

Center for  
**Interfaith  
Cooperation**

## *Welcome to the 6th annual Interfaith Banquet*

**Honoring Betty Brandt as the  
2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year**

### **OUR VISION**

A community that pursues peace through interfaith  
understanding and cooperation

### **OUR MISSION**

To strengthen community in central Indiana and beyond by:

Supporting existing connections between and among  
faith communities;

Fostering additional interfaith opportunities through  
social, cultural, and educational interactions; and

Connecting faith communities through volunteer  
service and civic engagement.

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*Religious communities are, without question, the largest and best  
organized civil institutions in the world today, claiming the allegiance  
of billions of believers and bridging the divides of race, class, and  
nationality. They are uniquely equipped to meet the challenges of our  
time; resolving conflicts, caring for the earth, the sick the needy, and  
promoting peaceful coexistence among all people.*

***Religions for Peace***

March 8, 2020

Dear Patron, Supporter, Sponsor and Friend:

Welcome to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation (CIC) Interfaith Banquet 2020. This annual gathering is an opportunity for CIC to recognize an important interfaith trailblazer and remind our supporters and friends of our commitment to promote an inclusive environment for the various faith traditions in Central Indiana.

Betty Brandt, our 2020 CIC Interfaith Ambassador, is a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church and directs the activities of the Spiritual Oneness Group (SOG) at the church. I began attending the SOG monthly meetings several years ago and have truly been enriched by the vibrant conversations on faith experiences. Indianapolis is a religiously richer because of Betty's efforts with the SOG and her many contributions to interfaith activities in Central Indiana.

With the 2020 Interfaith Banquet, we will also highlight some activities of the next generation of interfaith leaders. Since CIC's inception, AmeriCorps members have been working with congregations to advance the Mission of CIC and to help those organizations touch the lives of people. Starting this year, we will feature some of their accomplishments in an effort to encourage other young people to step forward as interfaith leaders.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Sincerely,



David A. Shaheed, Chair  
Center for Interfaith Cooperation



# Center for Interfaith Cooperation

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Sunrise Book Club of St. Luke's UMC

Waseema and Shaheryar Ansari

Judge Charles Wiles and

Sachiko & Charlie Utsumi Wiles

# ***Thank you to our sponsors!***

*(Continued)*

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Zionsville United Methodist Church

Nan Schulte & Matt Russell

## **Friends**

Robert Zehr

Beverly Gallagher

Lawrence Gerstein & Dawa Lhamo

Cecelia Hamric & Ellen Hostetler

Freddie Kelvin

## **Special Thanks to the Interfaith Banquet Planning Committee**

**Dr. Anita Joshi (Chair), Rhonda Garrison, Chris Melton,  
Judith Maas, Betsy Amirhamzeh, Lynn Jackson, George Kelley  
Ray Mills and Charlie Wiles**

Special thanks to our Butler Center for Faith & Vocation Interns

**Brittany Head and Jessica Stein**

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## ***Menu***

### **Salad**

Strawberries, Mandarin Oranges and Toasted Almonds with  
Mixed Greens served with Raspberry Vinaigrette

Petite French Baguettes with Butter

### **Entrée**

Vegetable Wellington, Basil Cream

Broccolini

Fruited Wild Rice

### **Family Style Dessert**

Triple Berry Parfait, Chocolate Mousse Cups, Lemon Bar, and  
Salted Caramel Brownies

# ***Program***

*Reception with mocktails and house music in bar area*

## ***Welcome***

Master of Ceremonies Dr. Kent Millard

## ***Blessing***

Betty Klein

## ***Center for Interfaith Cooperation Video***

Dr. Anita Joshi and Charlie Wiles

## ***Video and recognition of CIC AmeriCorps Program***

## ***Songs***

Matthew's Voices

Directed by Jason Fishburn-Grooten

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## ***Award Ceremony honoring Betty Brandt as the 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year***

## ***Tribute Video***

## ***Proclamation***

Mayor Joseph Hogsett

## ***Remarks***

Pastor Rob Fuquay

## ***Speaking on behalf of Platinum Sponsor Lynn Jackson***

Judith Maas

## ***Song***

Dawa Lhamo - *The Little Yangchen*

## ***Award presentation***

by Judge David Shaheed & Imam Michael Saahir

## ***CIC Vision***

## ***Song***

Matthew's Voices

## ***Benediction***



STATE OF INDIANA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
State House, Second Floor  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric J. Holcomb  
*Governor*

Welcome,

On behalf of the State of Indiana, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2020 Interfaith Banquet. Congratulations to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation on hosting this event!

