



Happy February! Hopefully it will be a little less of a snowy month than January, but we here at the Interfaith Center have been quite busy in our igloos preparing some exciting programs. February sees the kickoff of our annual Social Workers and Religious Diversity program as well as two more neighborhoods reached by our NYPL: 411 on Faith Panels. Also on the big news front, we're happy to announce the dates and topic for our 25th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice. Mark your calendar for late May, more details below.

ICNY SEEKING 8-HOUR A WEEK COMMUNICATIONS VOLUNTEER—The Interfaith Center of New York is looking for a tech-savvy volunteer with an understanding of grassroots interfaith work for 4-6 hours a week updating our website, maintaining our blog with staff-input, and helping devise and execute a social media strategy using Facebook and Twitter. Volunteer needs to be present for the ICNY Staff meeting on Tuesdays from 10-noon otherwise hours are flexible and he or she does not need to be in the office. If interested, please send resumes to istickland@interfaithcenter.org

If you would like to have your event advertised in our e-blast please send details to info@interfaithcenter.org

Below we list upcoming programs of the Interfaith Center of New York, followed by events that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. A listing does not imply endorsement.

• Social Work and Religious Diversity Program

Date: Friday, February 11th, 9am-1pm **Judaism**

Date: Friday, February 18th, 9am-1pm **Christianity**

Date: Friday, February 25th, 9am-1pm **Islam**

Date: Friday, March 4th, 9am-1pm **Afro-Caribbean Religions**

Location: UJA Federation of NY, 130 E. 59th, New York, N Y

ICNY's Social Work and Religious Diversity Program is designed to help practicing Social Workers, or MSW students, to understand the religious beliefs and practices of their diverse client base. Program Participants will discuss the role of religion to the individual, in families, and in communities. Each session features a speaker who guides the group through a concise history of the religion as well as a panel of actual practitioners and religious community leaders from within each faith's own diverse internal traditions. Panelists share insights and stories before opening the floor to questions allowing Social Workers and Social Work students to get answers to their own questions from the field. Sessions continue into March and April with the additional topics of: **Hinduism and Sikhism, Buddhism, and one additional topic** or project selected by the class. Very few spaces remain in this program (and, as a reminder, it is open only to practicing Social Workers or current MSW students) but if you are interested in attending please contact hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org as soon as possible. A certificate of participation will be issued to those who attend all the classes in this program cycle. There is no charge for the course.

• 411 On Faith Panel: Webster Library

Date: Thursday, February 16th, 6:00pm

Location: Webster Library, 1465 York Avenue (near E. 78th St.), New York, NY

Join us for the superbly well received *411 on Faith* panel series. In partnership with the New York Public Library – and in conjunction with the library's "Three Faiths" exhibit of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim texts – the Interfaith Center of New York is offering a series of moderated conversations with local religious leaders about their faith traditions and experiences of the city. Come out to your neighborhood public library and meet your neighbors from diverse religious traditions. Hear their New York stories, learn how they've built communities, and see how they are working to contribute to the life of the city. **Imam Shamsi Ali** of the Islamic Cultural Center of New York,

Reverend Brenda Husson, the Rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, and **Rabbi Joseph Potasnik**, the Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis will be the panelists at this event. Come out and have a great conversation with them about faith!

• Courts Roundtable – Queens: Resources for Parents going through a Separation or Divorce.

Date: Friday, February 17, 9:30am-11:00am
Location: Queens Family Court, 151-02 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica, NY

Certified professionals will provide information to help separating or divorcing parents better understand the effects of their breakup on their children and to give them information and ideas about how to make the new family situation easier and more livable for themselves and their children. Please contact Anushavan Margaryan, Program Associate, to RSVP or for additional information: anushavan@interfaithcenter.org or 212-870-3515.

• 411 on Faith Panel: Riverdale Library

Date: Tuesday, February 22nd, 6:00 pm
Location: Riverdale Library, 5540 Mosholu Avenue, Bronx, NY

Join us for the new and exciting *411 on Faith* panel series. In partnership with the New York Public Library – and in conjunction with the library’s “Three Faiths” exhibit of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim texts – the Interfaith Center of New York is offering a series of moderated conversations with local religious leaders about their faith traditions and experiences of the city. Come out to your neighborhood public library and meet your neighbors from diverse religious traditions. Hear their New York stories, learn how they’ve built communities, and see how they are working to contribute to the life of the city. **Dr. Muhammad Al-Rahman**, director of the Faith and Cultural Wellness Center, **Father Richard Gorman**, Chairman of Bronx Community Board 12, and **Rabbi Dr. Jonathan I. Rosenblatt**, Senior Rabbi of the Riverdale Jewish Center will provide their insights as the panelists at this event.

• The 25th Rabbi Marshal T. Meyer Interfaith Retreat for Social Justice: Domestic Violence

Date: Wednesday, May 25th, 4:00 pm to Thursday, May 26th, 4:00 pm
Location: Stony Point Center, 17 Crickettown Road, Stony Point, NY

Act early and reserve your spot at the 25th (wow, 25th!) Marshal Meyer Retreat.
Bus service from and to ICNY at 475 Riverside Drive, Manhattan`
Bus transportation is \$20
The retreat is free to religious leaders.
To RSVP, complete the reply form and return by fax or email. To request an RSVP form, or for questions, contact Sarah Sayeed at (212) 870-3519 or ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org.

*******CO-SPONSORED EVENTS*******

• Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice Breakfast: Toxic Hazards in the Home

Date: Thursday February 10th Breakfast: 8:30am Program: 9:00am-11:00am
Location: Riverside Church, 91 Claremont Ave, Room 10T, New York, NY 10027

Come hear from We ACT for Environmental Justice about how your parishioners can identify and remove toxic agents from their homes! Also, receive an update on the work of the Food Summit Working Groups. To RSVP contact Sarah Sayeed ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or 212-870-3519.

