

Celebrating 50 Years

1972 - 2022

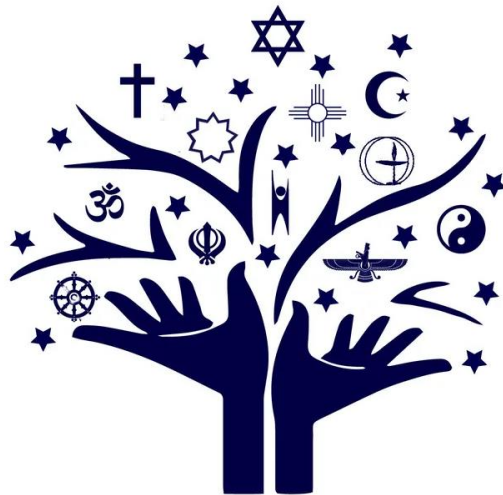


DUTCHESS COUNTY INTERFAITH COUNCIL, INC.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022

5:30 PM



MISSION STATEMENT:

We bring people of different faiths together to celebrate our common humanity through service, education and worship.

AGENDA

5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER **THERESA GIOVANNIELLO, PRESIDING**

2. OPENING INTERFAITH PRAYER

3. WELCOME OF MEMBER FAITH COMMUNITIES AND NEW MEMBERS

4. BUSINESS MEETING

a) PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AND REFERRAL TO PROGRAM

b) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

c) PROGRAM/COMMITTEE REPORTS

d) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT **JOHN MCKENNA**

5. ELECTION/INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS

- **Ani Lhadrun, Palpung Thubten Choling Monastery and Retreat Center, Wappingers Falls**
- **Katherine Crum, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Amenia**
- **Magdy Mishraky, Mariapolis Luminosa of the Focolare, Hyde Park**
- **Andrew Powers, Archdiocese of New York Campus Minister, University Apostolate**
- **Sherre Wesley, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Wappingers Falls**

OFFICERS: Theresa Giovanniello (President), Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi (VP), Eugene Fleishman (Treasurer) and Muriel Horowitz (Secretary)

6. ADJOURNMENT

6 PM

PASSING THE TORCH: THE FUTURE OF FAITH LEADERSHIP

INTRODUCTION – LORRAINE HARTIN-GELARDI, VICE-PRESIDENT

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: REV. SAM SPEERS



Rev. Samuel Speers (he/him/his) is Associate Dean for Religious and Spiritual Life and Contemplative Practices at Vassar College; he has been at the college for twenty years. Sam moved to Poughkeepsie from Chicago, where he had worked in campus ministry for ten years at the University of Chicago, serving as Associate Dean of Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, the university's chapel.

At Vassar, Sam has focused on collaborative initiatives at the intersections of religion, secular public life, and inter-religious engagement. Sam directed a multi-campus initiative called "Secularity and the Liberal Arts"—a faculty-chaplain collaboration that involved twenty colleges. The 10-year project, supported by a major grant from by Teagle Foundation, grew out of concerns that faculty and chaplains kept hearing from students about how to integrate their questions of meaning and purpose into their "secular" education. He contributed a chapter on this project to College and University Chaplaincy in the 21st Century.

Sam is an ordained Presbyterian minister; he holds a B.A. in Religion from Columbia University, an M.Div. (Master of Divinity) from the University of Chicago and D.Min. (Doctor of Ministry) from Princeton Theological Seminary. He is an active member of campus chaplaincy associations and past president of the Association of College and University Religious Affairs. At Vassar, he chairs the Frances Fergusson Good Neighbors Partnerships, a college-based initiative in engaged philanthropy.

Sam is deeply committed to collaborative partnerships; he works with his inter-religious colleagues to help students to bring their messy, joyful, and whole selves to build a culture of "belonging-in-difference." He is grateful for the wide range of ways his campus work allows him to discover and rediscover that students are the most creative and insightful interpreters of the changing religious, spiritual, and secular landscape he seeks to serve.