Our state is proud to be home to many religious institutions. People of all faiths in Indiana and across this country represent the very best of what it means to be faithful Americans. I have the sincere hope that this event can further strengthen the bonds between Hoosiers of all faiths.

Tonight, we have a chance to recognize the 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. Betty Brandt has played a vital role in the community through her work as a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, the director of the Spiritual Life Center and the many other commitments to which she devotes herself. Thank you for the work you do for those in need and for being a beacon of hope for all. The City of Indianapolis and the State of Indiana have benefited greatly from your service.

I wish you all the best for a successful event tonight and for your mission of taking our state to the Next Level by promoting faith and friendship in our community.

Sincerely,

Eric Holcomb

TODD YOUNG  
INDIANA



**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 8, 2020

Ms. Betty Brandt  
Indiana Roof Ballroom  
140 West Washington Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Betty,

Congratulations on being awarded the 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year!

It is always a pleasure to congratulate a Hoosier on receiving outstanding recognition. Thank you for your tireless advocacy for interfaith relations throughout your career. Your work has an incredible impact on your community, and those around you have taken notice of your passion and commitment.

Again, congratulations on this impressive achievement. I am proud to call you a fellow Hoosier, and it is an honor to represent you in the United States Senate. Thank you for contributing to the success of our great state.

Your friend in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Todd Young".

Todd Young  
United States Senator





CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION  
for  
Betty Brandt

Please accept this Congressional Recognition in honor of receiving the Center for Interfaith Cooperation's 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. Your years of dedication to strengthen interfaith relations as a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church have had tremendous effects on the religious community of Indianapolis. From serving as the Director of the Community for Contemplation and Justice to sitting on the board of Indianapolis Green Congregations, you have shown yourself to be not only a committed faith leader, but also a staunch advocate for environmental justice, diversity and inclusion. Your commitment to helping others has improved the lives of many and sets an example to be followed by all. It is my sincere hope that your legacy of compassion and understanding will endure for generations.

This Congressional Recognition is rendered on behalf of the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Congressional District of Indiana this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andre Carson".

Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN SUSAN W. BROOKS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

FIFTH DISTRICT  
INDIANA

March 8, 2020

Dear Betty,

It is my great pleasure to join your friends and family in congratulating you on being named the Center for Interfaith Cooperation's 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year! It is a true honor to have you as a leader in our great state.

As a Member of Congress, I know how important it is to have dedicated leaders like you working to build our community by strengthening and fostering interfaith relationships through a variety of programs. We all come from different walks of life, backgrounds, and faiths, and it is important that we work together to ensure the health and vitality of our towns, cities, and neighborhoods. Your years of service with numerous organizations and alliances have proven you an important asset to our community through your advocacy for the under-served and often forgotten members of our community. Your role at St. Luke's United Methodist Church has spanned two decades, and has succeeded in joining groups of vastly different faiths in friendship and a celebration of, not the things that divide us, but of the commonalities that bring us together. You are an inspiring example to all of us, and I thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for our community.

Once again, congratulations on being named the 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. I wish you the very best as you continue to make a lasting difference here, in the Hoosier state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan W. Brooks".

Susan W. Brooks  
Member of Congress



March 8, 2020

### Greetings!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Banquet presented by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation at the Indiana Roof Ballroom.

This celebration of religious diversity is an opportunity for Hoosiers from across the spectrum of spiritual beliefs and faith backgrounds to share in fellowship and entertainment. The Center for Interfaith Cooperation's mission to build stronger connections among faith communities and foster an interfaith network is vital for the success of Indianapolis—after all, our city is only made stronger when we celebrate our differences.

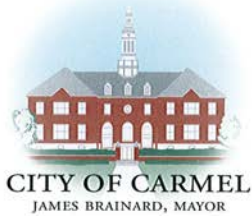
Tonight, it is my distinct honor to congratulate Betty Brandt on being named the 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year for her incredible dedication to the interfaith community in Central Indiana and around the world. Betty's leadership at St. Luke's United Methodist Church and long list of achievements in interfaith collaboration demonstrates her ability to unite people in their diversity. Our community is stronger because of her dedication to social, racial, and climate justice.

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

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Hogsett  
Mayor  
City of Indianapolis





February 19, 2020

Ms. Betty Brandt  
Director of Spiritual Life Center  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church  
100 West 86<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46260

Dear Ms. Brandt:

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate you on becoming the Center for Interfaith Cooperation's "Interfaith Ambassador of the Year" – an honor that is fitting and a testament to your tireless work of inspiring, supporting and mentoring interfaith initiatives in Central Indiana.

