



The Interfaith Center of New York connect educate learn change manage participate tolerate interact

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share with you our own, unique, brand of "interfaith"--a three-way conversation, where religious communities speak to one another and also converse with important civic institutions of New York City. Highlights include:

- A new collaboration with the NYC Administration of Children's Services... a cultural sensitivity program reached 175 child welfare employees, giving important information about Islam and Muslim families.
- Roundtables with the NY State Unified Court System continued.... in December, 15 religious leaders met Bronx judges and representatives from the District Attorney's Office and Fordham Law School who presented on identity theft and credit card debt.
- Our 23rd Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat, *Building Economic Resilience in Faith Communities*... 85 Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh religious leaders gathered at Stony Point Retreat Center. Everyone met someone from a different faith tradition! Vital information was distributed to help faith communities--from the NYC Mayor's Office of Financial Empowerment, SEEDCO, Habitat, Consumers Union, Hebrew Free Loan Society, and more.

We look forward to a year of continued outreach and programs that connect diverse religious communities of New York and bring them together with civic and faith-based partners.

Below is a list of programs offered by the Interfaith Center of New York in February. We also list additional upcoming events that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. A listing does not imply endorsement.

- **RELIGION AND SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM**

Dates: Fridays, February 5-March 12, 2010

Location: UJA Federation, 130 E. 59th Street, New York, NY

To work effectively in NYC's diverse communities, social workers need to know more about the religions of their future clients; the roles that religion plays in the lives of individuals and communities; and the ways in which this is relevant to the effective practice of social work in all areas, from individual counseling to community organizing, from research to public policy. Social work students and social workers of diverse backgrounds will be engaged in a dynamic learning experience with community religious leaders and practitioners, as well as with each other, over the course of six Friday mornings, with each Friday covering different religious

tradition. For more information, contact Raffaele Timarchi at (212) 870-3514 or by email at rtimarchi@interfaithcenter.org

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

- **8TH BI-ANNUAL CITY WIDE - INTERFAITH TEACH IN--COMPASSION AND ACTION: HOW VALUES & FAITH FOSTER HEALING AND ACTIVISM**

Date: Sunday, January 31st at 1:30-4pm

Location: Grace Church Episcopal - 254 Hicks Street, Brooklyn Heights

Featuring small round table conversations, with keynote address by Fatima Shama, NYC Immigrant Affairs Commissioner. Clergy and advocates lead round table dialogues on how our traditions inspire different ways of restoring health to the world. Teachers are military and hospital chaplains and activists who work on the environment, human rights, hunger and domestic violence issues. Come for food, stories, and study! For more information contact The Dialogue Project at (718) 768-2175 or email marcia@thedialogueproject.org

- **CONTEMPORARY BURMESE ART: IDEAS AND IDEALS**

Date: Saturday, February 6 at 8pm

Location: New York Open Center, 22 E. 30th St, New York 10016

This event provides a unique opportunity for the Burmese artistic community to show the full range of their work. Emphasis is upon contemporary Burmese art as it is happening now and its diverse manifestations—spiritual, political and cultural. Fifteen Burmese artists will display their painting, photography, sculpture, performance and video art, and documentary films. The evening includes a presentation about Burmese art by artist Aung Kyaw Moe and discussion with many of the artists. The event is FREE to the public. For additional information call 212-219-2527 x 135

- **FAITH LEADERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BREAKFAST: FAITH-ROOTED URBAN FARMING INITIATIVE**

Date: Thursday, February 18th at 8:30-11am

Location: Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, New York

Come hear from the City Farms Initiative at Just Food. Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice is a diverse array of faith leaders committed to making deep impact on issues of environmental justice in New York City through coordinated collective action. We are currently focused on issues of food justice, climate justice, and energy consumption. For more information please contact us at info@nyfaithjustice.org or 212.870.1254. Future events include: April 22: Special Earth Day Green Map Tour, September 16: Fall Kick Off, December 2: TBA

- **INTERFAITH CONVOCATION FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM NOW**

Date: Thursday, February 18th at 11:30am

Location: Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY

The NY State Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform invites you to attend an Interfaith Convocation for Immigration Reform. The program will include influential New York religious leaders reflecting the religious diversity of our city, as well as key Congressional leaders -- one of many interfaith programs being organized across the country during the Presidents' Day Congressional recess in order to increase momentum in favor of immigration reform legislation. Contact Annie Rawlings for more information on at 212-870-2221, ext. 4249 or SocialWitness@presbynyc.org For information on the NY State Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform, visit <http://nyinterfaithimmigration.org/default.aspx>

