



## ***February 2014 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements***

Dear Friends,

ICNY welcomes news of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio's decision that the City will drop the legal appeal in two class-action lawsuits challenging the NYPD's stop-and-frisk practices and Judge Charles Haight, Jr.'s order that New York City hand over investigative documents from the NYPD's surveillance of Muslims as part of a long-running lawsuit. ICNY believes these steps are critical in the process of restoring trust between NYPD and New York's diverse racial, ethnic and religious communities. For more information, see these articles on the [Huffington Post](#) and [NYCLU](#) websites.

This past Martin Luther King Day The Harlem Vicariate invited Rev. Al Sharpton, founder of the National Action Network, and Imam Al-Hajj Talib 'Abdur Rashid of the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood to Remember Dr. King's Non Violent Resistance. For the fourth year in a row, Catholics in Harlem convened an ecumenical and interfaith celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Read Dr. Sarah Sayeed's article about this event in the Huffington Post [here](#).

On January 15, The Interfaith Center of New York and Dewitt Clinton High School's Model United Nations Club hosted a discussion (picture below) of the current proposal to add two major Muslim holidays to the New York City public school calendar. [Differing perspectives](#) on the issue were offered by two Muslim community leaders and educators – Faiza N. Ali, the Advocacy and Civic Engagement Coordinator at the Arab American Association of New York, and Dr. Hussein Rashid, who teaches in Religious Studies at Hofstra University and elsewhere. The conversation was moderated by Dr. Henry Goldschmidt, ICNY's Director of Education Programs.



Looking forward we note the upcoming holidays of Nirvana Day on February 15, Shiva Ratri or Festival of Shiva on Feb. 28th, and Presidents Day on February 17th. A full calendar of festivals, sacred days, and secular holidays can be found at the end of these e-announcements.

Below we list 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.



**\*\*\*\*\* Upcoming Interfaith Center of New York Events\*\*\*\*\***

**Announcing 3rd Annual Debate in the Neighborhood Program Partners**



With support from the Open Society Foundations and International Debate Education Association, ICNY is pleased to announce partnership with four organizations that will host debate clubs in this year's Debate in the Neighborhood program:

- ~ The Islamic Leadership School (in the Bronx)
- ~ The Hindu Temple Society of North America (in Queens)
- ~ The Sikh Coalition (in Manhattan)
- ~ The Muslim American Society Youth Center (in Brooklyn)

Students in the program will receive training in public speaking, critical thinking, and other debate skills, to help them find their voices as future leaders of their communities. They will participate in interfaith conversations, to foster mutual understanding across faith lines. And they will work with their peers in other faith communities to explore the limits, if any, of our right to free speech in a diverse society.

For more information on this program, contact ICNY's Director of Education

Programs, Henry Goldschmidt, at [hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org), or 212-870-3514.

**2014 NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers -  
Application Deadline Approaching!**



The deadline for applications is coming up on March 4th -- act now if you want to enrich your teaching on religious diversity!

K-12 teachers at public, private, and faith-based schools are invited to apply for a three week summer institute, Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity. The institute is a project of the Interfaith Center of New York and Union Theological Seminary, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It will bring twenty-five teachers from throughout the United States to New York City in July 2014, to work with leading scholars of religion, meet with diverse religious leaders, visit local houses of worship, and conduct original field research. We hope you will apply! Past participants describe the institute as “my best professional development experience ever” and “one of the best learning experiences of my life.” All participants receive a \$2,700 stipend, to help pay travel and living expenses for the duration of the institute. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to explore the religious worlds of New York. For more information and application materials, please see [www.religiousworldsnyc.org](http://www.religiousworldsnyc.org).

**2014 Social Work and Religious Diversity Course**



Announcing the Interfaith Center’s 2014 *Social Work and Religious Diversity* course -  
- beginning on Friday, February 21st. The Interfaith Center of New York and our

partners invite all social work students and practitioners to join us for a free course on Social Work and Religious Diversity. This free course helps mental health and social service professionals develop the multicultural, multi-faith competence they need to work effectively with clients and colleagues from diverse religious communities. For this winter's course, we're planning a series of interfaith conversations among religious leaders and social service providers, exploring faith-based perspectives on social and clinical issues. All sessions meet on Fridays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, with lunch served at noon, at the offices of UJA-Federation of NY, 130 E. 59th Street, 7th Floor. For more information and registration, email [socialwork@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:socialwork@interfaithcenter.org). A flyer for this event is [here](#).