It is a privilege to recognize Hoosier individuals who have made significant contributions to their community with selfless devotion. The City of Carmel and its citizens join the ranks of those grateful for your many behind the scenes contributions towards enriching interfaith relations. Best wishes as you enjoy the many accolades you will undoubtedly receive for the well-deserved honor.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Brainard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jim" and last name "Brainard" clearly distinguishable.

James Brainard  
Mayor

## Thank you to our Platinum Sponsor

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### *Prayer for Dialogue with Greater Religions*

I bow to the one who signs the cross.  
I bow to the one who sits with Buddha.  
I bow to the one who wails at the wall.  
I bow to the OM flowing in the Ganges.  
I bow to the one who faces Mecca,  
whose forehead touches the holy ground.  
I bow to the north,  
to the south,  
to the east,  
to the west.  
I bow to the God within each heart.  
I bow to epiphany,  
to God's face revealed.  
I bow, I bow, I bow.

*Mary Lou Kownacki*

Today, dear friend Betty, we honor you for all your contributions to building a beloved community of diversity. We know you love this prayer and we feel it personifies who you are. May the guests this evening be inspired and carry it into their hearts and lives.

**Lynn & Bill Jackson**

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor

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**All of us at the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana congratulate you on being honored as the 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year. We recognize and value the interfaith work and community service you have done over the years and wish you well. OM Shanti, Shanti, Shanti, OM**

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor

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SECOND  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

“Second Presbyterian Church celebrates Betty Brandy and her beautiful work to deepen understanding and strengthen relationships between people of different faith backgrounds throughout Central Indiana and beyond.”



**Thank you to our Gold Sponsor**

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### MEMBERS, ORGANIZATIONS & SYNAGOGUES OF THE GREATER INDIANAPOLIS JEWISH COMMUNITY

## Mazal Tov to Interfaith Ambassador, Betty Brandt!

Your generous spirit is an inspiration for all those working to bring understanding into every relationship, and social justice into every act! THANK YOU BETTY for all the gifts you've given to the Greater Indianapolis multi-faith community!

**"The great challenge to religions in a global age is whether, at last, they can make space for one another, recognizing God's image in someone who is not in my image, God's voice when it speaks in someone else's language."**

*~ Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks*

***The Jewish Community in greater Indianapolis is grateful for the work of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, and is committed to continuing our community's contributions to these important efforts.***

The following Indianapolis Jewish agencies and synagogues contributed to the Center for Interfaith Cooperation in 2020:



Thank you to our Gold Sponsor

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Congratulations to our own

*Betty Brandt*

on being named

**2020 INTERFAITH AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR**

by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation.

Thank you for your compassion, your eye for social justice, and the enthusiasm you have so generously shared with St. Luke's United Methodist Church and the city of Indianapolis.



**St. Luke's**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

— OPEN FOR YOU —

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor

---

**Congratulations Betty Brandt**  
*2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year*



To a woman who inspires compassion, fights for justice, and leads with great joy. How appropriate that you are receiving this honor on International Women's Day, March 8, 2020.

*Don Knebel*

CIC Inaugural Board Chair & 2015 *Interfaith Ambassador of the Year*

## The Pagan Community of Indianapolis, with...



*Circle Sanctuary*



House of  
Blackthorn

...would like to  
thank Betty Brandt  
for her years of  
service to the  
community and  
her fine example  
of fellowship.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE**

**Betty Brandt**

**2020 INTERFAITH AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR.**

***For your leadership, service and faithfulness.***

Rabbis Dennis and Sandy Sasso  
and your friends at  
Congregation Beth-El Zedeck



## WEDNESDAY SUNRISE BOOK STUDY, 2019



**Back row:** Betty Brandt, Sue Main, Ann Cochran, Glenna Heath, Ann Carlson, Judith Mass, Amy Barnes, Annette Cleary, Barbara Hizer, Kathy Oehler, Barbara Burke, Kathy Miller, Charlotte Galloway, Jessica Glendening, Linda Smith, Elinor Sharpe. **Middle Row:** Carol Branson, Sue Gilfoy, Anna Weiser, Valerie Chang, Kelly Trimble, Marilyn Griffith, Barbara Furlow, Lorida Bobeck. **Front Row:** Marilyn Hamilton, Margaret Ahearn, Mary Leslie, Sharon Chambers, Lynn Cohee, Adele Hoskin. **Not present:** Bethany Roth, Kim Hankins, Carol Beausang, Linda Etherton, Cecelia Hamrick

## Congratulations to Betty Brandt 2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year



**We love you and  
are grateful  
for your leadership!**

Demaris, Barbara, Shelley,  
Sally, and Sarah

“Thank you, Betty, for faithfully sharing  
you light with so many”.