- **BOOK DRIVE FOR DETENTION CENTERS**

In partnership with the Riverside Sojourners Program, The Interfaith Center of New York is collecting books for immigration detainees, including those being held at the Elizabeth Detention Center and Hudson County Correctional Center in New Jersey. Please contribute! New or used books needed. NOTE: PAPERBACKS ONLY, WITH PRIORITY TO BOOKS IN SPANISH, FRENCH AND OTHER LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH. Please remove any loose papers from books, and check books for stray marks that might be interpreted as secret messages by the detention centers. Please contact Sarah Sayeed at ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or at (212) 870-3519 for information on the drop-off point. Books will be collected until March 1, 2010.

*****UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE NEW YORK AREA*****

- **LAST CHANCE- CATCH THE GOURMET TEA EXPO- THE ART & CULTURE OF TEA AND TEA WARE!**

Date: Until January 31, 2009, 11am-7pm, everyday

Location: Flushing Sheraton Hotel, Garnet Room, 135-20 39thAve. Flushing, NY 11354

Includes wheel throwing and tea cup glazing program.

- **MOVIE SERIES AT PLYMOUTH CHURCH: "HIDING AND SEEKING"**

Date: Friday, February 5, 2010, 7:00 pm

Location: 75 Hicks Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Plymouth's Interfaith Connections Group joins with Adult Christian Education to screen this acclaimed documentary about a Jewish father from Brooklyn who travels with his two ultra-orthodox sons back to Poland to find the Christian farmers who hid their family from the Nazis. To his sons, this is a land whose people are beyond redemption, yet the father hopes he can find examples of human decency to help his sons recognize the potential for goodness in all people. The evening begins at 6:30 in the Reception Room with a light supper. Contributions of drinks or

side dishes are welcome. The screening then starts at 7:00, followed by a short discussion for those interested. Movie nights are free of charge and open to the public.

<http://www.plymouthchurch.org/eBulletin/> For additional information, contact 718-624-4743 or info@plymouthchurch.org

- **PEACE AND SECURITY AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE IMPACT OF THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE ON THE UN**

Date: February 11, 2010 11:30-3:00pm; lunch in Delegates Dining Room at 11:30 a.m.

Location: United Nations

Offered by Virginia Swain, Institute for Global Leadership (www.global-leader.org), this UN program will cover the United Nations approach to Peace and Security and the impact of the Haiti earthquake on the United Nations. The United Nations had the largest loss of its peacemakers in its history. What is the impact of such a loss for the International Body? The discussions will be framed to support the grieving of these losses and the resolution to endure with the UN's global mission. Lunch and discussion in the Delegates Dining Room, 11:30 am followed by briefing by United Nations Expert, Ms. Michiko Kuroda. An international civil servant in the UN for over 25 years, Ms. Kuroda will discuss peacekeeping and give her personal remarks about the impact of the Haiti earthquake on the UN. People of all faiths will pray together in the Dag Hammarskjold Meditation Room at 2:30 pm. Register with Virginia by February 4 at 508-753-4172 or vswain@global-leader.org; cost of \$75 includes lunch in the Delegates' Dining Room.

- **THE HEART OF CONFLICT: BECOMING STUDENTS OF PEACE**

Date: Thursday, February 11th, 2010, 7 pm-8:30 pm

Location: West End Collegiate Church at 368 West End Avenue New York, NY 10024

A program of Intersections' West End Peace Series, this evening features two international peacemakers from conflict areas around the world who will speak about various aspects of peace and conflict transformation from their own personal histories emphasizing becoming students of peace. Speakers are Sharareh Esfandiari, a Shiite Muslim from Shiraz, Iran, and Ezekiel Abdullahi Babagario, a Baptist Christian, from Kaduna, Nigeria. Both are international peacemakers studying Islam and interfaith dialogue at Hartford Seminary. Musical Performances included. Program co-sponsored with West End Collegiate Church, and the Collegiate School of NY. For information, please contact Scott Thompson at stompson@intersectionsinternational.org

- **INTERNATIONAL PURPLE HIJAB DAY: BRING MORE ATTENTION TO THE ISSUE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD**

Date: February 13th, 2010

Location: Anywhere

Domestic abuse has no place in the Islamic community. The Holy Quran does not teach it nor condones it. Let us speak loudly for our rights to be safe in our homes anywhere in the world. We are asking people to wear purple, sign the petition at change.org/end_domestic_abuse_in_the_islamic_community and go to their mosque or place of worship (invite others to join you) on that day at Maghrib (sunset) or Isha (evening/night prayer) to pray for an end to domestic abuse. This event is open to all.