Q&A and Interfaith Discussion with Rev. Speers

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 16, 2021	Attendees: Participation was performed virtually online
Note Taker: Muriel Horowitz (DCIC Secretary)	
Agenda Topic: Introductory items	
Discussion: Opening of Meeting Called to order at 5:30 pm (agenda item 1) by President Rev. Paul Lent who welcomed all attendees. Due to the COVID-20 concerns the meeting was hosted virtually on Zoom. Opening prayer: Executive Director John McKenna	
Agenda Topic: Introductions	
Discussion: Welcoming Introduction of member faith communities <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Paul welcomed all members and guests of DCIC. Acknowledged the difficulties of meeting virtually in this period of a global pandemic and thanked congregational leadership for their commitments and efforts in this very difficult period, a true testimony of interfaith spirit.	
Agenda Topic: Business Section of Meeting	
1. Rev. Paul Lent a) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 2020 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – no objections or corrections- Secretary cast one vote for unanimous approval. b) Paul introduced John McKenna, Executive Director - brief remarks by John , our new executive director- John greeted us and referred attendees to the booklet that lists all the DCIC programs and committee reports. c) PRESIDENT’S REMARKS- Paul Lent - Thank you to all who have served this year. Invitation to all to continue to work at strengthening our relationships among our many faiths so that we can work together for our common good. The almost 50 years of DCIC is a strength in our community.	
Agenda Topic: Finance Committee	
Discussion: Current finances and 2021 Budget Treasurer Gene Fleishman provided details on finances which are stable but mindful a gala, largest source of income, may be postponed or canceled due to Covid. Budget remains approx. \$60K.	

Agenda Topic: Board Election and Installation of Officers

Discussion: Rev. Paul Lent presented slate.

President: Theresa Giovanniello, St. Martin de Porres Roman Catholic Church, Poughkeepsie

Vice-President: Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi, St. John the Evangelist/St. Joachim Roman Catholic Church, Beacon

Secretary: Muriel Horowitz, Temple Beth El, Poughkeepsie

Treasurer: Eugene Fleishman, Temple Beth-El, Poughkeepsie

Board of Directors:

Carol Becker, Regina Coeli Roman Catholic Church, Hyde Park

Adil Ameer, Masjid Al-Noor, Wappingers Falls

Adrian Goldson, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie

Susan Karnes Hecht, Vassar Temple, Poughkeepsie

Seema Rizvi, Masjid Al-Noor, Wappingers Falls

Deirdra "Jen" Brown, Bahá'í, Poughkeepsie Cluster

Balaji Kiran Jilla ("BJ") - Hindu Samaj Temple, Wappingers Falls

Rev. Taylor Holbrook - Poughkeepsie Reformed Church, Poughkeepsie

Rev. AJ Stack - St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Amenia

Slate unanimously approved.

Agenda Topic: Adjournment

Business portion of meeting was adjourned at 6 pm.

Agenda Topic: Special Presentation – Engaging Differences

ENGAGING DIFFERENCES: A JOURNEY TOWARD UNDERSTANDING
INTRODUCTION – THERESA GIOVANNIELLO, BOARD PRESIDENT-ELECT
BLOWING OF CONCH SHELL and BLESSING – ANI LHADRUN AND ANI DEPA KAGYU
THUBTEN CHOLING MONASTERY
REFLECTION – NORA ZAKI, MUSLIM SPIRITUAL LIFE ADVISOR, VASSAR COLLEGE
REFLECTION – JOANNE SOLLECITO, BAHA’I COMMUNITY
PEACE CHANT – PUNDIT MANOJ AND PUNDIT SABARI RAJA, HINDU
SAMAJ CENTER
JEWISH TEACHING & INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER – RABBI RENNI ALTMAN

Agenda Topic: Keynote Address

SPEAKER: KENNETH S. STERN, BARD COLLEGE
Provided address on the historic context of the origins, momentum and paradigms associated with concentrated and systemic division, hatred and mobilized forms of conflict, and the role of faith-based institutions in meeting the challenges.



