



## ***AFSI SPEAKERS***



### **Shaman Itzhak Beery**

Itzhak Berry bridges the many sacred indigenous traditions elders entrusted in him with a relevant and essential present-day shamanic approach to living in our digital age. He empowers people around the world to reconnect to their innate shamanic gifts. He shares the conviction that we are all shamans and are able to interact and learn from the unseen and seen worlds, in order to live in balance with our communities, nature and ourselves.

Itzhak was initiated into the Circle of 24 Yachaks by his Quechua teacher in the High Andes of Ecuador and in Brazil by Amazonian Kanamari Page.

He is the author of the Gift of Shamanism, Visionary Power, Ayahuasca Dreams, and Journeys to Other Realms and Shamanic Transformations, featuring stories by leading contemporary shamans.

His work has been featured in a variety of worldwide publications including the NY Times, radio, TV and films. He is also the founder of [www.ShamanPortal.org](http://www.ShamanPortal.org), co-founder of the New York Shamanic Circle, and is on the faculty of New York Open Center and Kripalu Center and is a Hermitage Honorary Guest at the Omega Institute and taught their staff. He is the recipient of the Ambassador of Peace by the Universal Peace Federation Ambassadors for Peace® is the largest and most diverse network of peace leaders.

Born in Israel and residing in NYC, he is a husband, father, and grandfather. He is an accomplished artist and owner of an award-winning advertising agency. ([www.itzhakbeery.com](http://www.itzhakbeery.com))



### **Venerable, Monk Burin**

Venerable Burin is the Executive Director of The Middle Way Research Institute, a New York-based global non-profit organization that converges timeless wisdom and evidence-based science to tackle key problems facing humanity. Ordained as a Buddhist monk in Thailand in 2000, his quest is to provide holistic and cutting-edge solutions for people of all ages, races, religions, as well as those without religious beliefs, to achieve sustainability leading to global happiness. He is the Pioneer of “Inner Peace Education,” a groundbreaking curriculum modernizing ancient wisdom into simple and practical tools to help individuals cultivate the “Inner Peace Lifestyle.” He has taught in 30 countries throughout 6 continents. His “World Peace through Inner Peace” projects have touched more than 100,000 people from all walks of life.



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### **The Rev. Br. Mark Gregory D'Alessio**

The Rev. Br. Mark Gregory D'Alessio, CFC is a Franciscan friar in the new religious society of the Companions of Francis and Clare. He's also an interspiritual Christian priest, spiritual director, chaplain, retreat leader, author, and past President and Executive Director of the Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute, which draws together the inspiration of the church with the wisdom of psychological care.

A graduate of the Guild for Spiritual Guidance, he is now a leader, lifetime colleague, and faculty member. He's also a faculty member at All Faiths Seminary International for the training of interfaith ministers. As a Franciscan, he's committed to serving those who are sidelined and at risk. A long-time seeker and practitioner of spiritual wisdom, he's initiated into multiple spiritual lineages, both East (Buddhist) and West (Christian); does his best to affirm the Christian Wisdom tradition within a wider inter-spiritual framework; and, looks to God's science and spiritual heroes (such as Thich Nhat Hanh and Francis and Clare of Assisi) as sources of inspiration and hope.

Currently, Br. Mark lives on Long Island and serves as a crisis counselor and program coordinator at a shelter for men and women who are homeless and as a chaplain at a residential treatment center and school for children with learning and emotional disabilities. Moving to Long Island, he founded the Franciscan Circle, a progressive, interfaith gathering of clergy and lay people who seek to journey in mind and heart with the witness and wisdom of the Saints of Assisi, Francis and Clare. The Circle is dedicated to developing leaders for thoughtful social action and spiritual care.

The Long Island Coalition for the Homeless awarded Br. Mark with their "Unsung Hero" Award last year.



### **Jasbir Singh Bhatia**

Jasbir hails from India, and has lived in United States for over 43 years. Jasbir is a retired electrical power generation engineer and now lives in Orlando Florida with his wife. They were married 53 years ago. He is a follower of Sikhism faith tradition.

He is the past President of the executive committee of Sikh temple called Gurdwara in Orlando. He has been active in Interfaith activities. He has been a member of the Executive committee of Interfaith Council of Central Florida for the last 15 years. The mission of this council is to educate people about various faith communities in this area with a view to bring social harmony. In this capacity, Jasbir has been invited to various schools, universities, and churches to deliver lectures on Sikhism. Now, additionally, he participates in a couple of other International Interfaith groups thanks to On-Line meeting technology.



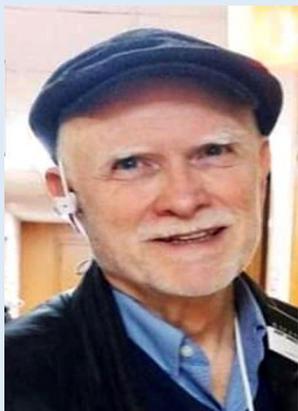
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### Henry Grayson, Ph.D.

Dr. Grayson did a graduate degree in theology at Emory University before doing his doctoral work in psychology at Boston University to become a psychologist. He then did four years of postgraduate training in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis in New York City while teaching in the City University of New York as a tenured professor. He resigned from the university to found and direct the National Institute for the Psychotherapies, now a leading postgraduate training institute for psychotherapists in New York. He founded the Association for Spirituality and Psychotherapy and put on several of the first conferences on the east coast on spirituality and psychotherapy. He has studied most of the major psychotherapies and teaching his form of psychotherapy integration widely across the U.S. and abroad. He is the author of: *Mindful Loving*; *The New Physics of Love*; *Use Your Body to Heal Your Mind*; *Your Power to Heal* (his most recent book); *Three Psychotherapies: A Clinical Comparison*, *Short Term Approaches to Psychotherapy*, and *Changing Approaches to Psychotherapy*.

He teaches at All Faiths Seminary teaching mind/body/spirit approaches to health, happiness and healing, sharing some of the latest and most effective methods for clearing traumas, whether early childhood or adult traumas, thereby reducing current stress. Webside is: [www.henrygrayson.com](http://www.henrygrayson.com), which contains a number of videos. He practices his therapy, integrating spirituality, the new physics, and diverse therapies in New York City and in Westport, CT.



### David Henderson

-Wayne State University, M.L.S. Library Science  
-Oakland University, M.A.T. Education  
-Oakland University, B.A. Education, Education

#### **Work Experience:**

Volunteer: Education/Diversity/Technology Advisory Committees, N. Oakland County Bd of Realtors; Teacher and Library/Media Specialist/Teacher, 39 years; West Bloomfield Public Schools, W. B. Michigan; Cofounded the Magnet Program for Gifted/Talented Students Gr 3-5; Awarded the "Library/Media Technology of the Year" national recognition by the American Library Association & American Association School Librarians

#### **Community Service:**

Spiritual Journey: born and raised Christian, Methodist; learned of and became a Baha'i while in college in 1968. Service projects have included: Race Amity Forum of Detroit Metro, with monthly programs; co-founder; Community Development Teacher/Facilitator with Ruhi curriculum; Assistant to the Auxilliary Board; Independence Township Baha'i Group -Chairman; Area Teaching Committee member, Oakland County, Michigan; Assembly Development Facilitator; Taught Sunday school and summer family camps; Elected to the Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Highland Park, Michigan

**Favorite Scriptures:** "The utterance of God is a lamp, whose light is these words: Ye are the fruits of one tree, and the leaves of one branch. Deal ye one with another with the utmost love and harmony, with friendliness and fellowship."  
"To be a Baha'i simply means to love all the world; to love humanity and try to serve it; to work for universal peace and universal brotherhood."



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### **Audrey E. Kitagawa, JD**

Audrey E. Kitagawa, JD, is the President/Founder of the International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation, President of the Light of Awareness International Spiritual Family, and the former Advisor to the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict at the United Nations. She is member of the Advisory Council of the G20 Interfaith Forum (IF20 for short), Chair of the Anti-Racism Initiative, and Co-Chair of the Gender Equality Working Group of the IF20. She is a United Nations Representative for the United Religions Initiative, an Ambassador of Religions for Peace International, and Chair Emerita of the NGO Committee of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, NY.

