

THE NON-PROFIT Networker



MAY 2026 EDITION



President's Corner

On the last day of April, we came together to celebrate 65 years of The Interchurch Center. It was a meaningful evening that reflected not only our history, but the strength of the community that continues to shape our future.

What stood out most was the spirit in the room. Board members, tenants, partners, and staff all contributed to a powerful reminder that this institution thrives because of the people within it. Each of them plays a role in advancing a shared mission rooted in unity, service, and purpose.

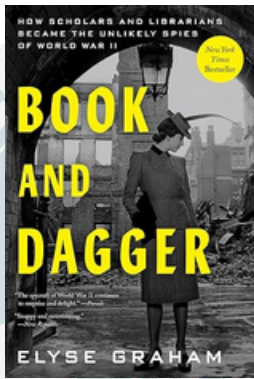
We also honored individuals whose lives exemplify resilience, vision, unity, and commitment to community. Their impact reminds us that meaningful work is built over time through consistency and care.

In a world that can often feel divided, The Interchurch Center remains a place where collaboration still matters and where differences come together in service of something greater.

The celebration marked an important milestone, but it also pointed us forward. The future of The Interchurch Center will be shaped by our continued commitment to one another and to the mission we share.

With gratitude,

† Robert Bolton



BOOKS THAT BIND BOOK CLUB

@ THE RUTH STAFFORD PEALE LIBRARY

This month, the Books That Bind Book Club features *Book and Dagger: How Scholars and Librarians Became the Unlikely Spies of World War II* by Elyse Graham, a compelling work of nonfiction that uncovers the surprising role of academics and librarians in wartime intelligence. Blending history and espionage, this fascinating read reveals how knowledge and cultural expertise became powerful tools during World War II. Through vivid storytelling, the book highlights courage in unexpected places and shows how even the quietest professions can shape history.

Take a MUSIC BREAK

Take a midweek pause and join us for TIC's Wednesday Noon-Day Concert Series, a refreshing musical break in the middle of your day. Step away from the noise, recharge your spirit, and enjoy inspiring live performances.

Scan the QR code to view the full concert schedule and upcoming artists.



TENANT SPOTLIGHT

DR. ROB DERKE



This month, The Interchurch Center spotlights Dr. Rob Derke, a visionary leader in music education and a driving force behind the work of the Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School (FMDG). With a career that spans education, performance, and nonprofit leadership, Dr. Derke is helping redefine what access and excellence look like in the arts, ensuring that students of all abilities have the opportunity to thrive.

About Filomen M. D'Agostino Greenberg Music School (FMDG)

For more than a century, FMDG Music School has championed the belief that vision loss is not a barrier to musical excellence. Built on a foundation of accessibility, the school integrates inclusive practices into every part of the learning experience. As a Recording Academy Accessibility + Disability Community Partner and steward of one of the largest braille music collections in the world, second only to the Library of Congress, FMDG serves students of all ages with a faculty deeply rooted in accessible music education.

From Grammy-winning alumni to leaders in law, education, and beyond, FMDG students consistently exceed national benchmarks in education and employment. While continuing to strengthen its New York City programs, the school is expanding its reach across the country through partnerships with leading conservatories, colleges, and innovative technology initiatives that are transforming access to braille music. At its core, FMDG is more than a music school, it is a gateway to limitless possibilities.

Spotlight on Dr. Rob Derke

Dr. Rob Derke's distinguished career in music education has positioned him at the forefront of shaping the future of the field. Recognized for his leadership and innovation, he brings a wealth of experience as a K-12 and collegiate educator, curriculum developer, published researcher, nonprofit leader, and international performer.

Holding a Doctorate in Education from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Music from Purchase Conservatory, and a Bachelor of Music from the Manhattan School of Music, Dr. Derke has also been honored as a notable alumnus of New York City's LaGuardia High School. His artistic excellence, praised for its depth and creativity, has been matched by his unwavering commitment to empowering others.

Through his work, Dr. Derke continues to impact students, educators, and audiences around the world, ensuring that current and future generations are equipped to become their best selves as active members of a vibrant and inclusive artistic community.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

SCAN, HOLD DOWN THE QR CODES OR CLICK ICONS TO FOLLOW US



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THE
INTERCHURCH
CENTER



*"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we
give."*

Winston Churchill



UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5/01 A Journey Through Time Art Exhibit (thru 7/6)
- 5/06 Noon-Day Concert (Erica Koehring)
- 5/07 Building Orientation
- 5/07 Crafting Club
- 5/13 Noon-Day Concert (TIC Chorus)
- 5/14 Books That Bind Book Club Meeting
- 5/14 13th Floor Networking Breakfast
- 5/20 Noon-Day Concert (TIC Gospel Choir)
- 5/27 Noon-Day Concert (Mikyung Kwon)

MISSION MASTERY

TIPS & TRICKS FOR NON-PROFITS

MEASURE WHAT MATTERS: FOCUS ON IMPACT, NOT JUST ACTIVITY

Nonprofits often stay busy, but busy doesn't always mean effective. As programs grow and demands increase, it's easy to track what's done instead of what's actually working. May is a great time to pause and realign your efforts with true mission impact.

High-performing organizations don't just count outputs, they evaluate outcomes. When you measure the right things, you make better decisions, tell stronger stories, and build greater trust with funders and your community.

Consider refining your approach this season:

- Identify 2-3 key outcomes that directly reflect your mission
- Track the difference your work is making, not just the volume
- Use simple data (before/after, participation, feedback) to show impact
- Share impact stories alongside numbers in reports and communications
- Revisit programs that are active but not advancing your goals

When nonprofits focus on what truly matters, they move from activity to impact. Clear measurement strengthens accountability, sharpens strategy, and ensures your work continues to make a meaningful difference.

Don't just do more, do what matters most.

LEARN MORE HERE

CRAFTING CLUB

Calling All Crafters: Join us to Create a Community of Crafters
Monthly Meeting to Share Inspiration, Tips, and Fellowship

MAY 7TH, 2026

12:00 Noon, Library Suite 250

Bring your
own material

All levels &
Forms of
Crafts Welcome

Community
Through
Crafting

For More info: & For Non-tenant Building Passes
e-mail gpena@interchurch-center.org

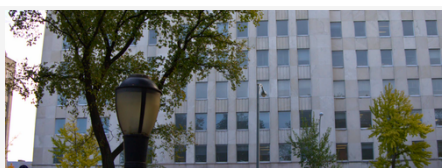


Riverside Cafe

Check out the weekly menu here:
<https://interchurch-center.org/the-riverside-cafe/>



Got News?



Want to place an announcement in the Non-Profit Networker?
Contact Rachel Rivera at rrivera@interchurch-center.org or (212) - 870 - 2954

Thank You

FOR BEING A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY!