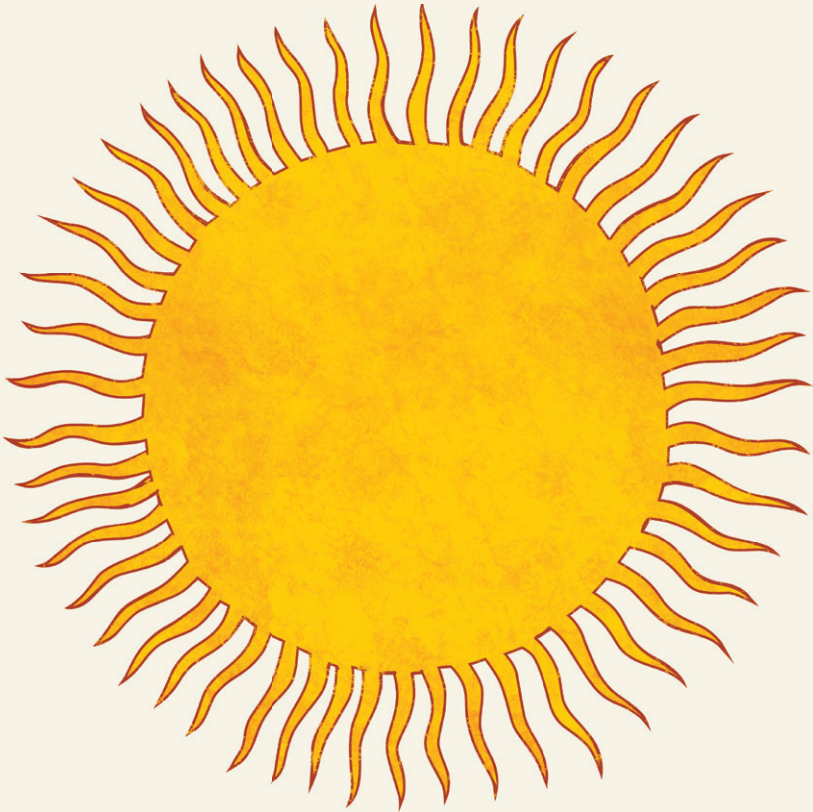


*The 22nd Annual*

FESTIVAL *of* FAITHS

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COMPASSION  
*shining like the sun*



LOUISVILLE, KY | APRIL 19-22, 2017

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

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[WWW.FESTIVALofFAITHS.ORG](http://WWW.FESTIVALofFAITHS.ORG)

# COMPASSION: SHINING LIKE THE SUN

**THE 22ND ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FAITHS** is a nationally acclaimed multifaith festival of music, poetry, art, film and dialogue with internationally renowned spiritual leaders, practitioners and teachers.

The 2017 Festival will explore cultivating compassion in our current economic systems, in world affairs and in ourselves. The Festival offers a platform for conversations on meaning and serves as an honest broker and stakeholder in dialogue around authentic compassion.

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## #COMPASSIONSHINING

Join the Conversation. Join the Movement.



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### TICKETS

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE  
8:30 – 9:15 AM

**FREE AND TICKETED**

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM

**\$25.00**

FESTIVAL PASS

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### ZERO WASTE EVENT

THE CENTER FOR INTERFAITH RELATIONS IS PROUD TO HOST A ZERO WASTE FESTIVAL OF FAITHS. PLEASE SUPPORT OUR EFFORT TO DIVERT THE WASTE PRODUCED DURING THE FESTIVAL FROM OUR LOCAL LANDFILL BY USING THE RECYCLING AND COMPOST BINS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE KENTUCKY CENTER.

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## WEDNESDAY, April 19

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

- 8:30 AM **SPIRITUAL PRACTICE** *Jewish Mystical Prayer* with Rabbi Rami Shapiro
- 10 AM **GETTING REAL ABOUT COMPASSIONATE CITIES** with Karen Armstrong, Joan Brown Campbell, Mayor Greg Fischer, Mayor Francisco Cienfuegos, Mayor Betsy Price and others
- 2 PM **ECONOMICS OF COMPASSION** *The Real Bottom Line* with David Muhammad, Aruni Bhatnagar, Anthony Smith, Sadiqa Reynolds and others
- 5:30 PM **COMPASSION SHINING** *An Interfaith Celebration* curated by Ambassador Shabazz at the *Cathedral of the Assumption*
- 

## THURSDAY, April 20

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

- 8:30 AM **SPIRITUAL PRACTICE** *Islamic Prayer* with Ingrid Mattson
- 10 AM **WE ARE ALREADY ONE** *Religion and Compassion in World Affairs* with Karen Armstrong, Ambassador Matthew Barzun, Noah Feldman and William Vendley
- 2 PM **LIVING COMPASSION** with Rami Nashashibi, Joan Brown Campbell, Naomi Tutu, Kevin Cosby and local *Faces of Compassion*
- 7 PM **COMPASSION RISING** *Artistic Performances* curated by Hannah Drake, Charles Nasby and Rebecca Katz
- 