She has been enstooled into the royal family as the Nekoso Hema, (i.e. Queen Mother of Development), of Ajiyamanti in Ghana, West Africa, and has a school which she helped to build named after her in her African name, the Nana Ode Anyankobea Junior Secondary School. She wrote the chapter, Crossing World Views, The Power of Perspective in the Hawaii Japanese American Experience, which was published in a book about multiculturalism, communication and Asian women entitled, Learning In The Light. Her chapter, Globalization As The Fuel For Religious And Ethnic Conflict has been published in the book, Globalization And Identity, Cultural Diversity, Religion and Citizenship. Her article, The Role Of Identity In The Rise And Decline of Buddhism In Hawaii, The 50th State Of The United States Of America, has been published in Sambhodi, a Buddhist Journal. She published articles in World Affairs The Journal Of International Issues, entitled, The Power of Om: Transformation of Consciousness, and Practical Spirituality. She wrote the chapter, The US In Foreign Affairs: Source of Global Security, Or Source of Global Fear? in the book, America & The World The Double Bind. She wrote two articles in FEZANA Journal, The Sacred Quality of Water in Religious Beliefs and Practices, and Celebrating the 75th Anniversary Of The United Nations, And The Importance of Faith Based Organizations in Supporting Its Global Agenda. She wrote an article on Hans Kung, Thought Pioneer In Religious and Secular Spaces, on Georgetown University Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs' Berkeley Forum. Her article, Power Dynamics In The Perpetuation of Gender Inequality, is posted on the G20 Interfaith Forum's Viewpoint section. Her article, 365 Pebbles A Year, was published in the Daily Financial Times of Sri Lanka.

She has been listed in Who's Who Of American Law, Who's Who Of American Women, Who's Who In America, Who's Who In The World, and Prominent People of Hawaii. She is the recipient of the Medal "Pride of Eurasia" and a Diploma from the Republic of Kazakhstan Ministry of Education and Science L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University for her outstanding contribution to the development of spiritual culture and education in Eurasia. She is the recipient of the Spirit of the UN Award which is given to outstanding individuals who have demonstrated the vision and spirit of the United Nations as expressed through the UN Charter, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She is the recipient of a Citation from the Office of the President for the Borough of Brooklyn, City of New York, for her commitment to community well-being by providing outstanding services and support to local residents, youth and those in need. She was conferred an Honorary Interfaith Minister degree by the New Seminary.



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### **Rev. Dr. John Krysko**

Rev. Dr. John Krysko was ordained as an interfaith minister by the Fellowship of the Inner Light in 1981. His interest in cross-tradition, cross-cultural, inter-religious approaches to Truth and Enlightenment began as undergraduate at Trinity College, Hartford. He combined a degree in Psychology with Philosophy and Religion with a comparison of eastern and western approaches to self-actualization. His conclusion is that Eastern transcendent approaches needed to be married to the more practical and scientific and personal approaches of the West. These interests and studies led to teaching in these areas at such venues as Esalen Institute, the Open Center of NYC, Wainwright House, Sand Diego State and more. It also led to his studying at All Faiths Seminary International and receiving both a Masters and Doctorate (2015 and 2016). The final piece of his studies was accomplished in 2018 when he, after 7 years of study and practice, was initiated as a Kriyaban in Kriya Yoga under the aegis of the Self-Realization Fellowship, founded by Paramahansa Yogananda. Rev. John has also been a board member of the Interfaith Center of NY for 15 years, as well as pastor of the All-Faiths Grace Church in Westchester, NY.



### **Rev. Janice Maturro**

Janice Maturro, a member in good standing with the National Guild of Hypnotists since 1994, is the owner of The Inner Workshop Hypnosis, LLC, specializing in self-directed motivational and success strategies for personal success – serving both adults and children.

Janice has maintained an integrative practice of hypnotism, incorporating many of her certifications in the fields of health and human consciousness, including the following specialties: Certified Consulting Hypnotist and Certified Hypnosis Trainer; Certified NLP Master Practitioner and NLP Trainer; Certified Health Coach; Certified Dream Teacher; Certified Reiki/Master Trainer; Certified Charisma Specialist, and more.

Janice is a graduate of The New Seminary and The International Institute of Integral Human Sciences' advanced degree program. In association with the International Institute of Integral Human Sciences, The Open International University for Complementary Medicines awarded Janice a Ph.D. for her alternative studies in World Religions, Psychic and Spiritual Sciences, and Pastoral Studies in Therapeutic Counseling and Interfaith Ministries.

You can contact Janice at her website: [www.theinnerworkshophypnosis.com](http://www.theinnerworkshophypnosis.com)



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### **Rev. William McBride**

Bill McBride is an interfaith minister ordained for the Catholic priesthood in 1982. He founded the Jewish-Christian Dialogue at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin with interfaith pioneer, Sister Marie Stephen “Rabbi Stevie” Reges. In 1994, he received a scholarship to study the rabbinic mind at Spertus College of Judaica in Chicago, Illinois. Along with his brother, Tom, a psychologist, he developed a process of biblical and literary therapy called Primary Concern Therapy. They highlighted a national conference on bibliotherapy with a workshop entitled, “Coordinating The Myths We Live By.”