- **NEW YORK ROAD TRIP FOR OUR FUTURE: IMMIGRATION REFORM NOW!**

Date: February 15th-19th

Location: Beginning in NYC, traveling to Saratoga Springs, Syracuse, Pittsford, Greece, Batavia, Buffalo, and Ithaca

The NY Road Trip for Our Future will travel across New York State gaining followers and supporters at each stop. Travelers will be welcomed and Congressional Representatives will be urged to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform in their home district! Contact Frances Liu at fliu@thenyic.org with name, contact information, and a paragraph about why you want to join the trip. Riders must be 18 or older and commit to participate in the entire trip from February 15-19. Organizations may publicly endorse the Road Trip by sending an email to jjaramillo@reformimmigrationforamerica.org with your organization name and contact. You may also contribute online to support the Road Trip at <http://nycharities.org> and write NY Road Trip for Our Future in the donation designation memo.

- **BOOK READING AND DISCUSSION BY SALMAN AHMAD OF JUNOON, PAKISTAN'S BIGGEST ROCK BAND**

Date: Wednesday, February 17th, 2010 from 7-9pm

Location: World Room, Third Floor of Journalism Building at Columbia University 116th and Broadway

American Society for Muslim Advancement, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and South Asian Journalists Association present "Rock and Roll Jihad: A Muslim Rock Star's Revolution for Peace". The event is free to the public. For more information contact, Sabeeha Rehman at 212-870-2552 or sabeeha@asmasociety.org

- **MECCA TO MANHATTAN: MUSLIM WOMEN MOVING MOUNTAINS**

Date: Saturdays, Feb 27th to April 17th, 10:30am-1:30pm; Deadline to apply: February 19, 2010

Location: 6 Barclay Street, Sixth Floor, New York, NY 10007

An 8-week Saturday workshop series for Muslim women & girls ages 13-20, Mecca To Manhattan features dynamic Muslim women who are emerging leaders in the fields of arts, activism, community service, business, and academics. As part of Turning Point's commitment to empowering Muslim women and girls, the program aims to (1) demonstrate that young Muslim women and girls are inheritors of a tradition that has historically witnessed female

leaders as agents of change; (2) provide a platform that takes a critical look at how gender, race, class, culture, language, ethnicity, faith, and history impact their lives; and (3) foster links between emerging and well-known Muslim female leaders in the community and Muslim women and girls. To request an application or for more information, contact: info@turningpoint-ny.org or 718-883-9400. Space is limited, so make sure to apply now! For more information on Turning Point, visit: www.turningpoint-ny.org.

- **VOLUNTEER TRAINING BY RIVERSIDE'S SOJOURNERS IMMIGRATION DETENTION VISITOR PROJECT**

Date: Saturday, February 20 from 1-2:30 p.m.

Location: The Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive on Manhattan's Upper West Side

Persons interested in becoming volunteer visitors to immigration detainees in the New York area are invited to attend an orientation session. The 90-minute orientation covers basic terminology, detainees' needs and concerns, the role of the volunteer visitor, ground rules such as confidentiality, procedures for entering the detention center, "ten steps for a good visit" and FAQs. Each volunteer is expected to make at least two visits a month. Riverside Sojourners currently provides transportation six times a month to the Elizabeth (N.J.) Detention Center and is working toward adding trips to the Hudson County Correctional Facility in Kearney, N.J. To RSVP for the February 20 orientation and/or for more information, please contact sojourners@theriversidechurchny.org

- **HOST A CONVERSATION FOR THE NIGHT OF 1,000 CONVERSATIONS: "RACIAL PROFILING: FACE THE TRUTH"**

Date: February 22-28, 2010

Location: Various

Join the Racial Profiling: Face the Truth campaign for the Night of 1,000 Conversations to promote awareness and take action against racial profiling. Racial profiling is ineffective and unconstitutional. It is a degrading practice and continues largely unchecked, violating the human and civil rights of those targeted. Host a Conversation with your family, friends, colleagues, or community to learn more about the devastating impact of racial profiling and what you can do about it. Visit www.nightof1000conversations.org for a toolkit, conversation resources, and more information. For more information, please contact Tong Lee at 202-591-3300 x 102 or TLee@RightsWorkingGroup.org.

