *seva* - selfless service. We are proud to see her contributions recognized.

We also extend heartfelt congratulations to *Rabbi Lew Weiss for lifetime achievement award*, whose tireless efforts in fostering interfaith understanding have brought people of diverse traditions closer together.

#### Gayatri Mantra

om bhūr bhuvaḥ svaḥ tat savitur vareṇyaṃ bhargo devasya dhīmahi dhiyo yo naḥ pracodayāt

Rgveda 03.062.10 (~ 1500 BC)

In the three realms of our existence – physical, mental and spiritual, we meditate on the glory of that Being who has produced this universe; may She enlighten our minds.



Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh





Congratulations to Dr. Anita Joshi the 2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year and Rabbi Lew Weiss the 2025 Lifetime Interfaith Achievement Award.

These are both such great honors and are very well-deserved!

We are very grateful for your dedication to interfaith work and the impact in our community. The commitment you have shown to bridging our community together has been outstanding.

Thank you and congratulations!



Ascension



**Facebook** 



Instagram





# Indianapolis Muslim Community Association

The Indianapolis Muslim Community Association (IMCA) is honored to celebrate this evening of unity and shared purpose. Since 1977, IMCA has worked to uplift our community through faith, education, and service. We deeply value CIC's commitment to interfaith collaboration and are proud to stand together in fostering compassion, understanding, and hope.

—Indianapolis Muslim Community Association





# Thank you Dr. Anita Joshi

for all you have done and are doing for Patchwork Indy and the resettled communities of Indiana.

You were with us from the very beginning, and we are extremely grateful.

Congratulations on being named 2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year! No one could be more deserving.

www.patchworkindy.org



# Dr. Priya Menon



Congratulations to Dr.
Anita Joshi and Rabbi
Lew Weiss for
spreading the message of
peace and hope.

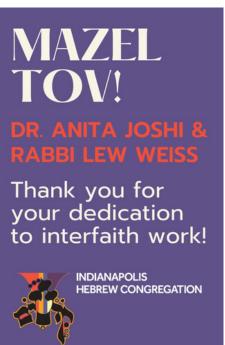
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The Indianapolis Jewish
Community Relations
Council would like to
congratulate
Dr. Anita Joshi for
being named the
2025 Interfaith
Ambassador of the Year
and Rabbi Lew Weiss
for his Interfaith
Lifetime Achievement
Award

Mazel Tov!







Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs and the Indiana Catholic Conference congratulate Dr. Anita Joshi as the 2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year,

and Rabbi Lew Weiss, receiving

May many people of faith find in you reason for hope that we can and will live together, care for each other, and honor God's spirit in each other.



On behalf of the Jain Center of Central Indiana, we would like to congratulate and thank Dr. Anita Joshi for being a friend and voice for the Jain Community in Indiana.

Congratulations to Rabbi Lew Weiss for receiving the *Lifetime Interfaith Achievement* award.

Our community and our world is a better place because of your service.

# 0000

#### CONGRATULATIONS





DR. ANITA JOSHI

RABBI LEW WEISS

Thank you for your passion and dedication to the service of our communities, and to the spreading of goodness, light, and understanding among all.

We are proud to stand with you!

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



Congratulations to: **Dr. Anita Joshi** 

Rabbi Lew Weiss

WE BUILD FOR PEOPLE WHO EXPECT MORE SHIELSEXTON.COM



# Mazel Tov

Dr. Anita Joshi & Rabbi Lew Weiss

Their unwavering dedication to faith, unity, and understanding is an inspiration to us all!



#### **GIMA Congratulates**

#### Dr. Anita Joshi

2025 Interfaith Ambassador of the year



#### Rabbi Lew Weiss

Lifetime Achievement Award

Thank you for making Indianapolis a richer and more diverse community!







Congratulations to

Dr. Anita Joshi

Rabbi Lew Weiss

We are Proud of You

Don Knebel and Diane Thompson



Congratulations to Dr. Anita Joshi, 2025
Interfaith Ambassador of the Year, and to
Rabbi Lew Weiss for a Life of Interfaith
Achievement

~ Love, the Wiles Family



Brebeuf Jesuit
Preparatory School
honors the
thoughtful dedication
and board leadership of

Dr. Anita Joshi



Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School brebeuf.org | 317.524.7050



Congratulations Dr Joshi on this great achievement. Your dedication and love are a beautiful testament to who you are as a person inside and out.

We love you!





SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Second Presbyterian
Church would like to
congratulate the 2025
Interfaith Ambassadors of
the Year





of CIVIL AVIATION CHAPLAINS

THE INDIANAPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERFAITH CHAPLAINCY CONGRATULATES OUR CHAPLAIN LEW WEISS AND DR. ANITA JOSHI!