The Light You Are, the Light We Need

Light One Candle ... this was the message as we gathered a few weeks ago in a vigil to raise spirits and unify in love for those suffering from the latest conflict in our world, Ukraine. As we reflect on the noble origins of this extraordinary organization, we stand in solidarity with the DCIC elders and founders who posited deep questions and intentions in the period after the Second World War, contemplating a future in dire need of interfaith unity. They lit one candle that burns bright in our collective hearts today when once more we are called to respond to a world in need of universal healing and peace.

In 1972 a new formation of the mission was given birth, the Dutchess County Interfaith Council, under a banner that read "Love Has Brought Us Together." You, the members, are a source from that light, and how fitting we should be drawn to deeper commitments in this our 50th Anniversary.

Congregations have been first responders on many fronts, and it is understood with empathy and compassion how houses of worship have not only risen to the challenges in providing an array of services during a global pandemic, but have been uniquely impacted with restricted services, canceled events and compromised flows of resources. We have witnessed several close their doors, some painfully, others permanently.

Still, you - the members, light one candle each time you renew your commitment to align with this body. The Council remains a beacon of such light, particularly in the past twelve months since we last gathered virtually. Your glow contributed to goodwill across the county just when our communities needed it most. Together, we pressed on with inspirational Story Circles, the Interfaith Music Festival and Thanksgiving Service. We raised hope in an abundant CROP Walk to feed our neighbors in need and led a county-wide effort as the congregational voice on the Covid-Vaccination Outreach Team. We participated in a robust membership outreach campaign resulting in several new and re-instated members, the largest boost in new membership in decades. The candle, indeed, shines because of you.

As we rise today in resolve, may we gather as one in joy later this year to celebrate *YOUR* anniversary.

Thank you, members, for your nobility and spirit-filled good deeds. You are love – and you are light.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. McKenna", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John A. McKenna
Executive Director



WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS

Redeemed Christian Church of God

St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Soul Saving Station

Memorial Lutheran Church

Focolare Movement – Mariapolis Luminosa

Miracle Grace Center

Franciscan Poor Clare Nuns

THANK YOU – OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. AJ Stack, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Amenia

Carol Becker, Regina Coeli Roman Catholic Church, Hyde Park

Adrian Goldson, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie

Gabriela-Vega Matthews, Organizadora Comunitaria - Dutchess

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 22, 2022

ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

Checking Account	\$ 8,682
Savings Account	13,263
Pay Pal Account	866
Investment Account	<u>38,198</u>
 TOTAL	 \$61,009

2022 BUDGET-SEE SEPARATE REPORT

The 2022 budget has been approved. We are hopefully coming out of the grip of Covid in this 2022 year, which is the 50th consecutive year of the existence of DCIC. We have set as a goal to raise \$50,000 this year through a variety of ways, including gala, other fund-raising programs and grants. The budget shows a figure of \$35,000, which is the amount to reflect a break-even budget.

PPP "LOAN"

During 2020 and 2021 we received a government (Payroll Protection Plan) loan of \$11,999 to keep our two employees on the payroll. During 2021 the loan was forgiven and helped to reduce our deficit for 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene Fleishman, Treasurer

2022 BUDGET – REVENUES

A/C #	ACCOUNT	2021 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
	MEMBER			
4000.02	CONTRIBUTIONS	12224	8000	12000
4000.03	FRIENDS OF DCIC	9186	3000	8000
	OTHER UNRESTR.			
4000.04	CONTRIB	2730	3000	3000
4000	CONTRIBUTIONS	24140	14000	23000
4100.01	OIL PROGRAM RECEIPTS	6604	7500	6000
	OIL PROG.-MEMBER			
4100.02	FEES	400	8500	0
4100.03	NEXAMP REFERRAL FEES		1500	1500
	ENERGY PROGRAMS	7004	17500	7500
4200.02	MUSIC FESTIVAL	2025	1500	2000
4200.03	OTHER PROGRAMS	0	1500	500
	INTERFAITH PROGRAMS	2025	3000	2500
	MISCELLANEOUS			
4400	INCOME	2098	1000	1000
	PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS	11999		0
	FUND RAISING/GRANTS		26000	35000
	TOTAL INCOME	47266	61500	69000
	TOAL EXPENSES	51376	61500	69000
	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-4110	0	0