## FRIDAY, April 21

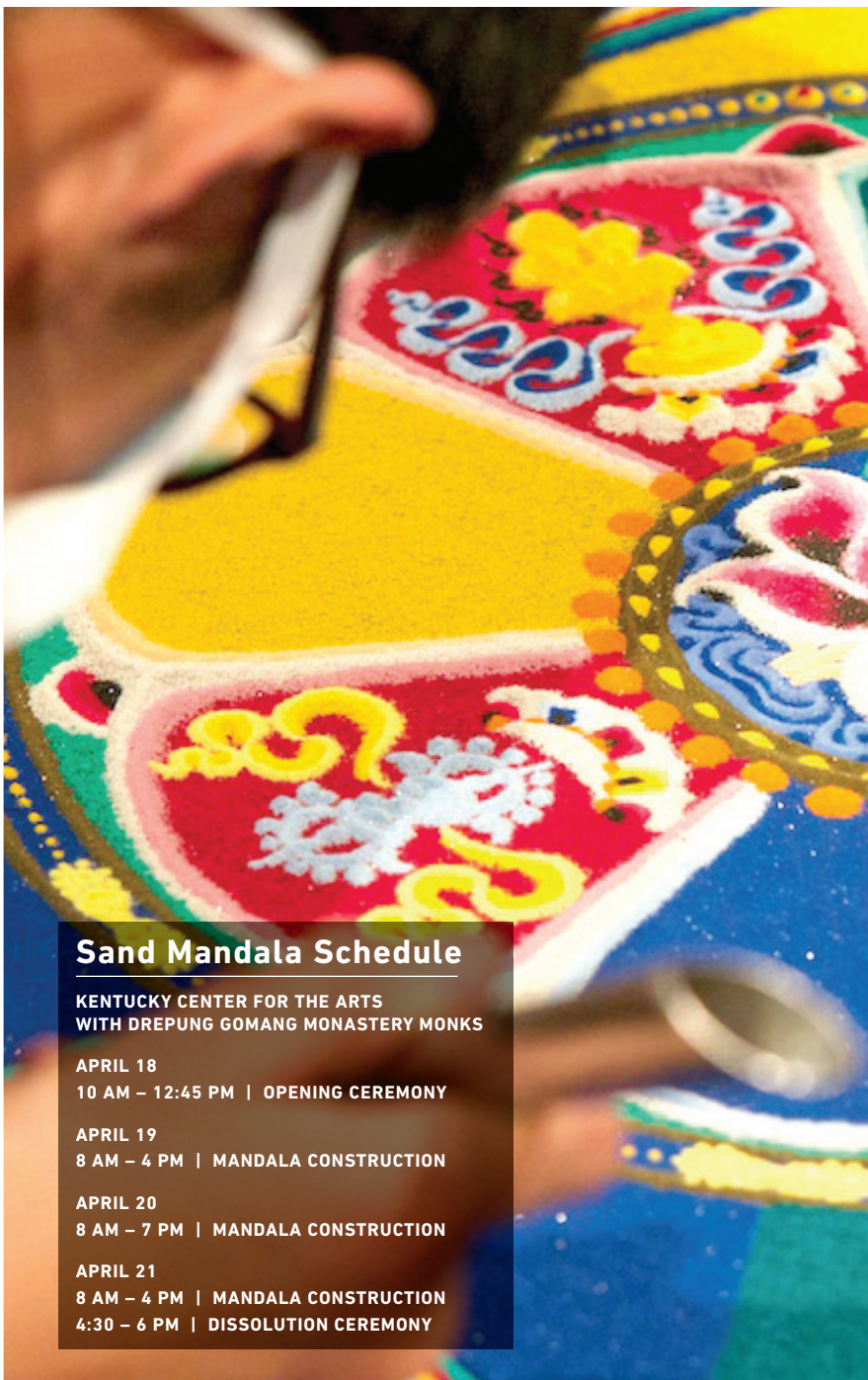
KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

- 8:30 AM **SPIRITUAL PRACTICE** *Christian Centering Prayer* with Cynthia Bourgeault
- 10 AM **THE SCIENCE OF COMPASSION** *with Mind and Life Institute* curated by Susan Bauer-Wu
- 2 PM **THE HEART OF COMPASSION** *Exploring the Interior Landscape* with Thupten Jinpa, Cynthia Bourgeault and Ingrid Mattson
- 6 PM **COMPASSION JAM** *Music Improv & Comedy* curated by Teddy Abrams, Rachel Grimes and Jecorey '1200' Arthur with comedian Azhar Usman
- 

## SATURDAY, April 22

SPALDING UNIVERSITY CENTER

- 8:30 AM **SPIRITUAL PRACTICE** *Buddhist Compassion Meditation* with Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel
- 10 AM **COMPASSIONATE EARTH** *Visions of Health and Harmony* with Congressman James Comer, Patrick Holden, Bishop Marc Andrus, Nana Firman, Thupten Jinpa and Mayor Greg Fischer
- 12 PM **EARTH DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH** catered by Farm to Fork
- 1:30 PM **THE NATURE OF INTERDEPENDENCE** with Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel, Bishop Marc Andrus and others