(A Founder in 1991.)





Northminster Presbyterian Church









"Dr. Anita Joshi is the embodiment of public service. Dr. Joshi represents the western district of Carmel on the City Council. But in less than two years on the Council, she has already found multiple ways to help multiple communities across all of Carmel. For example, she was instrumental in the creation of Carmel's first official Diwali celebration and Carmel's first Chinese Mooncake Festival

As she continues to serve on the City Council, she hasn't lost her pediatrician's touch. When Dr. Joshi talks with you, you feel seen. You feel heard. You know that she isn't just listening, she is learning and empathizing. And if there is anything that she can do to help - even if you don't ask - she is going to offer it.

We are proud to have Dr. Joshi as one of our own. We are proud to have Dr. Joshi on the Carmel City Council. We are proud of Dr. Joshi for her work with the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

We are proud of Dr. Anita Joshi. Period."

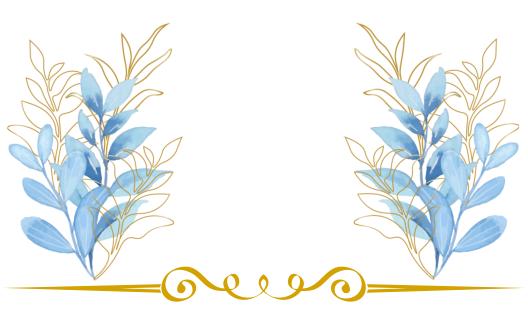
# We give our congratulations to Dr. Anita Joshi and Rabbi Lew Weiss for their achievements!

# Sincerely,

Eli Lilly and Company – Anita Joshi Family

Azher Kahn Family – Anita Gupta

Sujata Chugh – Ramarao Yeleti







in every language in every walk in every faith

Congratulations 2025 Interfaith Banquet Honorees DR. ANITA JOSHI & RABBI LEW WEISS



# Thank You

Namaste and good evening, everyone,

It's a real pleasure to welcome you to tonight's banquet. Over the last five years, the Center for Interfaith Cooperation has helped me build deep, meaningful relationships with people from a wide range of faith traditions. It's opened my eyes, expanded my heart, and given me a much richer understanding of the diverse communities that make up our city.

As CIC Board Chairman, my hope is that more people across Indianapolis get to experience that same sense of connection and learning through our programs and events. CIC brings people of all faiths and backgrounds together—not just to talk, but to listen, learn, and serve side by side. In a time when connection is more important than ever, CIC helps make Indy a more compassionate, united community.

We're glad you're part of it.

In Gratitude, JR Sandadi CIC Board Chair

## Thank You

#### Dear Guests,

Welcome to the 2025 CIC Banquet—an evening where hearts, cultures, and faiths come together in celebration. We are truly honored by your presence and grateful to share this space with so many friends, partners, and community members who embody the spirit of compassion and connection.

This gathering is a reflection of the values we hold dear: unity in diversity, strength through service, and the power of community. Whether you've journeyed with CIC for years or are joining us for the first time, your presence strengthens the roots of our shared mission.

May this evening inspire new connections, deepen our collective purpose, and remind us of the beauty found in difference and the strength we build through collaboration. Your support, your stories, and your spirit are what make this

work meaningful.

Thank you for being here, Nabiha Mahmood CIC Board Vice Chair

## MUSICAL GUESTS

# Samyoga School of Dance

Tonight you will experience the Bharatanatyam performance on Lord Shiva, presented by the students of Samyoga School of Dance, disciples of Aparna Satheesan.

Bharatanatyam, a classical Indian dance form from Tamil Nadu, often portrays Lord Shiva as the Supreme Lord of Dance. This piece highlights a unique depiction where Shiva lifts his right leg instead of the usual left, holding a deer and an axe while performing the Ananda Tandavam—the dance of joy. The Pandya king, witnessing this divine dance, expressed concern for Shiva's feet. Lord Vishnu, in awe, lifted Shiva's sacred foot, while sages joined in reverence.

With Goddess Shakti dancing alongside, the performance embodies the concept of Ardhanareeshwara—the union of Shiva and Shakti, symbolizing the balance of the universe.

The performers are Aashika Krishna, Aadhya Kothur, and Oviya Annankudi.

Learn more about Samyoga School of Dance





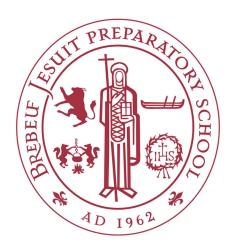


## MUSICAL GUESTS

# The Brebeuf Jesuit Prepatory School Choir

Brebeuf Vocal Ensembles Rooted in the values of community, compassion, and shared expression, the Brebeuf Vocal Ensembles bring together students of diverse backgrounds to create music that uplifts and unites. Through performances that span a wide range of musical styles and traditions, our choirs—Men's Glee, Bella Valiente, and Varsity Singers—serve as ambassadors of harmony, inclusion, and artistic excellence. We are honored to share our voices in celebration of faith, service, and the spirit of interfaith understanding.