**\*\*\*\*\* ICNY Co-Sponsored Events\*\*\*\*\***

**Support IOEC and encourage the United Nations  
to care for the World's Oceans**



Interfaith Ocean Ethics Campaign (IOEC) is a joint program of the Franciscan Action Network and the National Religious Coalition on Creation Care and their international parent organizations, Franciscans International and the World Stewardship Institute. Their mission is to call forth a movement of faith to become aware of and actively caring for the world's ocean peoples, systems, and species, since they are presently suffering great damage, and this damage also affects the whole planet and public health of everyone on it.

The United Nations has working committees on developing sustainable goals for the future, and the oceans committee is meeting at the UN in New York City on February 3-4. IOEC urges religious leaders and organizations to speak out around that time period about the need to care and act on these ocean issues because of faith. You can endorse the IOEC position statement and ethics statement, or craft ones of your own. The ethics statement is available [here](#).

**Save the Jordan River Campaign**



Date: Sunday, Feb. 23

Time: 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Location: Kane Street Synagogue, 236 Kane Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231

American Friends of the Earth Middle East (FOEME) invites you to the launching of the Interfaith Campaign to Save the Jordan River. Enjoy Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Musicians sharing music about the Jordan River. Learn from teachers from the three faiths sharing the importance of the Jordan River in their traditions and kosher refreshments. Admission is \$20 Adults, \$10 Children. Advance ticket by (tax-deductible check) is \$15 Adults, \$12.50 Children. Make check out to Friends of the Earth Middle East and mail to Roberta Weisbrod, 54 Remsen St, Brooklyn, NY 11201. For more information, contact Roberta Weisbrod at [weisbrod@ix.netcom.com](mailto:weisbrod@ix.netcom.com). A flyer for this event is [here](#).

**\*\*\*\*\* Additional Events that may be of Interest to You \*\*\*\*\***

### Faith Rooted Organizing Conference



Date: Saturday, Feb 1

Time: 9 am to 5pm

Location: Union Theological Seminary, located at 3041 Broadway in Manhattan.

With excitement about the future of NYC and the multi-faith movement for justice, the Micah Institute of New York Theological Seminary, Auburn Seminary, Union Theological Seminary and the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies invite you to a faith-rooted organizing conference in New York City. Come and learn the principles and practices of faith-rooted organizing from many of the leaders of the movement and spend a fruitful day of learning, relationship building, and planning for action with your NYC faith-rooted organizing community. RSVP on Facebook and register securely [here](#).

**10th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service: Peace and Justice**



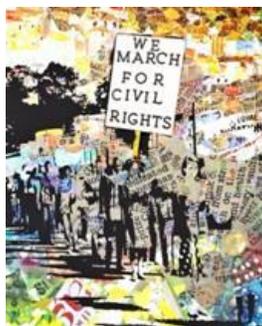
Date: Sunday, Feb 2

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Ethical Culture Society of Westchester, 7 Saxon Wood Rd., White Plains, New York 10605

In recognition and celebration of the resolution adopted by UN General Assembly proclaiming the first week of February World Interfaith Harmony Week representatives of world religions, faith and humanist traditions will come together to recite universal prayers or statements for peace and justice. Organized by Charles S. Chesnavage and Participants of other Religious Traditions. Co-Sponsored by the Ethical Culture Society of Westchester. The 10th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice seeks to promote understanding and tolerance among all religious traditions and beliefs. Universal Prayers for Peace and Justice will be recited, including prayers from the following religious traditions: Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Baha'i, Christian, Native American, and for the first time the Quaker tradition and a statement from the Humanist tradition. For more information, contact Charles S. Chesnavage at (914) 261-0468 or email [cchuck60@aol.com](mailto:cchuck60@aol.com) and Bart Worden at (914)-263-6667 or email [bartworden@gmail.com](mailto:bartworden@gmail.com). A flyer for this event is located [here](#).