## **Sand Mandala Schedule**

**KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
WITH DREPUNG GOMANG MONASTERY MONKS**

**APRIL 18**

**10 AM – 12:45 PM | OPENING CEREMONY**

**APRIL 19**

**8 AM – 4 PM | MANDALA CONSTRUCTION**

**APRIL 20**

**8 AM – 7 PM | MANDALA CONSTRUCTION**

**APRIL 21**

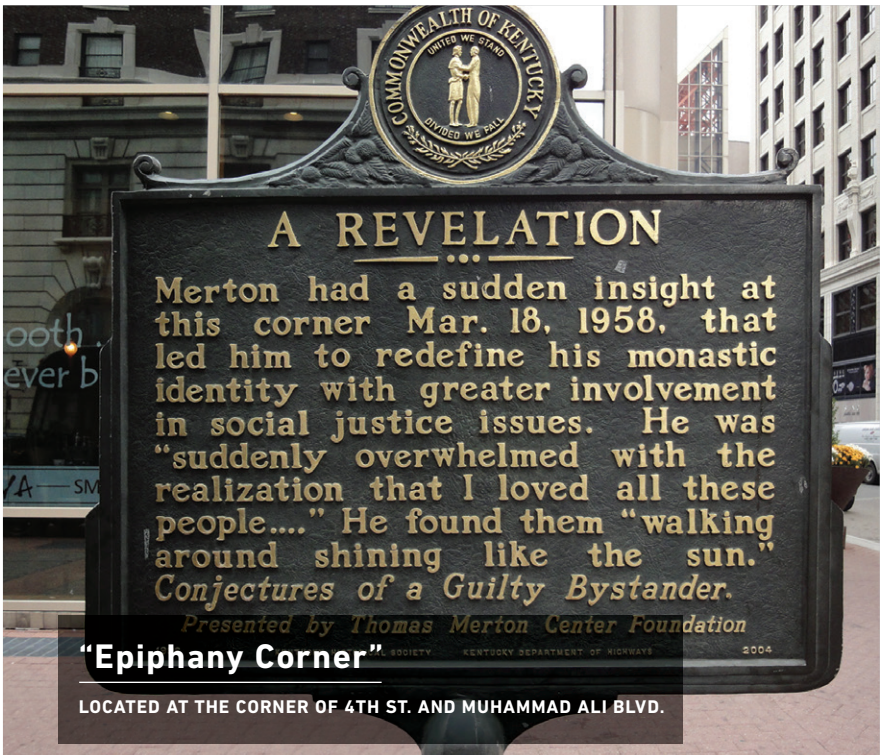
**8 AM – 4 PM | MANDALA CONSTRUCTION**

**4:30 – 6 PM | DISSOLUTION CEREMONY**



## Meditation and Motion

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
DAILY 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM | APRIL 19 - 21



## A REVELATION

Merton had a sudden insight at this corner Mar. 18, 1958, that led him to redefine his monastic identity with greater involvement in social justice issues. He was "suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people...." He found them "walking around shining like the sun."  
*Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander.*

*Presented by Thomas Merton Center Foundation*

## "Epiphany Corner"

LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF 4TH ST. AND MUHAMMAD ALI BLVD.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017**

**KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

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*8:30 - 9:15 am*

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

*Jewish Mystical Prayer* with Rabbi Rami Shapiro

What is the method, purpose and inner meaning of Kabbalah? Rabbi Rami Shapiro, widely recognized as one of the most creative figures in contemporary American Judaism, will provide an introduction to the Jewish contemplative tradition and teach its basic practices. "Rami Shapiro is brilliant, heartfelt and full of reverence (and irreverence!). A great pluralistic soul with a fabulous sense of humor. You will love him." - Rabbi Tirzah Firestone

*"Be still, and know that I am God."*

Psalm 46:10

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*10 - 12 pm*

**GETTING REAL ABOUT COMPASSIONATE CITIES**

with co-authors of the Charter for Compassion, Karen Armstrong and Joan Brown Campbell, also joined by Mayor Greg Fischer, Mayor Francisco Cienfuegos, Mayor Betsy Price and others

What does a compassionate city look like? This working session with globally renowned leaders and mayors on the subject of compassionate governance will discuss the compassionate cities movement and its vision for the future. In the light of today's challenges and opportunities, how do we more deeply engage, understand and define what compassion really means and entails in order to move from aspiration to reality?

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*12 - 2 pm*

**LUNCH BREAK**

Tea House, Meditation and Motion, Sand Mandala

*"Life is this simple: We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent and the divine is shining through it all the time. This is not just a nice story or a fable. It is true."*

Thomas Merton

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### **ECONOMICS OF COMPASSION**

*2 - 4 pm*

with criminal justice leader David Muhammad, environmental cardiologist Aruni Bhatnagar, Anthony Smith, CEO of Cities United, Sadiqa Reynolds, President of Louisville Urban League and others

What are the true costs of our current economic systems? What is an economic vision for our times that we could call truly compassionate? Using Kentucky as a case study or laboratory, panelists offer alternative visions of economic models that put the value on people, the environment and health over profit.

Through a spiritual lens, experts provide their personal testimony in three case studies: the school-to-prison pipeline, mental health and human and environmental health. Local representatives from faith and secular backgrounds will respond and connect the themes to Louisville's urban realities.

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*4 - 5 pm*

### **DINNER BREAK**

Book signings, Sand Mandala, Reception

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### **CATHEDRAL OF THE ASSUMPTION**

#### **COMPASSION SHINING**

*5:30 - 7 pm*

*An Interfaith Celebration* curated by Ambassador Shabazz, a dynamic teacher and ideas architect

The first night of the 22nd Festival of Faiths is a joyful evening of music, song and soul at Louisville's historic Cathedral of the Assumption. A celebration of the diverse faiths within our community and the wisdom, humanity and beauty that unites them.