Matthew Konrad Tippel (He/Him/His)
 Visual & Performing Arts Dept Chair
 Director of Vocal & General Music







### MUSICAL GUESTS

# 65th Street Klezmorim

The centuries-old tradition of fun and festive klezmer music can be easily defined as "the folk music of the Jewish community" (think "Fiddler on the Roof"). For centuries, this music has helped Jews around the world celebrate the richness that is their heritage and faith.

The 65th Street Klezmorim is a traditional klezmer ensemble and the house band for the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation (IHC). The group is under the direction of Dr. Shawn Royer and was founded by Cantor Emeritus Janice Roger in 1996. The Klezmorim performs regularly for celebratory events, worship services, and music festivals, and presents interactive educational concerts at schools and universities.



# SPECIAL THANKS





Strengthening Healthy Support
Networks in Minoritized Communities
(SHSNMC)



**Foundation** 

CIC thanks our funders from the IU Health Foundation for your commitment to Strengthening Healthy Support Networks in Minoritized Communities (SHSNMC).

Much appreciation to IU Health Congregational Care Network (CCN) Staff, with leadership from Jay Foster, for their dedication to reducing isolation and ensuring our community partners have access to health resources.

SHSNMC Community Partners are hosting Interfaith Enrichment
Corps AmeriCorps members and have made a major 3 year
commitment to service and expanding the health support network in our
communities.











# SPECIAL THANKS

11th Annual Interfaith Banquet
Committee Members

Dr. Priya Menon – JR Sandadi Vern Farnum – Brian Shivers Rabbi Bruce Pfeffer – Bruce Garrison David Owens – Chaplain Coffey Rabbi Lew Weiss – Anita Joshi



# **KP Singh**

A special thank you to KP Singh, the creator and donor of the Interfaith Ambassador of the Year Award. KP, we are so grateful for your continued support of CIC's mission and vision.

thank you

# SPECIAL THANKS



We love our AmeriCorps Team who help us and our partner organizations in so many impactful and powerful ways. Our Interfaith Enrichment Corps has put in 6124 hours of community service and counting.











# The Festival of Faiths 2025

September 2025 14

Sunday

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

University Park Downtown Indianapolis



#### THE CENTER FOR INTERFAITH COOPERATION

We seek to create a community that pursues peace through interfaith understanding and cooperation.

# Indianapolis as a Global Crossroads:

Celebrating, Educating, Connecting

This event is focused on Celebrating Diversity, Educating the Community about Global Cultures, and Connecting people with engaging presentations and cultural showcases. It will highlight Indianapolis as an International hub, fostering unity and understanding across different backgrounds.













A unique collaborative event offered by several organizations:

Indiana Council on World Affairs, Patchwork Indy, Center for Interfaith Cooperation,

The International Center, and Indy's Global Village.

Center for Interfaith Cooperation
Presents

## INTERFAITH YOUTH

# AMBASSADOR SUMMIT

For 13 - 17 years old Youths from all religious backgrounds

STORY WRITING | BREAKFAST | EXCURSIONS | ETHNIC LUNCH | ART |
INTERFAITH ENRICHMENT | AND MUCH MORE

Apply to join the Interfaith Youth Ambassadors' summit and become an interfaith ambassador for the city of Indianapolis. To apply, send a letter of interest written by you, the applicant, and one letter of reference from an adult mentor from your community to Rebecca



**Free Admission** 

**Space Limited** 

Applications Due: May 2nd



June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6th 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM 110 W 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Indianapolis, Indiana CIC offers customized training for companies, organizations, and civic groups on Religious Diversity and Conversations Across Difference. Learn more and schedule a session for your team with Deb, Deb@indycic.org.



St. John Missionary Baptist Church



Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis



Congregation Beth-El Zedeck



Masjid Al Fajr



Hindu Temple of Central Indiana



St. Monica Catholic Church

Thank you to the congregations and organizations who have participated in CIC's Religious Diversity Training program!



#### Mission

Center for Interfaith Cooperation provides safe environments, resources, and opportunities for service to increase religious literacy, build empathy between faiths, and facilitate interfaith encounters.

#### Vision

A community that pursues peace through interfaith understanding and cooperation.



Please share in making CIC's Mission and Vision a reality, donate today. Every little bit goes a long way.

#### Contact Us

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