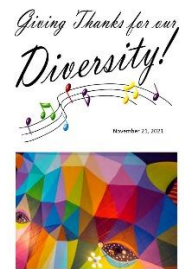
2022 BUDGET – EXPENSES

ACCOUNT	2021 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET	2022 BUDGET
EXEC DIRECTOR SALARY	25000	25000	27500
ADMIN ASST SALARY	10400	9600	10400
PAYROLL TAXES	3174	2800	3400
PERSONNEL	38574	37400	41300
PROGRAM COSTS	603	700	900
FUND RAISING COSTS	0	8000	11000
PROGRAM & FUND RAISING	761	8700	11900
OFFICE RENTAL	3120	3120	3200
SOFTWARE	1499	1400	1600
OFFICE SUPPL & POSTAGE	1172	1000	1500
INSURANCE	2112	2100	2300
INTERNET/PHONE	1510	1480	1600
BOOKKEEPER	1803	4000	2400
ACCOUNTANT	0	1100	1100
COMMUNICATIONS/PR			1600
MISCELLANEOUS	825	1200	500
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	12041	15400	15800
TOTAL	51376	61500	69000



Story Circle

Our Story Circles continued in Zoom format, allowing us to partner with the Interfaith Story Circle of the Tri-City area (Albany, Schenectady, and Troy) to present Our Common Home: Stories of Love and Care for Planet Earth on April 6th, 2021. Our first story circle of the 2022, The Return to Light, was attended by 30 people...a record for our Zoom circles. On February 28, 2022, we partnered with Children at the Well, an interfaith youth storytelling troupe and listened to storytellers and coaches share the work they are doing in the Tri-City area. For our March story circle, we will be guests of the Baha'i cluster as they celebrate Naw-Ruz, in-person, at the Fishkill Recreational Center on Sunday, March 20th. We look forward to returning to in-person gatherings in 2022.



Music Festival/Thanksgiving Service, November 21, 2021

The Music Festival/Thanksgiving Service was a virtual event live-streamed via YouTube which is still available for viewing via the YouTube link on our website, dutchesscountyinterfaith.org. This year's event was hosted by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church on Wilbur Blvd. in Poughkeepsie, with the generous assistance of Technical Director Michelle Locke and Music Director Patrick Walker. "Giving Thanks for Our Diversity" was the theme chosen through the joint planning of the Music Festival Committee and the Annual Thanksgiving Service Committee which were headed up by Carol Becker and Muriel Horowitz, respectively. After the Organ Prelude by Patrick Walker and a warm welcome by St. John's Pastor Jeffrey Koenig, our DCIC Executive Director John McKenna introduced a wide variety of live and videotaped presentations which included Souls United of the Hudson Valley, St. John's Bell Ensemble and a St. John's Recorder duet. Video performances also included chanting by members of the Hindu Samaj, a group of young singers from St. Martin de Porres Catholic School, the Temple Beth-El High Holiday Choir, a presentation inside the Thubten Choling Buddhist Monastery. Speakers included Muriel Horowitz with a Land Acknowledgement, Imam Usmani of the Masjid Al-Noor, Storyteller Lorraine Harten-Gelardi, and Fr. Thomas D'Albo reading "A Prayer to the Creator" composed by Pope Francis. DCIC Board member Rev. Taylor Holbrook spoke about the 2021 CROP walk and presented a check to Renee Fillette of Dutchess Outreach. Board member Balaji Jilla, of the Hindu Samaj, created a video showing DCIC Board members speaking about their commitment to interfaith ideals and the mission of the DCIC. Finally, in keeping with tradition, we concluded by singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth" via video from a previous Music Festival.