This event is free and open to the public. No ticket required.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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8:30 - 9:15 am

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Islamic Prayer with Ingrid Mattson

How do Muslims pray? Ingrid Mattson, a leading Muslim theologian in the West, describes the spiritual meaning of the words, movements and cycles of the Islamic canonical prayer. For one in every four human beings in the world, the five prayers (*salah*) are part of their daily ritual. Prayer is one of the five tenets of Islam, the others being: the testimony of faith, charity, fasting and performing pilgrimage.

*“Then God told him by inspiration: ‘David, he who inhabits My House, and he whose Prayer I accept, is none but he who is humble before My Majesty, spends his days in remembrance of Me and keeps his passions in check for My sake, giving food to the hungry and shelter to the stranger and treating the afflicted with compassion. His light shines in the sky like the sun.’”*

Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, 11th century Muslim thinker and sage

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10 - 12 pm

### WE ARE ALREADY ONE

Religion and Compassion in World Affairs with Karen Armstrong, Ambassador Mathew Barzun, Noah Feldman and William Vendley

Matthew Barzun, recent U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom, and a known internet pioneer and grassroots fundraiser, shares the stage with Karen Armstrong, renowned religions author and Noah Feldman, Harvard law professor and Middle East expert. They will explore a vision for world affairs as if compassion were the primary driving motivator for global exchange.

The session will be moderated by William Vendley, Secretary General of Religions for Peace International, the world’s largest and most representative multi-religious coalition advancing common action for peace. Short talks followed by a moderated discussion and audience question and response.

*“We need a little more compassion and if we cannot have it then no politician or even a magician can save the planet.”*

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama



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12 - 2 pm

**LUNCH BREAK**

Tea House, Meditation and Motion, Sand Mandala

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2 - 4 pm

**LIVING COMPASSION**

with community activist and professor of Islamic studies Rami Nashashibi, peace and social justice advocate Joan Brown Campbell, Naomi Tutu, daughter of Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu and Kevin Cosby, Senior Pastor at one of six “super churches” of the South and President of Simmons College (the 107<sup>th</sup> HBCU)

What is the experience of compassion in action? Speakers share personal testimonies on what it means to embody compassion and how and where their courageous acts had a transformative impact. Short talks followed by moderated discussion and audience question and response.

*FACES OF COMPASSION*: A special video segment focusing on local Louisville and Kentucky heroes and organizations working on the front lines.

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4 - 7 pm

**DINNER BREAK**

Book signings, Sand Mandala, Reception

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7 - 9 pm

**COMPASSION RISING**

*Artistic performances* curated by provocative poet Hannah Drake, Charles Nasby, creator of sustainable theatre initiative *Nstages and Rymes4AReason* and Rebecca Katz, youth advocate and mentor

Poetry slam, music, dance and performance with local artists to awaken an authentically compassionate public narrative. This evening celebrates compassion that is everywhere in the everyday commonplace and the familiar. Artists shine a light on the *extraordinary in the ordinary*, the daily work of resilience, love and sacrifice made by so many people, like ripples of water polishing a stone.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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8:30 - 9:15 am

### SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

*Christian Centering Prayer* with Cynthia Bourgeault

Centering Prayer is described as “a receptive prayer of resting in God.” It emphasizes interior silence and prayer as a personal relationship with God and as “a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.” Its roots are found in the contemplative prayer of the Desert Fathers of early Christian monasticism, in the *Lectio Divina* tradition, and in Christian mystical works like *The Cloud of Unknowing* and the writings of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross.

Episcopal priest and writer Cynthia Bourgeault has worked closely with Fr. Thomas Keating, founder of the Centering Prayer method, for nearly 25 years and is the author of the acclaimed book *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*.

*“The deepest prayer which I could ever say  
is that which makes me One with That to which I pray.”*

Angelus Silesius

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10 - 12 pm

### THE SCIENCE OF COMPASSION

*with Mind and Life Institute* curated by Susan Bauer-Wu

Are we wired more for compassion or competition? Find out in this session exploring the intersection of science and wisdom. Representatives of the Mind and Life Institute share key findings from 30 years of scientific research and inquiry into compassion. Susan Bauer-Wu, President of the Mind & Life Institute, has dedicated her career to bringing contemplative practices to healthcare and higher education.

*“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion.  
If you want to be happy, practice compassion.”*

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

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12 - 2 pm

### LUNCH BREAK

Tea House, Meditation and Motion, Sand Mandala

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**2 - 4 pm**     **THE HEART OF COMPASSION** *Exploring the Interior Landscape* with  
Thupten Jinpa, Cynthia Bourgeault and Ingrid Mattson

World-renowned spiritual teachers identify the “inner voice” of compassion using the wisdom of the mystical, contemplative traditions. These wisdom keepers share insights and practices for cultivating compassion within a modern context of hyper activity and distraction.

**THUPTEN JINPA** is the author of *A Fearless Heart: How the Courage to be Compassionate Can Transform Our Lives* and is His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama’s principal English translator.

**CYNTHIA BOURGEAULT** is an Episcopal priest and advocate of Christian centering prayer. She is a core faculty member at The Living School for Action and Contemplation.

**INGRID MATTSON** is a leading Islamic scholar in the West and past president of the largest Muslim organization in America, the Islamic Society of North America.

Short talks followed by moderated discussion and audience question and response.

