



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

ICNY December 2011 E-Bulletin

Season's Greetings from all of us at The Interfaith Center of New York. It has been a busy but exciting fall and like many non-profits at this time of year we are launching our Annual Appeal. If this newsletter or any of our programs have been helpful to you, please consider making a donation online at <http://interfaithcenter.org/donations> and please view our Annual Report at <http://interfaithcenter.org/view-our-annual-report> . Please also mark your calendar for the 10th annual James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner on June 11th, 2011. The dinner will honor Nobel Laureate **Leymah Gbowee** and acclaimed film maker **Abigail Disney**.

Please find below a list of upcoming programs sponsored by the Interfaith Center of New York, followed by events that may be of interest in the New York area. A listing does not imply endorsement.

Interfaith Center Sponsored and Co-Sponsored Events

Announcing ICNY's Newest Program: Debate in the Neighborhood

Through the generosity of the Open Society Foundations, The Interfaith Center of New York has teamed with an international debating organization to launch debate clubs for immigrant high school students at local houses of worship and community centers. Please email Ellen at Ellen@interfaithcenter.org or call her at (212) 870-3511 if your house of worship or community center runs a high school teen program, or is willing to form a group that is eager to be trained weekly in the art of debating and keen to compete in two debate tournaments in New York City. Small stipends for refreshments and travel are available to participating houses or worship or community centers.

ICNY receives grant from N.E.H. for summer institute for K-12 teachers.

The Interfaith Center of New York and Union Theological Seminary are delighted to announce a new educational program, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

From July 16th-August 12, 2012, we will host an N.E.H. summer institute for educators, entitled ***Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity***.

This innovative program will help public, private, and parochial school teachers teach more effectively about the rich religious diversity of the United States. It will introduce participants to religious traditions that are part of the fabric of American life, help them distinguish between academic and devotional approaches to the study of religion, and offer them the pedagogic tools they need to teach their students about *lived religion*, in addition to the conventional world religions curriculum.

Applications from teachers are due by March 1st, 2012. For detailed information about the institute see <http://www.religiousworldsnyc.org> or email hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org 212-870-3514.

Domestic Violence Workshops

The Interfaith Center and CONNECT are continuing a project to support religious leaders who want to respond to domestic violence in their communities. There will be two additional workshops offered to current workshop participants. The workshops will be held December 7th and 14th; both sessions take place from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. For any questions, please call Alyssa Mullin at 212-870-3515.

Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice Breakfast

Date: December 8, 2011

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Location: Riverside Church (490 Riverside Drive New York, NY 10027 Room 9T)

The Breakfast Meeting will address fracking and rising sea levels. Representatives from city and state organizations will be on hand to describe city and state programs. RSVP to ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org

Harlem Justice Center's Parole Reentry Program Graduation

Date: December 8, 2011

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Harlem Community Justice Center, (170 East 121st Street Between 3rd and Lexington Avenues New York, NY 10035, 3rd Floor Courtroom)

Please join us to honor the men and women who have graduated the Harlem Community Justice Center's Parole Reentry Court and the Reentry Task Force program, and to celebrate their accomplishments since their return home from incarceration. Justice Center Staff and our Parole colleagues will join with local dignitaries, community partners, faith leaders and family and friends to acknowledge our graduates at an on-site ceremony. The Rev. Stephen Chinlund, former Executive Director of Episcopal Charities and Chairman of the Commission on Correction will

be the keynote speaker. A light buffet will be served afterwards. RSVP to Edith Lopez: 212-360-4120 or at ELOPEZ1@courts.state.ny.us To learn more about the Justice Center visit: <http://www.courtinnovation.org/project/harlem-community-justice-center>

The Veils Exhibit

Date: December 13, 2011

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. for panel. Exhibit open 10am-6pm. Reception 4pm-6pm.

Location: The exhibit and all related events take place in the Sockman Lounge on the First Floor of the Interchurch Center (W. 120th/Riverside Drive – entrance on Claremont Avenue)

The exhibit is comprised of photographs of Muslim, Jewish and Christian women in various kinds of head coverings. It is a project of Lebanese American University's Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World. Cosponsored by Lebanese American University and Prepare New York.