In 1996, on his way to a 5 to 10 year mission in Taiwan, he met Jewish Cantor, Irene Failenbogen. Their love story has been creatively told (words by Bill and music by Irene) in the musical, “Oy Father.” Both Bill and Irene were ordained interfaith ministers in 2001 by Rabbi Joseph Gerberman through instruction at All Faiths Seminary. He currently serves as co-director with Irene of the Interfaith Community of Long Island Religious Education Program on the Multi-faith Campus in Brookville.



### **Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki**

Rev. Nakagaki was ordained in 1980 at the Nishi Honganji Temple in Kyoto, Japan. In 1985, he was sent to the US as an overseas minister, serving first with at the Seattle Buddhist Church, (1985-1989), the Parlier Buddhist Church (1989-1994), and the New York Buddhist Church (1994-2010).

Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, D. Min. is a Buddhist priest, ordained in the 750-year-old Jodoshinshu tradition of Japanese Buddhism. He is a President/Founder of newly established non-profit organization, Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York, Ltd. He is an executive officer, and former President of the Buddhist Council of New York. Rev Nakagaki is a Hiroshima Peace Ambassador, Nagasaki Peace Correspondent, & NYC Police Department Clergy Liaison. Since 1994, Rev. Nakagaki has organized an Interfaith Peace event to commemorate the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings. He organized the annual 9-11 WTC Memorial Floating Lanterns Ceremony from 2002-2011.

He is the author of (Japanese): “No Worry, No Hurry, Eat Curry: New York Bozu Indo o Aruku” (A Buddhist Monk Walks in India, published by Gendai Shokan, 2003), “Manhattan Bozu Tsurezure Nikki” (Diary of Manhattan Monk, published by Gendai Shokan, June 2010), and “Manji to Hakenkreuz” (Svastika and Hook-Cross, published by Gendai Shokan, June 2013). Now, his English book on “The Buddhist Swastika and Hitler’s Cross.” (April 2017), available on Amazon.



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### **Suzanne O'Brien, RN**

Suzanne shares about the end of life and how we are all four bodies of energy as human beings. She will explain how each one of those energy bodies require unique care, understanding and healing at the end of life in order to have the most peaceful passing possible.

“The power of presence might be the most powerful medicine we have, but we’ve lost that in our healthcare system. We’re all in this together. We should support each other however we can.” – Suzanne B. O’Brien RN

Suzanne is the creator of Doulagivers International, has been instrumental in creating the End of Life Doula Movement worldwide since it began building momentum nearly a decade ago. She has developed a free training designed for everyone based on her years of experience working with end of life patients as a hospice nurse, oncology nurse and palliative care professional to help make end of life a more positive experience for us all. Suzanne is a founding member of NHPCO's End of Life Doula Council and a Founding member and former Vice President of NEDA National End of Life Doula Alliance.



### **Mitchell J. Rabin**

Mitchell Rabin, M.A., L.AC., is host of the popular, alternative media programs A Better World Radio & TV programs on the air since 1993, is a humanistic, transpersonal and eco-psychotherapist & Stress Management Consultant.

Mitchell is an international speaker, coach and advisor to CEO’s of start-up companies that seek to bring consciousness and spiritual values into their businesses.

Mitchell started life being born into a Jewish family in NYC but felt himself attracted to the teachings of the yogic path, meditation, T’ai-Chi, Taoist practices, Buddhist teachings, then circling back to the West with an appreciation of Christian and Jewish teachings as well after having traveled, physically and spiritually, to the East. You could say that Mitchell lives at the cross-section of the world’s great wisdom traditions.

Mitchell has been giving classes at All-Faiths for over 10 years and taught for Rabbi Gelberman classes as well. Mitchell conducted the last interviews Rabbi gave before his passing.

Mitchell is on the Advisory Board of All-Faiths and has been both faculty and a friend of the Seminary for over a dozen years.