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**4 - 6 pm**     **DINNER BREAK**  
Book signings, Sand Mandala Dissolution Ceremony, Reception

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**6 - 8 pm**     **COMPASSION JAM**  
*Music Improv & Comedy*, curated by Louisville Orchestra Music  
Director Teddy Abrams, composer/pianist Rachel Grimes and  
educator/performer Jecorey ‘1200’ Arthur, with a special comedy  
set from “America’s Funniest Muslim” (CNN) Azhar Usman

An evening of musical improvisation promising to be a soulful and unique genre-bending happening! Teddy Abrams, Rachel Grimes and Jecorey ‘1200’ Arthur curate a blend of eclectic musical styles, performers and improvisational experiments. An unmissable evening that unites and elevates us in the harmony of compassion.

This evening includes a unique comedy offering with Azhar Usman “One of the most important, relevant and hysterically funny guys out there!” - Margaret Cho. “Azhar Usman is very funny, deeply spiritual and extremely hairy. He’s like Zach Galifianakis meets Deepak Chopra—and funnier than you’d expect that combination to be.” - Russell Peters.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017**

**SPALDING UNIVERSITY CENTER**

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**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

*8:30 - 9:15 am* *Buddhist Compassion Meditation*  
with Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel

Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel writes, “For me, the purpose of practice is to bring ourselves back to our natural state. All the practices we engage are...moving away from self-focus, seeing the interdependent and empty nature of things, appreciating the richness of this sacred world and resting in the nature of mind – these provide us all with ways to return to something utterly simple and basic – something no one can tamper with or take away.”

*“It is not experiences themselves that bind you,  
but the way you cling to and reject them.”*

Tilopa, 11th century Indian master

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**COMPASSIONATE EARTH**

*10 - 12 pm* *Visions of Health and Harmony* with Congressman James Comer, Patrick Holden, Bishop Marc Andrus and Nana Firman, joined by Thupten Jinpa and Mayor Greg Fischer

It is Earth Day, and our sacred elements are where the rubber meets the road! Water, air and soil do not care about political borders and ideology. Speakers confront our global environmental problems and discuss local efforts to tackle the crisis.

Short “ignite” talks by Congressman James Comer and Patrick Holden on faith and farming, Bishop Marc Andrus and Nana Firman on the connection between faith and conservation and others. The session will conclude with a conversation between Thupten Jinpa and Mayor Greg Fischer on what Louisville needs to do to truly *shine like the sun*.

How do we cultivate ecological awareness in our communities? How can we, as individuals, communities and nations of many faiths, respond to the environmental crisis of our times in a compassionate, constructive and collaborative way? Panelists share their wisdom and insight into how we can reconnect with the natural world, shift our relationship to the earth from one of separateness to one of deep interconnection and transform the dominant social narrative so that we may reimagine our future together.

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**SPALDING UNIVERSITY BALLROOM**

*12 - 1:30 pm*

**EARTH DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH**

catered by Farm to Fork

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*1:30 - 3:30 pm*

**THE NATURE OF INTERDEPENDENCE**

with Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel, Bishop Marc Andrus  
and others

A conversation on the nature of interdependence from both eastern and western faith traditions.

**ELIZABETH MATTIS NAMGYEL** has studied and practiced the Buddhadharma for 30 years under the guidance of Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche. After meeting Rinpoche in Nepal, she became his first Western student. Elizabeth has an academic background in both Anthropology and Buddhist Studies, but her learning is also grounded in practice.

**BISHOP MARC ANDRUS** a longtime environmental advocate, represented the Episcopal Church at the Earth Day signing of the Paris Agreement at the invitation of U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon. He also joined an Episcopal delegation that represented the presiding bishop and the church at the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, known as COP21, where 196 parties created the agreement that sets out to decrease carbon emissions and limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.

*“The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.”*

Thomas Merton

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*3:30 pm*

**BOOK SIGNINGS AND EARTH DAY TRIBUTE**



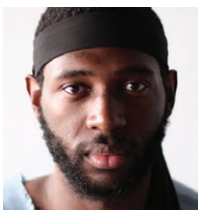
**TEDDY ABRAMS**

Teddy Abrams is a widely acclaimed conductor, established pianist, clarinetist, award-winning composer and passionate educator. He is the Music Director and Conductor of the Louisville Orchestra and the Britt Classical Festival, and serves as Resident Conductor of the MAV Symphony Orchestra in Budapest. Abrams is dedicated to exploring new and engaging ways to communicate with a range of audiences. He was the youngest conducting student accepted at both the Curtis Institute of Music and the Aspen Music Festival.



**BISHOP  
MARC ANDRUS**

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus was installed as the Episcopal Bishop of California in 2006, having previously served as Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Alabama. In 1987, Andrus was awarded a Master of Divinity degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. Since his ordination to the priesthood in 1988, Bishop Andrus has focused his ministry on issues of peace and justice, including immigration reform, climate change, civil rights for LGBT persons and health care.



**JECOREY '1200'  
ARTHUR**

Jecorey "1200" Arthur is an award-winning educator, composer, performer and curator from Louisville, Kentucky. Arthur's performances range from Forecastle Festival and the 92nd Street Y Musical Introduction Series to collaborations with the Louisville Orchestra and Pittsburgh Symphony. At the age of twelve he fell in love with hip-hop and purchased a KORG D-1200 recording studio. He then found his passion for classical music while at the University of Louisville, where he earned his BME and MAT. Arthur is currently the Music Specialist at Hite Elementary.