The Veils Exhibit Lunch-time Panel: "Three Women, Three Faiths, Three Choices to Cover"

Date: December 13, 2011

Time: 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Location: The exhibit and all related events take place in the Sockman Lounge on the First Floor of the Interchurch Center (W. 120th/Riverside Drive – entrance on Claremont Avenue)

Featuring:

Dr. Sarah Sayeed, Program Associate, The Interfaith Center of New York

Sr. Chala Marie Hill, of the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary

Mrs. Bronya Shaffer, Resident Scholar, Chabad.org

This is a "brown bag" lunch: bring lunch with you or purchase it in the basement level Interchurch Center cafeteria.

West Park Church 100+ Anniversary Benefit Event

Date: December 5, 2011

Time: 8:00pm – 10:00 pm

Location: West Park Church, 165 W 86th St, New York, NY 10024

West Park celebrates its 100th anniversary year with a bold vision for the future.

100+ honors the past and celebrates the future of the recently landmarked West Park

Presbyterian Church, a leader in the progressive issues of our time. Please join us as we pay

tribute to West Park's legacy of inclusivity, support for the arts, and commitment to social justice; and now, with our friends and neighbors, launch The Center at West Park, an independent, non-profit organization housed in the church and dedicated to the work of personal and social transformation through the arts, social activism, intergenerational education, and the cultivation of wonder and the human spirit.

We are pleased to partner with: El Taller + Interfaith Center of New York + More Light Presbyterians +

Peace Action + Stony Point Center + West Side Campaign Against Hunger +

Woodshed Collective Click here for ticketing information : <http://100plus.charityhappenings.org/>

Rabbis For Human Rights Clergy Breakfast in Honor of Human Rights Day + Panel

Date: December 8, 2011

Time: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Location: RHR-NA's Office (333 Seventh Avenue between 28th and 29th 13th Floor)

Rabbis for Human Rights, North America and [Prepare New York](#) are honored to invite you to an interfaith clergy breakfast in honor of International Human Rights Day. Join together with colleagues of different faith traditions to discuss the question: "How Useful is the Search for Common Ground in Inter-Religious Dialogue and Collaboration? In the fight for social justice, we find people from different faith traditions working together on issues that face us all, such as immigration, civil rights, peace, and economic justice – including the recent "Occupy" movement. As we build coalitions and learn about each other, we often elevate our shared values and stories over any discussion of difference. To RSVP, please email Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster at rkahntroster@rhr-na.org by December 6.

Three Panelists will discuss their perspectives:

Henry Goldschmidt, Ph.D., Education Program Associate at The Interfaith Center of New York
Tejpreet Kaur, Community Organizer at The Sikh Coalition

Hesham El-Meligy, Interfaith Activist, Staten Island Interfaith Clergy and the Building Bridges Coalition of Staten Island

Other New York Events

Philip Glass, composer and ICNY awardee to speak at OWS General Assembly at Lincoln Center.

Date: December 1st

Time: Approx 10:30pm

Location: Lincoln Center

An Occupy Wall Street General Assembly will be held at 10:30 PM at Lincoln Center. Join us in an open conversation about the effects of increased privatization and corporatization of all aspects of society, and the use of nonviolent civil disobedience around the world to reclaim the commons. Composer **Philip Glass** will join the General Assembly and offer a Mic Check statement. He will speak following the conclusion of "Satyagraha" his opera depicting Gandhi's early struggle against colonial oppression in South Africa. If permission is not granted to protest on Lincoln Center plaza by Thursday evening, some members of Occupy Wall Street will enact a hunger strike. They will not end this strike until their demands are met, starting with the demand that the private managing agent of Lincoln Center and appropriate New York City government agencies guarantee the freedom of speech on the city-owned plazas and walkways of Lincoln Center. Occupy Wall Street and Occupy Museums stand in solidarity with these hunger strikers and offer support for this courageous form of protest.

Screenings of *Crazy Wisdom* at The Rubin Museum

Date: December 1st and 3rd

Location: Rubin Museum (150 W. 17 St., NYC 10011)

Thursday, December 1. 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Moderators: Meredith Monk, Lanny Harrison

Saturday, December 3. 3:15 to 3:45 p.m. Moderators: Tulku Jamyang Rinpoche, Irene Woodard

Allen Ginsberg made him his guru. Joni Mitchell wrote a song about him. It was 1970 and he was the first Tibetan lama most Americans had ever seen. Yet he openly drank, and bedded his students. Was this how an enlightened teacher should behave? *Crazy Wisdom* tells the story of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche the brilliant "bad boy of Buddhism" with exclusive never-before-seen archival material and commentary from Ram Dass, Pema Chödrön and others of his circle. *Tickets: \$12* (includes a guided tour) Go to <http://www.rmanyc.org/pages/load/278> to purchase tickets. Presented in association with New York Shambhala Meditation Center.

