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For more information, contact James Seacat  
(901) 529-4544; [jseacat@mifa.org](mailto:jseacat@mifa.org)

## **MIFA Plans Public Founders Day Celebration**

Memphis, Tenn. (April 16, 2018) — As the first of a several events to commemorate MIFA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the nonprofit organization will hold its annual Founders Day celebration on May 22 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Church of the Holy Communion's Cheney Hall located at 4645 Walnut Grove Road.

The event, entitled "MIFA at 50: Celebrating God's Tapestry," will pay tribute to MIFA's interfaith legacy. The keynote speaker is The Reverend Ollie V. Rencher. In addition, it will recognize outstanding donors and volunteers. The City of Memphis, Memphis Islamic Center, St. Peter Catholic Church, Temple Israel, and Church of the Holy Communion are sponsors of the event.

Reverend Rencher was Associate Rector of Church of the Holy Communion in Memphis for four years prior to becoming Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2012. While in Memphis, he served on MIFA's board of directors from 2008 to 2012. He is an alumnus of the General Theological Seminary in New York City and is a member of the Fellowship of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. His ministry includes outreach and social justice, racial reconciliation initiatives, and community revitalization.

Honored at the event for their extraordinary lifetime giving to MIFA will be inductees into the Benefactors Circle of the Norfleet Center of Philanthropy. They are Glenna Boales Flautt, and Erin and Ray Schultz

The following will receive awards for distinguished service to MIFA.

- **Kitty Cannon and Jim Waller** – The James Marchant Wood, Jr. MIFA Meals on Wheels Award for volunteer longevity and enriching the lives of senior clients beyond delivering meals.
- **Martha L. Forest** – The E.J. Goldsmith Volunteer of the Year Award for her work on special events and in MIFA’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, which reflects the dedicated, caring, and enthusiastic spirit of service of the late Elias J. Goldsmith, Jr.
- **The Muslim Community of Memphis** – The Faith in Action Award for consistently generous, compassionate, and welcoming relationships that MIFA has been privileged to build for many years with the Muslim community.
- **Edward Dobbs** – The Annabelle Whittemore Award for serving as chair of MIFA’s recent endowment campaign, the MIFA Independence Fund, and for his distinguished tenure on MIFA’s board of directors.
- **Mark Finestone** – The Annabelle Whittemore Award for serving as an outstanding member MIFA’s board of directors and executive committee.
- **FedEx** – The Pathfinder Award for faithful support as a partner organization, who has been a donor since 1985, participated as event sponsors, supported MIFA with hundreds of volunteer hours, and whose company leaders have served on MIFA’s board of directors.

Tickets to the event, which also includes a brief reception with refreshments and music by Earl Randle, are \$35 each. Tables for eight are available for \$250.

For reservations, visit [www.mifa.org/foundersday](http://www.mifa.org/foundersday) or call (901) 529-4569.

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*MIFA’s founding in 1968 was an interfaith triumph. The nonprofit organization was established by a diverse group of church and lay leaders as a way for individuals to put their faith into action and bring the community together following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The group’s tradition of uniting the community through service exists today. Serving over 50,000*

*people annually, its mission is to support the independence of vulnerable seniors and families in crisis through high-impact programs.*