**KAREN  
ARMSTRONG, OBE**

Karen Armstrong is a historian of religion whose books have been translated into forty-five languages. They include the bestseller *A History of God* and most recently, *Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence*. In 2008 she was awarded the TED Prize and began working on the Charter for Compassion. The Charter was crafted by leading thinkers in Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism and was launched in the fall of 2009 and has become a global movement.



**AMB. MATTHEW  
BARZUN**

Matthew Barzun is the former Ambassador of the United States of America to the United Kingdom (2013-2016) and previously served as U.S. Ambassador to Sweden (2009-2011). He was a pioneer in the early days of the internet, becoming the fourth employee of CNET Networks where he left in 2004 as Executive Vice President. Barzun was among the first to join Barack Obama's National Finance Committee where he produced the first \$25 per-person fundraiser. He has served on the boards of many non-profits focused on education, public policy and interfaith relations.



**SUSAN BAUER-WU**

Susan Bauer-Wu, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, has dedicated her career to contemplative practices in healthcare and higher education. She completed doctoral studies in psychoneuroimmunology followed by post-doctoral training in psycho-oncology and behavioral medicine. Bauer-Wu is the current president of the Mind & Life Institute after directing the Compassionate Care Initiative at the University of Virginia and was formerly president of the Society for Integrative Oncology. She is the author of *Leaves Falling Gently*.



**ARUNI  
BHATNAGAR**

Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar is a professor in the Institute of Molecular Cardiology at the University of Louisville. Bhatnagar's work led to the creation of the new field of environmental cardiology. He leads a group of 30 investigators focused on developing a better understanding of the cardiovascular complications of diabetes. Currently, Bhatnagar serves on the Editorial Boards of both *Circulation Research* and *Circulation*, has participated in over 50 National Institutes of Health review panels and is the author of over 120 publications.



**REV. CYNTHIA  
BOURGEAULT**

Episcopal priest, writer and retreat leader, Cynthia Bourgeault balances her time between solitude and actively recovering the Christian contemplative path. A longtime advocate for Centering Prayer, she has worked closely with Fr. Thomas Keating. Bourgeault is a founding Director of both the Aspen Wisdom School and The Contemplative Society, where she continues to contribute in her role as Principal Teacher and advisor. She is currently a core faculty member at The Living School for Action and Contemplation, headed by Richard Rohr, OFM. Bourgeault's numerous books include the bestseller *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*.



**REV. JOAN BROWN  
CAMPBELL**

The Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, a lifelong ecumenist, who served as the first ordained woman appointed as general secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Campbell is a devoted activist for peace and social justice, believing that citizens in a democracy must act on their conscience. This commitment was crafted during her life-changing work with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in the struggle to end apartheid in South Africa. Rev. Campbell's commitment to growing the global compassion movement is reflected in her work with Charter for Compassion International and Global Peace Initiative of Women.



**MAYOR FRANCISCO  
CIENFUEGOS**

Francisco Cienfuegos is currently the Mayor of the municipality of Ciudad Guadalupe in Nuevo León, Mexico, and serves as the President of the Association of Intelligent Cities in Mexico. He joined the State Government in 2009, directing Public Institutional Relations and subsequently Social Communications. Cienfuegos founded the Metropolitan Association of Nuevo Leon's Mayors and became President of the Northern Region's National Municipal Federation of Mexico.



**CONGRESSMAN  
JAMES COMER**

James Richard Comer was elected to Congress in November 2016 and represents Kentucky's 1st congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives. He previously served as the Agriculture Commissioner of Kentucky where his work to root out wasteful spending and fraud, return taxpayer dollars to the treasury and grow Kentucky's agricultural economy, received bipartisan acclaim. He promoted rural economic development by spearheading the successful effort to legalize industrial hemp and developed new branding initiatives for Kentucky farmers.



**REV. KEVIN COSBY**

The Rev. Dr. Kevin W. Cosby has served as Senior Pastor of St. Stephen Church in Louisville, Kentucky since 1979. Due greatly to his practical and dynamic Bible teachings, the congregation has grown from 500 to approximately 14,000 members and has been recognized by *Outreach* magazine as one of the 100 largest churches in America (2010) and *Emerge* magazine as one of six "super churches" of the South. In 2005, Dr. Cosby was named the 13<sup>th</sup> President of Simmons College of Kentucky, designated the 107<sup>th</sup> Historically Black College (HBCU).





**HANNAH DRAKE**

Hannah Drake is a poet, author and spoken word artist whose powerful stories have been heard around the world. She is frequently asked to speak throughout the country and believes that her words inspire transformation. She has performed her poetry at the Legendary Showtime at the Apollo and has opened for Iyanla Vanzant, Angela Davis and Nikki Finney. Drake is the Health Equity Strategist at IDEAS xLab and was previously the Pastoral Administrative Assistant at Bates Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville.



**NOAH FELDMAN**

Dr. Noah Feldman is the Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School where he teaches constitutional and international law. As an academic and public intellectual, Feldman is concerned with issues at the intersection of religion and politics. Feldman served as senior constitutional advisor to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq and advised members of the Iraqi Governing Council on the drafting of the Transitional Administrative Law or interim constitution. He is a contributing writer for the *Bloomberg View*.