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### **Denise Scotto, Esq.**

Denise Scotto, Esq., is an attorney at law, policy advisor, international speaker, interfaith minister & Founding Chair of the International Day of Yoga Committee at the UN. Starting her legal career in the public sector, she was a litigator appearing in courts in all boroughs of the City of New York. Denise held leadership roles in professional bar organizations including: the NY State Bar, the NY State Women's Bar, the International Law section of the American Bar Association, the UIA. With these associations, she organized numerous events at UN fora as well as at national and local levels on global issues of pressing concern including conducting the first legal education program in NY City and NY State on the topic of human trafficking as well as promoting a culture of peace and non-violence. As a UN staff member in NY Headquarters, she worked on issues to reform the internal system of justice, then, in the Department for Economic & Social Affairs formulating policy to advance law, good governance and human rights. Denise has held leadership positions in the UN community including: the UNSRC Enlightenment Society, the Values Caucus at the UN, the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values & Global Concerns, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, the UNA-USA New York City Chapter, Bridges of Hope Project, the Source of Synergy Foundation. Denise developed "mindful social justice" which additionally serves the legal profession through her 20+ years of meditation and her connection with diverse yoga masters & spiritual leaders.



### **Dr. Brenda Shoshanna**

Brenda Eshin Shoshanna is a psychologist, author, speaker and long term Zen practitioner. She is the author of *Zen and the Art of Falling in Love*, *Zen Miracles (Finding Peace In An Insane World)*, *Just Grab The Dust Rag*, (*Confessions of A Deluded Zen Student Who Never Learned A Thing*), and many other books. Along with teaching at various universities and presenting workshops, Brenda offered a monthly talk for eight years on Zen and Psychology at the Zen Studies Society, NYC, where she trained for over thirty years. The focus of her work has always been on integrating practice with our everyday lives. Presently, Brenda offers ongoing talks and encouragement for Morningstar Zendo, – Inisfada Zen, led by Kenney Roshi.

Brenda's work extends an invitation to live and be all that you are. Rather than view life as a problem to be solved, we look at it as an adventure to be lived. Offering many practical guidelines and unique ways of interacting with people and situations, this work opens a doorway into a life of fulfillment, growth and joy. She has offered over five hundred talks and workshops on personal, psychological and spiritual development and experiencing authentic peace of mind.



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### **Dr. Kirpal Singh, MD.**

My name is Dr Kirpal Singh MD. I am a retired Psychiatrist who has been over 50 years in USA. I live in Daytona Beach Florida. I have an extensive involvement in interfaith & intercultural affairs where I represent the Sikh perspective on variety of issues. I am currently President of Sikh Foundation of Central Florida .I believe & practice body, mind & spirit paradigm of healthcare. I have closely worked with hospital Chaplains & community pastors to provide adequate & relevant Spiritual care to facilitate recovery & management of healthcare issues in their congregations.



### **Rev. Amy Torres**

Amy Torres is a well-loved spiritual teacher, author, and retired Gestalt psychotherapist. She has helped countless people regain their lives through a process she terms “unravelization” – safely structuring meltdowns, temper tantrums and nervous breakdowns for repressed and imploding adults desperately in need of release.

Amy’s background as a Gestalt psychotherapist, with training in Wilhelm Reich’s bodywork, Ruella Frank’s somatic infant development, Puran and Susanna Bair ‘s heart rhythm meditation work, and as a yoga instructor, makes her uniquely qualified to take an experiential approach to A Course in Miracles. This means she can help you experience the Course, actually feeling the results of its practices in your breath, heart, muscles, cells — throughout your entire body. You will walk the world as a Light body, and feel light-hearted and enlightened in the process.

She has also developed the Language of Love, Harmony & Beauty©, which is a form of emotionally responsible communication, conflict negotiation, and a way of “undoing” our identification with the ego. She works with individuals and groups, teaching emotional intelligence and communication skills.

Amy was led to A Course in Miracles by Paramahansa Yogananda in 1997 and received shaktipat from Jesus in 1998 (see <https://facebook.com/ACIMYoga>). Her work is a synthesis of many teachings, ancient and contemporary. The result is an exploration and discovery of who you really are, which naturally results in miracles of love, peace, purpose and joy.

Her book, Sweet Dreams of Awakening, is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Her e-course, [Workin’ the Workbook](#), is a rich companion to your ACIM Workbook practice. [Amy’s Blog](#) has many essays and articles on A Course in Miracles. She works with people nationally and internationally via phone, Zoom and Skype. To contact her, email [miracles@amytorresacim.com](mailto:miracles@amytorresacim.com).