- **LEGAL & FINANCIAL SEMINAR FOR NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY AREA MOSQUES & NONPROFITS**

Date: Saturday, March 6th 2010 from 8am to 6pm, register by February 26, 2010

Location: New York Law School

Muslim Advocates invites you to attend a free legal & financial educational seminar for the leadership of mosques, Muslim nonprofits and community-based organizations in the NY/NJ

metro area. Imams, board members, presidents, executive directors, treasurers, secretaries and other key officers and senior staff are invited to attend. Topics covered include: employment law, hiring religious immigrant workers, best ways to send charity abroad, financial & accounting best practices for nonprofits, charity accreditation through Muslim Advocates/BBB, FBI surveillance of mosques and community centers. This program will include a free continental breakfast and halal lunch. Registration Closes Friday, February 26, 2010. RSVP online at www.muslimadvocates.org/get_involved/actions/attend_an_educational_seminar.html or calling 415.692.1484, ext.5

- **NEW YORK FAITH AND JUSTICE PRESENTS: REMEMBERING HAITI (TEACH-IN, PRAY-IN, ACT-OUT)**

Date: March 4, 2010 from 5-9pm
Location: TBA

A powerful time for New Yorkers to stand in solidarity with the people of Haiti through the breaking of bread, worship, theatrical story-telling, art, and prayer. If you or your community would like to help in any way, please contact Stephen Tickner at stickner@nyfaithjustice.org.

- **SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF THE PLAY, *THE CASTLE***

Date: March 12, 2010, Time to be announced
Location: Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 7 West 83rd Street

The Fortune Society is pleased to invite members of New York's religious and spiritual communities to a special performance of *The Castle*, the play by Fortune Society Founder David Rothenberg. *The Castle* is a dramatic and inspirational tale of four individuals' courageous paths to rebuilding their lives after a combined 70 years in prison. *The Castle* has been performed throughout the state, including in prisons, churches, and community centers and recently concluded a 14-month run Off-Broadway. We invite you to see the play and to talk to us about bringing this profound production to your place of worship. For more information please contact Madeline Porta at (347) 510-3683 or email her at mporta@fortunesociety.org

- **US CENSUS IS HIRING**

The US Census is starting the hiring process for Census takers for this year. Each office might work slightly differently, but the basic process for applicants is that you will go in to take a test and fill out an application. Then your name goes on an eligibility list. Starting in March the census office will start calling those on the list and giving out assignments. The assignments will last for 1-8 weeks and pay upwards of \$18.75/hour. They may be particularly interested in hiring people who are homeless or formerly homeless that might have some additional clout in working with that population to get everyone counted. There are several Census offices in the city and they have divided up which areas they serve. To find an office near you go to their website at <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs/>.

- **VISIT KIDSPIRIT MAGAZINE'S NEW WEBSITE**

KidSpirit Magazine is a unique, unaffiliated spiritual magazine written by and for 11 to 15 year olds. Our goal is to foster dialogue and understanding among kids of diverse backgrounds and traditions about values, spirituality and life's big questions. Free of advertising, KidSpirit empowers today's youth to explore deep issues and mankind's search for meaning in a spirit of openness." www.kidspiritmagazine.com

- **VIDEO: COMING OF AGE IN A POST-9/11 WORLD**

A group of young Muslim-American leaders came to the Center for American Progress last November to discuss the challenges and opportunities they are facing, and to explore ways to strengthen their work. The meeting was held exactly one week after the Fort Hood shootings in Texas, and that event colored the day's conversation. It starkly reminded us that despite the engagement of millions of Muslim Americans from all walks of life, events like Fort Hood can trigger public fears and stereotypes that eclipse this reality and focus on threat and danger. The participants in the video represent a varied group of young Muslim Americans, and their voices are important to include in the national conversation, for they are the next generation of leaders—women and men who came of age in a post-9/11 world. Click here to watch the video: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/01/young_muslim_american.html

- **CREATION THE MOVIE**

Take a unique and inside look at Darwin, his family and his love for his deeply religious wife, played by Jennifer Connelly (A Beautiful Mind, Requiem for a Dream). Torn between faith and science, Darwin, played by Paul Bettany, struggles to finish his legendary book "On the Origin of Species," which goes on to become the foundation for evolutionary biology. Playing at Landmark's Sunshine Cinema at 143 E. Houston Street and Clearview at 400 East 62nd Street. www.creationthemovie.com