**NANA FIRMAN**

Through her work encouraging the American Muslim community to practice eco-lifestyle, Nana Firman became a member of the Green Mosque Initiative for the Islamic Society of North America. Recently, she organized the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change and co-founded the Global Muslim Climate Network, which calls to all Muslim nations to transition from fossil fuel to clean energy based development. Firman is a GreenFaith Fellow, coordinates Muslim outreach for OurVoices and previously worked with the World Wildlife Fund in Indonesia to create climate resiliency plans.



**MAYOR GREG  
FISCHER**

Greg Fischer is now in his second term as Louisville's 50th Mayor. The three pillars of his administration have been to make Louisville a city of lifelong learning, a much healthier city and an even more compassionate community. He is a leader in the Charter for Compassion's compassionate cities movement and the Compassionate Schools Project is a result of his vision and leadership. Fischer is a trustee for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and was named a "2013 Public Official of the Year" by *Governing Magazine*.



**RACHEL GRIMES**

Rachel Grimes is a pianist and composer based in Kentucky and heralded “one of American independent music’s few truly inspired technicians” by *WIRE* magazine. Her compositions have been performed by artists around the world and she has performed at some of the world’s most diverse music festivals. Grimes is founding member of the ground-breaking indie-rock chamber Quarterstick / Touch & Go. Her recent commissions include a film score with Matthew Nolan for *People on Sunday* at the National Gallery of Art and orchestrations of *Book of Leaves* for the Louisville Orchestra.



**PATRICK HOLDEN**

Patrick Holden is a pioneer of the modern sustainable food movement and the Founding Director and Chief Executive of the Sustainable Food Trust. He was the founding chairman of British Organic Farmers in 1982, before joining the Soil Association where he worked for nearly 20 years. During this time the organization led the development of organic standards and the market for organic foods. Holden is Patron of the UK Biodynamic Association and was named the Commander of the British Empire in 2005 for services to organic farming.



**THUPTEN JINPA**

Since 1985, Thupten Jinpa has been the principal English translator to the 14th Dalai Lama and has translated and edited many of his books including the *New York Times* bestseller *Ethics for the New Millennium*. Jinpa was born in Tibet in 1958. His training as a monk took place in South India where he went on to receive the Geshe Lharam degree from the Shartse College of Ganden Monastic University. He taught Buddhist epistemology, metaphysics, Middle Way philosophy and Buddhist psychology at Ganden for five years. Jinpa holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Cambridge University.



**INGRID MATTSON**

Dr. Ingrid Mattson is a leading Muslim religious figure, a professor of Islamic Studies and expert on the Qur’an. She was elected vice president and then president of the Islamic Society of North America, the first woman to serve in either position. In that capacity, a 2010 *New York Times* article called her “the most noticed figure among American Muslim women.” As a professor at Hartford Seminary, she developed and directed the first accredited graduate program for Muslim chaplains in America. Currently, Mattson teaches at the University of Western Ontario.



**DAVID MUHAMMAD**

David Muhammad is a leader in the fields of criminal justice, violence prevention and youth development. He is the Executive Director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform where he serves as a lead consultant and technical assistant provider to the Sierra Health Foundation's Positive Youth Justice Initiative. Muhammad also provides leadership and technical assistance to the CeaseFire Violence Reduction Strategy in the cities of Oakland and Stockton, California. He is also a consultant to Cities United, a national initiative to drastically reduce Black male homicide rates.



**ELIZABETH  
MATTIS NAMGYEL**

Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel practiced the Buddhadharma for 30 years under the guidance of Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche, becoming his first Western student. Elizabeth has an academic background in both Anthropology and Buddhist Studies, and after many years of solitary retreat, was appointed Retreat Master at Longchen Jigme Samten Ling in southern Colorado. Using the Buddha's teachings on emptiness as a lens, she asks us to take a fresh look at all the assumptions and beliefs we have about reality and liberation. Elizabeth is the author of *The Power of an Open Question: The Buddha's Path*.



**RAMI NASHASHIBI**

Rami Nashashibi has served as the Executive Director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) since 1997. He has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago and is a Visiting Professor of Religion & Muslim Studies at the Chicago Theological Seminary. He worked with several leading scholars in the area of globalization, African American studies and urban sociology. Rami and his work with IMAN have been featured in many national and international media outlets and Georgetown University identified him as one of the "500 Most Influential Muslims in the World."



**AMBASSADOR  
SHABAZZ**

Ambassador Shabazz is a producer, writer and diplomat who has spoken throughout the world. She has spent over 35 years offering keynote addresses while developing curricula and programs for educational institutions, executive forums, diplomatic networks, penal systems and organizations globally. In 1996, Shabazz established the Pilgrimage Foundation in honor of the spiritual journey to the Holy Land by her father, El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, also known as Malcolm X. The former prime minister of Belize recognized her as a key advisor on international cultural affairs and project development.



**MAYOR BETSY  
PRICE**

Betsy Price is an American businesswoman and politician who serves as the 44<sup>th</sup> and current mayor of Fort Worth, Texas, elected on June 18, 2011. Active in the Republican Party, she turned to public service and ran for office in 2000 when she was elected for the position of Tarrant County's Tax Assessor. Price ran her own business for 17 years and became active in community affairs, while serving on numerous boards, commissions and professional associations. She has made significant strides along the path toward her vision of a healthy, engaged and fiscally responsible city.