CROP Walk

Dutchess County Interfaith Council has been walking with CROP since 1975, and the 46th year was a unique exercise during the ongoing pandemic. It was a virtual walk where teams and walkers were creative in their actions, and the response reflected the spirit! The total raised by the teams participating was \$57,070.75. This put the DCIC CROP Walk at #13 in the nation and #3 in the Northeast. We are especially grateful to Team Moody who marched in memory of Ken and Mary Moody. Ken and Mary were key to the success of the CROP Walk for many years and we move forward in their light. Twenty-five percent of the total funds raised went directly to several noble, local nutrition programs, including Dutchess Outreach. Total raised in 46 years has now surpassed \$1.9 million!

Our gratitude is extended to each team and team-captain.

Arlington Reformed Church
Church of the Resurrection, Hopewell Junction
Community Action Partnership for Dutchess County
Dutchess County Community & Family Services
First Congregation UCC
First Reformed Church of Fishkill
Fishkill UMC
Hopewell Reformed Church
John Jay Interact
New Hackensack Reformed Church
Pleasant Plains Presbyterian, Staatsburg
PUMC Youth

Reformed Church of Poughkeepsie
Snowmaker
Spackenkill High School
St. Paul’s Church, Poughkeepsie
St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Church
St. John’s Lutheran Church
St. Kateri Tekakwitha
St. Paul Episcopal Church
Team Moody
Team St. Paul’s PV
Temple Beth-El
Trinity Church Fishkill
TUMC Trekkers
UMCHP
Vassar Temple

Taylor Holbrook, Chair



Susan Hecht, Chair

The Green Team

In its commitment to guide congregations as benevolent stewards of the environment, the following event is offered to congregational leadership and people of faith across Dutchess County. Please consult upcoming newsletters and announcements for registration and participation instructions!

Monday, April 11th at 7:30 pm on Zoom

The Intersection of Climate Change and Faith:
How religions address climate change in our politically charged environment -
With Rabbi Glenn Jacob, DD - Executive Director, New York Interfaith Power & Light

MEMBER CONGREGATIONS

DCIC extends heartfelt gratitude to all members for your continued support of the mission as we join hands and hearts in advancing our common call – the pursuit of peace, goodwill and love for all.

Thank You.

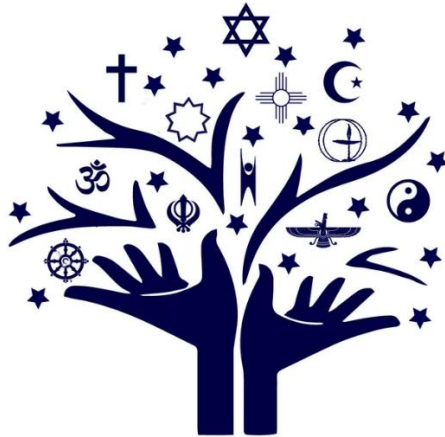
All Saints' Lutheran Church	Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church
Anchor Evangelical Press	Poughquag United Methodist Church
Bangall United Methodist Church	Presbyterian Conference Association
Beulah Baptist Church	Red Hook Area Council of Churches
Bulls Head-Oswego Monthly Friends Meeting	Redeemed Christian Church of God
Central Baptist Church	Rhinebeck Reformed Church
Christ Episcopal Church	Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation, Poughkeepsie
Church of the Holy Trinity	Salvation Army Poughkeepsie Corps
Church of the Messiah	Second Baptist Church
Community Baptist Church	Second Baptist Church of Dover
Congregation Shir Chadash	Smithfield Presbyterian Church
Dover First Baptist Church	Soul Saving Station
Evangelical Free Church	St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
First Congregational Church	St. Gregory Orthodox Church
First Evangelical Lutheran Church	St. James Episcopal Church
First Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Valley	St. Joachim-St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
First Presbyterian Church, Wappingers Falls	St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
First United Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains	St. John's Reformed Church
Fishkill United Methodist Church	St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church
Focolare Movement – Mariapolis Luminosa	St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
Franciscan Poor Clare Nuns	St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church
Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church	St. Nicholas on Hudson Episcopal Church
Friends Meeting, Poughkeepsie	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Pleasant Valley
Grace Episcopal Church	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Poughkeepsie
Hindu Samaj Center	St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wurtenburg
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	St. Simeon Foundation
Immaculate Conception - St. Anthony Church	St. Stanislaus Koska Church
Jewish Federation of Dutchess County	St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Lutheran Church of Christ the King	Temple Beth-El
Marist College Campus Ministry	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Memorial Lutheran Church	The Reformed Church
Mid Hudson Islamic Association & Masjid Al-Noor	Third Evangelical Lutheran Church
Miracle Grace Center	Trinity United Methodist Church
Mount Olive Fire Baptized Holiness Church	Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie
Mission Church	United Church of Christ
Netherwood Baptist Church	United Methodist Church, Hyde Park
New Hackensack Reformed Church	United Methodist Church, Verbank
Our Savior Lutheran Church	Vassar Road Baptist Church
Palpung Thubten Choling Monastery and Retreat Center	Vassar Temple
Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church	Westminster Presbyterian Church