*Chris Melton*









Today, we  
thank you for  
doing so  
much that  
matters.



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Congratulations to  
**BETTY BRANDT**  
on being named  
the 2020 Interfaith  
Ambassador of  
the Year.

Who I am  
Makes a Difference!



*Betty Brandt*

*You have made a  
difference in all of us  
with your compassion,  
passion, inclusiveness,  
support, leadership,  
guidance, acceptance,  
humbleness, honesty,  
and love, of course*



Tom & Jenny Godby &  
all who know Betty Brandt

Lilly salutes  
Betty Brandt as  
Interfaith Ambassador  
of the Year.

[www.lilly.com](http://www.lilly.com)

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*Lilly*



**Congratulations to Betty Brandt  
2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the Year**

**For service, leadership, and advancing the vision  
and mission of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation**

**KP Singh ~ KP Singh Designs  
Indianapolis, Indiana USA**

# THANK YOU BETTY

for being a bridge between so many faith communities within our city. We are all blessed to know you, and blessed by your work to create peace and well-being for all!

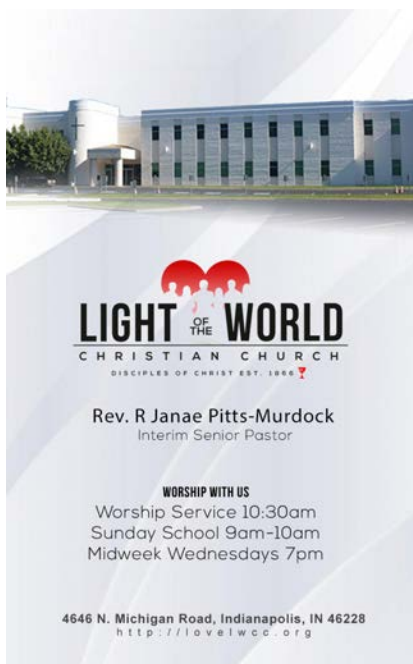
Revs. David & Jamalyn Williamson  
and the Zionsville UMC faith community



Zionsville United Methodist Church  
[www.zumc.org](http://www.zumc.org)

FMCC's mission is to provide opportunities to learn about our neighbors, build true relationships and make a difference.

[www.facebook.com/multifaithfish-](http://www.facebook.com/multifaithfish-)



IU Health is grateful  
to Betty Brant for her  
leadership:  
*Congratulations!*



Indiana University Health



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[bigapplebagels.com](http://bigapplebagels.com)



Archbishop Charles Thompson, the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, and the people of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis extend to Betty Brandt sincere congratulations as she receives the Interfaith Ambassador of the Year Award. May Betty realize many blessings for her work among people of many faiths in the Greater Indianapolis area. And may God, who began this good work in her, bring it to fulfillment.



PROMOTING GLOBAL FELLOWSHIP

*Congratulations to  
BETTY BRANDT*

*Thank you for your years of  
leadership in Interfaith efforts.*



**THE GARDEN**  
MANY PATHS. ONE PURPOSE.

Betty,

Thank you for providing  
spiritual food for the soul and  
transforming the world with  
unconditional love. May God  
bless you as you are a  
blessing to Indy and beyond!

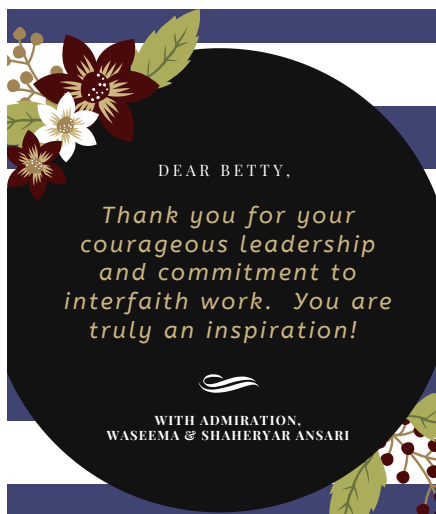
Love,  
Your Garden Family



On behalf of the  
Jain Community  
of Indianapolis,  
We would like to  
congratulate and  
thank ...

**Betty Brandt**  
for her leadership and  
service to the community

Congratulations on this very  
well deserved recognition!