**RABBI RAMI  
SHAPIRO**

Rabbi Rami M. Shapiro is widely recognized as one of the most creative figures in contemporary American Judaism. A graduate of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, he also holds a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from Union Graduate School. Shapiro is an award-winning poet, liturgist and essayist. "Rami Shapiro is brilliant, heartfelt and full of reverence (and irreverence!). A great pluralistic soul with a fabulous sense of humor. You will love him." - Rabbi Tirzah Firestone



**NONTOMBI NAOMI  
TUTU**

The challenges of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa has led Naomi Tutu to her present work as an activist for human rights. Her professional experience ranges from being a development consultant in West Africa to coordinating programs on Race and Gender and Gender-based Violence in Education at the African Gender Institute at the University of Cape Town. She is a postulant in the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee and will be seeking ordination. In her speeches, Tutu blends the passion for human dignity with humor and personal stories. She is the third child of Archbishop Desmond and Nomalizo Leah Tutu.



**AZHAR USMAN**

Azhar Usman is a Chicago-based standup comedian, actor, writer, playwright and producer. CNN described him as "America's Funniest Muslim" and Georgetown University named him one of the "500 Most Influential Muslims in the World." Usman has opened for standup icon Dave Chappelle over 50 times. He is the co-founder of the international comedy showcase "Allah Made Me Funny—The Official Muslim Comedy Tour," and has toured over 20 countries. In 2017, Usman can be seen in Amazon Studios' original series *Patriot*.

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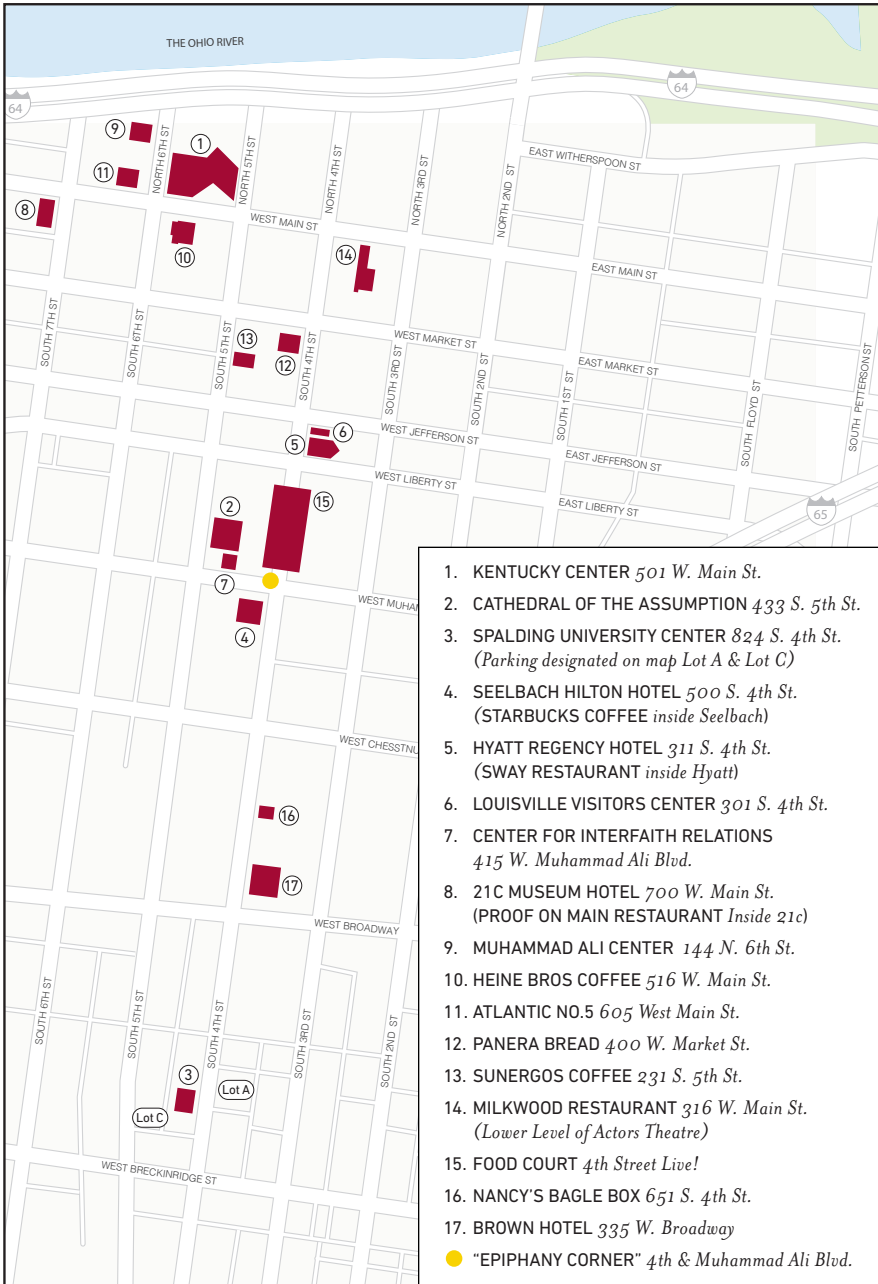


*“ We do not exist for ourselves alone,  
and it is only when we are fully convinced of this fact  
that we begin to love ourselves properly  
and thus also love others.*

*What do I mean by loving ourselves properly?*

*I mean, first of all, desiring to live,  
accepting life as a very great good,  
not because of what it gives us,  
but because of what it enables us to give to others.”*

Thomas Merton



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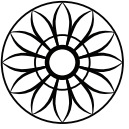
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