



February 2016 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

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Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Greetings from The Interfaith Center of New York.

A snowy February promises some heart-warming interfaith events. From a Valentine's Day [L.O.V.E. Rally](#) with Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee and diverse religious leaders, performers, and public officials standing against intolerance to a [#WeWalkTogether service](#) for the victims of violent extremism, there are some antidotes to the hate-filled political posturing New Yorkers and other Americans are subject to and the suspicion and fears they help flame.

(You can sign [a petition](#) to reinstate Wheaton Professor Hawkins who was fired from Wheaton College for wearing an Hijab in sympathy for Muslim Women.)

Back at the ranch, The Interfaith Center of New York is offering our [Social Work and Religious Diversity Course](#) on April 7, 2016. LMSWs and LCSWs will get 7 hours of continuing education credit. In addition, we are accepting applications until March 1, 2016 for our NEH-sponsored summer institute training for teachers "[Religious Worlds of New York](#)". Also, for Black History Month to receive tweets about "Milestones of Faith," follow [@ICNY](#) on Twitter or watch for the hashtag [#BHMfaith](#) (Black History Month Faith).

Finally, it is with sadness that we announce the departure of our long-time, greatly-to-be-missed Director of Development, Ellen Greeley. Ellen came to us from UJA Federation, has been with The Interfaith Center of New York for six years, and is headed to the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs. Ellen has provided critical financial oversight and development support for the Interfaith Center while also writing program grants, sending our annual appeals, and orchestrating (with great grace) our 250–person annual gala, The James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner. It goes without saying that our loss is the city's gain.

Best Wishes,



Rev. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director
The Interfaith Center of New York

P.S. Watch your email inbox later this month for our next podcast episode featuring Iman Khalid Latif, the first Muslim Chaplain at NYU and a Chaplain to the NYPD.

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***Social Work and Religious Diversity:
Religion and Spirituality as Sources of Strength in Times of Crisis***



Full Day Conference on April 7th

7 Hours of Continuing Ed. for New York LMSWs and LCSWs

The Interfaith Center of New York and our partners are delighted to announce a continuing education conference for social workers and their colleagues. Please join us on April 7th to explore the religious and spiritual coping resources that provide strength and support for diverse New Yorkers facing personal hardships or communal crises.

The conference is cosponsored by the Interfaith Center of New York, the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, and the Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute. It will help all social service and mental health care providers build their multifaith cultural competence, while offering New York LMSWs and LCSWs seven continuing education credit hours approved to meet state licensing requirements. Registration is open, and space is limited. Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the religious lives of the people you serve. For detailed information, registration, and free online resources, visit <http://interfaithcenter.org/social-work>.

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Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity



Applications from Teachers Due March 1

ICNY is delighted to announce the 2016 *Religious Worlds of New York* summer institute for teachers. K-12 teachers nationwide are invited to apply for a three week program (with a generous stipend) that will help them teach more effectively about American religious diversity.

The *Religious Worlds* institute is a project of ICNY and Union Theological Seminary, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It will bring 25 teachers from throughout the United States to New York City, to work with leading scholars of religion, meet with diverse religious leaders, visit local houses of worship, and explore the religious life of the city. In the current climate of religious bigotry and extremism, America's K-12 teachers can play an important role in promoting interfaith understanding. The *Religious Worlds* institute gives teachers the tools they need to build a more inclusive society.

We hope you'll apply! Past participants describe the institute as "my best professional development experience ever" and "one of the best learning experiences of my life" ([click here for more evaluations](#)). Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to explore the religious worlds of New York.

The institute will meet from **July 11 - 29, 2016** at Union Theological Seminary, in the Manhattan neighborhood of Morningside Heights. All participants will receive a **\$2,700 stipend** to help pay their travel, housing, and living expenses for the duration of the institute. **Applications are due by March 1.** For detailed information and application instructions, please visit www.religiousworldsnyc.org.

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“Milestones of Faith”

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Twitter event in February in observance of Black History Month

In observance of Black History Month, The Interfaith Center of New York will recount many of the major “Milestones of Faith” in African American history. The indigenous faiths introduced into America through the slave trade mark just the beginning of an amazing history of African American pioneers in faith. Through indelible contributions of religious thought, music, art, and community-building, African Americans have played a leading role in shaping religious identity in the United States, across every faith tradition.

Throughout the month of February, ICNY will issue daily “milestone missives” to its Twitter audience, moving in chronological order from the early arrivals of blacks in America to the latest developments in diverse faith traditions. To follow these “Milestones of Faith,” follow us on Twitter [@ICNY](#). To access the entire body of messages, watch for the hashtag [#BHMfaith](#) (Black History Month Faith).

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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



Multifaith Sign-On: Reinstate Wheaton Professor Hawkins



Wheaton College is trying to fire Professor Larycia Hawkins - the first tenured African American woman at Wheaton since its founding in 1860 - for standing in solidarity with the Muslim community against Islamophobia. Please sign our [multifaith petition](#), which will be personally delivered before Professor Hawkins' hearing on February 11, 2016.