DEAR BETTY,

*Thank you for your  
courageous leadership  
and commitment to  
interfaith work. You are  
truly an inspiration!*



WITH ADMIRATION,  
WASEEMA & SHAHERYAR ANSARI

May there be love  
where there is hate.  
May we find strength  
in our togetherness.  
And may our endeavors  
for a peaceful planet  
be successful.

Priya Menon  
&  
Salil Nair

Betty, you once  
(probably more than once)  
said that “Interfaith will save  
the world!”

People like you have shown  
us that this remains a real  
hope!

Congratulations on your  
well-deserved recognition  
tonight!

Bruce and Debbie Garrison  
Claire Holba and All at



COMPASSIONATE INDY sends its  
CONGRATULATIONS to our dear friend  
and colleague, Betty Brandt, on the occasion  
of this high honor! Betty was one of the  
original founders of Compassionate Indy,  
and in that role she was a key volunteer  
coordinator helping to bring His Holiness the  
Dalai Lama to Indianapolis. In her role at  
St. Luke's, she has built an extensive network  
for connecting people of all faiths. There,  
she has initiated a number of social justice  
and interfaith ministries. She is a catalyst  
for creating harmony, cooperation, and  
understanding between people from all walks  
of life, all faith backgrounds, and all races.  
THANK YOU, Betty, for helping to make  
Indianapolis a great place to live!

**Congratulations Betty!**  
**The growth of Interfaith**  
**Relationships in Central**  
**Indiana is where it is**  
**because you care and**  
**are involved. Continue**  
**being our “Wonder**  
**Woman.”**

**Nan Schulte**  
**&**  
**Matt Russell**

Ek Onkar



One God



*Seva karat hoai nahkamee*

*Thiss ko hoth paraapath suaamee*

**“Those who serve humanity selflessly,  
Simply in the love of God,  
Shall obtain union with the Lord”**

**- Guru Granth Sahib**

**Congratulations Betty Brandt**

**2020 Interfaith Ambassador of the year  
on being recognized for your selfless service!!!**

**Sikh Satsang of Indianapolis  
Sikh Educational & Cultural Society  
Email: [SikhSatsangofIndy@gmail.com](mailto:SikhSatsangofIndy@gmail.com)  
[www.GurdwaraSikhSatsang.org](http://www.GurdwaraSikhSatsang.org)**



**Congratulations to  
Betty Brandt**  
on being named the  
**2020 Interfaith Ambassadors  
of the Year!**



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Legacy Video



Betty, you remind us that  
we must have both  
contemplation and action  
in our lives as we seek to  
improve the world  
community.

Congratulations and  
thanks for your leadership.

**creation care**



**St. Luke's**

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Betty: You are our  
north star, our strong  
tree, our river of  
interconnectedness.  
On behalf of our team  
and all creation,  
we thank you and  
celebrate you.  
Congratulations!

## **FREDDIE KELVIN**

**FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER**

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FREDDIE.KELVIN@GMAIL.COM**





Physical. Mental. Social Well-Being.

**Congratulations to Betty Brandt**  
**"Interfaith Ambassador of the Year"**

Dr. Jennifer Bell, Adult, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist  
on behalf of Meridian Health Services

Congratulations  
to **Betty Brandt**  
on being named  
2020 Interfaith  
Ambassador  
of the Year!



CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL  
**SEMINARY**  
[www.cts.edu](http://www.cts.edu)



"Congratulations to Betty Brandt for the 2020 Interfaith Ambassadors of the Year award! May you continue to enrich the diverse community of greater Indianapolis."



O  
BEING  
WITH  
KRISTA TIPPETT

Congratulations, Betty!  
We love you and  
appreciate all of your  
efforts to enliven and  
enlighten our Sunday  
mornings.



Betty, we are grateful to  
you for your dedication  
and leadership to the  
cause of justice.  
Congratulations on being  
named 2020 Interfaith  
Ambassador of the Year.



SEVERNS & HOWARD

*Pathfinders in Elder Law*

In deep appreciation of Betty Brandt's  
extraordinary contribution to an inclusive,  
just, and compassionate community.



Betty, thank you for your faith-centered leadership in getting us involved in the critical issues of our community. Congratulations on your honor!



**Congratulations, Betty,**  
**2020 *Interfaith***  
***Ambassador of the Year***  
You inspire us and lead us in the commitment to love each other.



**Congratulations Betty!**  
**You are an amazing voice for interfaith engagement!**  
**We wish you all the best.**  
**Anita Joshi & Arun Jain**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**INDY  
FESTIVAL  
OF FAITHS**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**