Occupy Wall Street Big Rally Saturday at Zuccotti Park

Date: December 3rd

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Zuccotti Park

Saturday (12/3) at 10A, the Occupy Wall-Street Movement is pulling EVERYONE (occupiers and allies ALL) back to Zuccotti Park for a Rally on the importance of outside public space for

this movement (both as metaphor and as means), and to declare their intentions for the rest of December and beyond. This will be an excellent opportunity for the entire NYC movement to gather.

Special Screening of “Kinyarwanda” and Discussion for the Interfaith Community

Date: December 8, 2011

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: AMC Empire 25 234 W. 42nd Street @8th Avenue, NYC (the film opens at the AMC Empire 25 on December 2nd)

During the Rwandan genocide, when neighbors killed neighbors and friends betrayed friends, some crossed lines of hatred to protect each other. At the time of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, the Mufti of Rwanda, the most respected Muslim leader in the country, issued a fatwa forbidding Muslims from participating in the killing of the Tutsi. As the country became a slaughterhouse, mosques became places of refuge where Muslims and Christians, Hutus and Tutsis came together to protect each other. KINYARWANDA is based on true accounts from survivors who took refuge at the Grand Mosque of Kigali and the madrassa of Nyanza. It recounts how the Imams opened the doors of the mosques to give refuge to the Tutsi and those Hutu who refused to participate in the killing. KINYARWANDA interweaves six different tales that together form one grand narrative that provides a complex and real depiction of human resilience and life during the genocide. (see www.kinyarwandamovie.com/)
RSVP: 212-864-2572

Spectrum Celebration of New Galleries for the Art of the Arab Lands at The Met

Date: December 12, 2011

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Metropolitan Museum of Art (1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028)

At a special evening event, listen to a diverse panel of artists, community leaders, and Museum staff discuss what the reconceived Islamic Art Department galleries mean to them and to New York City. After the discussion, explore the galleries and enjoy an exclusive performance in the Moroccan Court by Zikrayat, a music ensemble dedicated to presenting the classical music traditions of Egypt and the greater Arab world. A reception will immediately follow the panel discussion. Tickets are available for purchase at metmuseum.org.

The panelists include:

Mary Ellen Buxton and Kevin Kutch, Pier Glass

Mahan Khajenoori, Assistant Project Manager of Construction, MMA

Marika Sardar, Research Associate, Department of Islamic Art, MMA

Dr. Sarah Sayeed, President, Women in Islam, Inc. and Program Associate, Interfaith Center of

New York.

Midnight Run Islamic Educational Support Foundation

Date: December 13, 2011

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location: Meet in front of the Islamic Cultural Center of New York (97th Street and 3rd Ave.)

The Islamic Cultural Center of NY, the Islamic Educational Support Foundation, Nasril Ilm America, and the Brother's of Sheikh Ameen's Figh Class will again be working together to go out and bring food, clothing, and toiletries to the indigent and homeless in NYC. This is an on-going program our Foundation has adopted to do throughout the year. We appeal to the Islamic Community, local Community Organizations, Businesses, and Retailers, to join us in this endeavor by donating some of the articles required helping people in dire need. Donations for food or clothing will be collected only on the day of the Midnight Run. For Further inquires please feel free to contact: Sheikh Ameen admin@iesfoundation.net or sheikhameen@iesfoundation.net 410-218-8020

Call for Participants: Faith and Reproductive Rights Leadership Institute

Deadline for applications: January 15, 2012

The Faith Initiative at the Center for American progress is seeking applicants for its Faith and Reproductive Rights Leadership Institute in 2012. We are looking for a new generation of faith-based leaders to champion sexual and reproductive rights and justice, and will provide them with training and resources during the year. We are especially seeking those who work with communities of color. Applicants might be clergy, seminary students, faith-based advocates, or those working in sexual health or reproductive rights and justice with experience in and a commitment to working with faith communities. Apply at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/11/faith_reproductive_justice_institute.html