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L.O.V.E Rally - Radical Love to Combat Radical Hate



Date: Sunday, February 14

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Washington Square Park, 5th Avenue, Waverly Place, West 4th and MacDougal Streets, New York, New York 10011

Join us on February 14th to rise together and spread mass love. In a world bombarded with hate speech, racism, sexism, homophobia, etc, we must band together to combat radical hatred with radical love. We are all human and in order to recognize the humanity in ourselves, we must recognize the humanity in others. This is a call for action to renew humanity's love for HUMANITY - love is bigger than romance, and on this Valentine's Day, let us gather to love in our greatest capacity. For more information, click [here](#). A flyer for this event is [here](#). ICNY's Director of Community Partnerships, Iman Boukadoum, will speak at this event.

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#WeWalkTogether: Multi-Faith Service for Victims of Violent Extremism



Date: Sunday, February 21

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Westchester Jewish Center, 175 Rockland Ave, Mamaroneck, NY

As the world witnesses extremist attacks on religious and ethnic communities and random terrorist attacks, please join us to affirm our belief in religious freedom for all - in a multi-faith service to learn, share, celebrate, and commit ourselves to the compassionate spirit of all our faiths. Planned and sponsored by Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and Muslim leaders. For more information and to RSVP, click [here](#) or call 914-948-5585.

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**The 5th Annual Brooklyn Folk Arts Day:
*Preserving and Demystifying Ritual and Ceremony in Brooklyn***



DATE: Wednesday, March 2

Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Doors open at 5:30pm for sign-in (drinks and snacks available). Meeting begins promptly at 6pm and ends promptly at 8:00pm. Reception begins at 8:00pm and goes to 8:30pm.)

Location: *The Brooklyn Historical Society 128 Pierrepont St, Brooklyn, NY (Brooklyn Heights)*

Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC), in partnership with the Brooklyn Historical Society and The Interfaith Center of New York, will celebrate the 5th annual Brooklyn Folk Arts Day: Preserving and Demystifying Ritual and Ceremony in Brooklyn at the Brooklyn Historical Society. We welcome your participation in a demonstration/town hall meeting celebrating and strengthening folk and traditional arts in Brooklyn. Brooklyn Folk Arts Day is an annual gathering of Brooklyn's traditional artists, traditional arts organizations and communities they serve, teaching artists and educators, funders, elected officials, and other friends of folk and traditional arts. Moderated by BAC Folk Arts Director Christopher Mulé and Dr. Henry Goldschmidt (ICNY), this year's gathering will address ways to preserve, sustain, encourage, and

demystify misconceptions surrounding traditional rituals and cultural ceremonies that occur in Brooklyn.

RSVP to Christopher Mulé, Folk Arts Director, Brooklyn Arts Council: kturner@brooklynartscouncil.org or 718-625-0080 x229; or through Brooklyn Historical Society EventBrite page [here](#).

You can find [more details here](#).

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Other Events



If you have an upcoming event that you think ICNY's audience might like to know about, please notify us by [filling out this event form](#). We will try to include events in future bulletins.

Conversations That Matter: Income Inequality - The Future of Our City



Date: Saturday, February 6

Time: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: The Church of St. Luke's in the Fields, 487 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014

St. Luke's in the Fields is hosting the fourth and final part of a series that seek to build understanding between people of diverse experiences. We'll be discussing income inequality and take a look at the issue in our city and beyond. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

12th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice



Date: Sunday, February 7

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 468 Rosedale Avenue,
White Plains, NY 10605

Interfaith service celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week. For information visit
www.cucwp.org

2016 Russell Berrie Fellowship



On behalf of the Russell Berrie Foundation, Institute of International Education (IIE) is pleased to announce the 2016 Russell Berrie Fellowship Program, a timely initiative at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum). Along with the establishment of an Annual Lecture Series on Interreligious Studies, the goal of the Fellowship Program is to build bridges between Christian, Jewish, and other religious traditions by providing the next generation of religious leaders with a comprehensive understanding of and dedication to interfaith issues. The deadline for applications is **Friday, March 11, 2016**. For more information visit:
<http://www.iie.org/Programs/Russell-Berrie-Fellowship-in-Interreligious-Studies>.

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FEBRUARY 2016

February	Full Month	BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.
February 1		CLEAN MONDAY • Eastern Christian The beginning of <i>Great Lent</i> for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays.
February 1		NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
February 8		LUNAR NEW YEAR On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.
February 9		SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras.
February 10		ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
February 14		VALENTINE'S DAY Celebrates the idea of romantic love.
February 14		RACE RELATIONS DAY The National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.
February 15		SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.
February 15		NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.
February 15		PRESIDENTS' DAY Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.
February 26– March 1		AYYAM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í The Ayyám-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year.

The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2016 is available [here](#).

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