DONORS AND MISSION PARTNERS

**DCIC is deeply moved by the generous demonstration of support in the trying pandemic period.
Your gifts have greatly contributed to the mission's sustenance during a challenging time.
Thank You!**

Ameriprise Financial
Sarluta Anderson-Davis
Mary Ann Bahnsen
Cathy Augello
Roy Bartels
Carol & Kevin Becker
Karen & Wiren Becker
Beulah Baptist Church
Deirdra Brown-Fleming
Alice & Fred Bunnell
Rev. Gail Burger
Grace Chartier
Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley
Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center
Rev. Thomas D'Albro
Mary Anne & Bob Deik
Rachel Duran
William & Sadie Efron Fund
First Presbyterian Church – Pleasant Valley
Judy Elkin and Gene Fleishman
Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church
Anne & Stephen Friedland
Steven & Theresa Giovanniello
Nan Greenwood
Linda Gregorius
Margery & Arthur Groten
Kalpana Gupta
Sarita Gupta
Kathleen Hall
The Harding Club
Lorraine Hartin-Gelardi
Susan Hecht
Nancy Olsen Higgins
Hindu Samaj Center
Padma Hiranandani
Taylor Holbrook
Muriel Horowitz

Hudson Mohawk Association of the UCC
Jansen Engineering
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Gene A. Stack, Jr.
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Susan & Herb Stoller
Amy Strom
Temple Beth-El
April Thomas
Vassar Temple
United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region
Marjorie Watters
Jacquelyn White & Alan Garman
Arlene Wilhelm
Miriam Zimet-Aaron
Rabbi Erwin Zimet Memorial Institute



O Thou kind Lord! These are Thy servants who have gathered in this meeting, have turned unto Thy kingdom and are in need of Thy bestowal and blessing. O Thou God!

Manifest and make evident the signs of Thy oneness which have been deposited in all the realities of life. Reveal and unfold the virtues which Thou hast made latent and concealed in these human realities.

O God! We are as plants, and Thy bounty is as the rain; refresh and cause these plants to grow through Thy bestowal. We are Thy servants; free us from the fetters of material existence. We are ignorant; make us wise. We are dead; make us alive. We are material; endow us with spirit. We are deprived; make us the intimates of Thy mysteries.

We are needy; enrich and bless us from Thy boundless treasury.

O God! Resuscitate us; give us sight; give us hearing; familiarize us with the mysteries of life, so that the secrets of Thy kingdom may become revealed to us in this world of existence, and we may confess

Thy oneness.

Every bestowal emanates from Thee; every benediction is Thine.

Thou art mighty. Thou art powerful. Thou art the Giver,

and Thou art the Ever-Bounteous.

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá

~ ~ ~

STAY CONNECTED!



**For more information and regular updates
about the ongoing activities of DCIC,
visit the website:**

www.DutchessCountyInterfaith.org

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office@DutchessCountyInterfaith.org**

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Love CONTINUES to Bring Us Together!