• **Living Wage Lunch Training On Faith-Rooted Advocacy**

Date: Thursday February 10th, Noon to 3 pm

Location: Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, NY, NY 10027

Presenter: Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice

Faith Leaders in New York are invited to the monthly Living Wage Clergy Lunch. This month Alexia Salvatierra will offer a training in Faith-Rooted Advocacy. Faith-Rooted Advocacy is a model for calling our legislative leaders to live up to all that God is asking from them. It is a way of ministering to our leaders that results in deepening their commitment to peace and justice. Salvatierra is a Lutheran minister who helped lead the Living Wage struggle in Los Angeles to victory. She will share strategies to help faith leaders to win the Living Wage struggle in NYC. Salvatierra is the Executive Director of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, a movement of religious leaders in California who support low-wage workers in their struggle for a living wage, health insurance, fair working conditions and a voice in the decisions that affect them. Please register for the training with Janet Martin janethmartin@gmail.com or (914) 329-6330.

• **MICAH Institute Global Justice Seminar: Kent Annan discusses his new book *After Shock***

Date: Thursday February 17, 2011, 6 pm to 8 pm

Location: The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, Room C & D, New York, NY

Presenter: Kent Annan, Co-Director, Haiti Partners

In the wake of a historic earthquake in the fragile country of Haiti, Kent Annan's newest book *After Shock* considers suffering — from the epic to the everyday — as a problem for faith. Less than two weeks after the release of Kent's first book about his work with Haiti Partners, he heard the news. Friends trapped under the rubble of buildings. Friends sprinting across the city looking for family. Churches — including one Kent often attended — turned to rubble. Suddenly Kent and his friends were part of an uncomfortable fellowship: people whose faith is shaken by crisis. Taking courage from the psalmists of old and the company of his grieving neighbors, Kent has found that there is solidarity in suffering. Others have followed life to the edge of meaning and have heard God even there, calling for honest faith. Are there questions or realities your faith can't handle? Kent wrote *After Shock* to help you find out. Come out and join our monthly Global Justice Seminar at the Micah Institute. Please register with Janet Martin janethmartin@gmail.com or (914) 329-6330. Co-Sponsors: Metro Hope Church & New York Faith and Justice.

*******OTHER N.Y. AREA EVENTS & INFO*******

• **Advance Screening and Panel Discussion of the movie *Mooz-lum***

Date: Thursday, Feb 3rd, 7pm (doors open 6:30pm)

Location: Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theatre, 165 W. 65th street, New York, NY

Please join ImageNation Cinema Foundation and The Film Society of Lincoln Center for a [Black History Month Celebration](#) featuring a special advance screening of [MOOZ-LUM](#) -- starring **Evan Ross**, **Danny Glover**, **Nia Long** and **Roger Guenveur Smith**. The event will include an advance screening of the film, a panel discussion --

Islam and the Black Experience -- with the filmmaker and Muslim community leaders, followed by a post reception. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at door. Visit <http://www.filmlinc.com/wrt/onsale/mooz-lum.html> to purchase or for more info.

• **Islamophobia and Public Education**

Date: Tuesday, Feb 8th, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Location: 317 East 67th street, first floor (between second and first ave)

Please join the New York Collective of Radical Educators (NYCORE) and Women Against Islamophobia and Racism (Wair) for a screening of "Intifada NYC", a film about Islamophobia, public education, and how a community responded to the firestorm that erupted around the United States first Arabic language public school. Discussion to follow. Please RSVP to: womenagainstislamophobia@gmail.com

• **Introduction to Islam with Haroon Moghul**

Date: Four Tuesdays: Feb. 15, 22 March 1, 8, 6:30pm

Location: Park Ave Christian Church, 1010 Park Ave (85th street), New York, NY

How much do you know about Islam? With Muslims in the news, more now than ever before, do you know what the basic beliefs of Islam are? This introductory course will cover the principal beliefs of Islam, the differences between Sunnis and Shiites, the Muslim bible the Qur'an, as well as the idea of jihad. Ample time will be available for questions and answers. Purchase enrollment online at <http://www.smarttix.com/show.aspx?showcode=INT118>

• **AJC New York: Discussion about the role of the Jewish community in Immigration reform.**

Date: Thursday, February 17th, 6:30pm

Location: AJC National Headquarters, 165 E. 56th st (Third Ave), New York, NY

Rabbi Noam Marans, AJC Director of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations, **Ann Schaffer**, Director of AJC's Belfer Center for Religious Pluralism, and **Dr. Diane Steinman**, the co-chair of the NY State Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform and former director of AJC New York discuss the role of the Jewish Community in Immigration Reform. What does immigration reform really mean in actual terms? How does the outcome of this debate affect each of us in real and concrete ways? Is this a Jewish issue? The program is free but a recommended \$10 contribution at the door to cover program expenses would be much appreciated.

• **The 6th Annual Conference on the Health of the African Diaspora New York City African CBO Forum: Transformation through Collaboration**

Date: Saturday, February 19th, 9:00am-6:30pm

Location: Farkas Auditorium, NYU Langone Medical Center, 550 1st Ave (btwn 30th and 33rd streets)

This conference will explore resources and areas of need to enhance the work of organizations serving the African diaspora, including how these organizations can create networks and share best practices. Please call (212) 263-3977 or visit <http://www.med.nyu.edu/ichr/chad/> for more information about the program and a list of further conference goals.