### Arsenal Gallery Exhibition: The March



Date: Weekdays, through February 27

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Arsenal in Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue, Manhattan, New York, NY 10065

In commemoration of Black History Month, the Arsenal Gallery is pleased to present The March, an exhibition that includes work from seventeen artists. Coordinated by NYC Parks' Ebony Society, this exhibition reflects on the struggles and victories of the Civil Rights Movement past, present and future, as well as those individuals who

have advanced the cause. Open Monday through Friday. Admission is free, closed on holidays. For more information call (212) 360-8163, email [artandantiquities@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:artandantiquities@parks.nyc.gov), or click [here](#).

### 1st No Separate Justice Vigil



Date: Monday, Feb 3

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Metropolitan Correctional Center, 150 Park Row, New York, NY 10007

No Separate Justice: A Post-9/11 Domestic Human Rights Campaign will begin the first of what will be monthly vigils outside the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in lower Manhattan, a federal prison where people accused of terrorism-related offenses have been held in solitary confinement for years, even before they have been tried. This new public education campaign aims to shed light on and end a pattern of human rights and civil liberties abuses in “War on Terror” cases in the criminal justice system. Please bring a flashlight with you as we will be shining a light together to expose this domestic torture site, the MCC. To confirm you are attending and help us distribute this widely to your networks, please [click here](#).

### Talk-A-Thon and Breakfast



Date: Tuesday, Feb 4

Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 a.m. (Panel discussion at 10:00 am)

Location: Planet Hollywood Times Square, 1540 Broadway, New York, NY 10036

Mary Kay and Break the Cycle's Love Is Not Abuse campaign present NO MORE Silence: It's Time To Talk Day in partnership with Verizon. Join celebrity guests including Mary Kay cause champion, Olympic Gold Medalist Jordyn Wieber and her mom Rita Wieber for a Talk-A-Thon to promote healthy relationships and prevent teen dating abuse. Learn how to start a conversation about healthy relationships with your kids. Enjoy free breakfast, a chance to win Broadway show tickets, ski lift passes, giveaways and more! Space is limited! Click here to RSVP. Include your name and the number of guests in your party. For more information, please visit [www.timetotalknyc.com](http://www.timetotalknyc.com)

## Absalom Jones Festival Eucharist



Date: Saturday, Feb 8

Time: 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Location: The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), New York, NY 10025

Join the Cathedral community, together with the New York Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians, the Anti-Racism Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, and congregations from around New York for a celebration of the life and work of Blessed Absalom Jones. Absalom Jones, born a slave in Delaware in 1746, was the first African-American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. Having bought his own freedom in 1784, he became a lay minister serving the Black membership of St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Absalom Jones was ordained deacon in 1795 and priest in 1802 of the St. Thomas African Episcopal Church. This service is open and welcoming to all, in commemoration of Jones's life and perseverance against exclusion, intolerance and oppression. For more information, click [here](#).

## AMAL Dinner and Discussion: Stop & Frisk



Date: Tuesday, Feb 11

Time: 6:00 pm

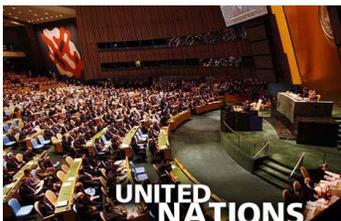
Location: The Roger Smith Hotel, 501 Lexington Avenue, 16th floor, New York, NY 10017

The Association of Muslim American Lawyers (AMAL) cordially invites you to a relaxing dinner, networking and thought provoking conversation with PETER ZIMROTH, The appointed counsel to monitor the controversial NYPD stop & frisk. PETER ZIMROTH - is an accomplished trial lawyer and appellate advocate and is recognized as a leading litigator in products liability, commercial, securities, and white collar crime matters. Full halal dinner will be served. Regular Price for Lawyers and other Professionals are \$35. Discount ticket for Students and Activists

are \$20. Tickets may be purchased by clicking [here](#).

### **2014 Interfaith Young Adult Challenge:**

**A contest to become a Youth Representative of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions at the United Nations**



Date: Application Deadline Wednesday, Feb. 12

Is it your dream to become a diplomat? Two young adults will be selected to become the 2014 Parliament of the World's Religions Youth Delegates at the United Nations through the United Nations Department of Public Information NGO body. This contest is open to all young adults living in the United States aged 18 through 24. For more information, and to apply, click [here](#).

### **Stand Against Gun Violence**



Date: Wednesday, Feb 12

Time: 7:15 pm (doors open at 6:30)

Location: St Bart's Episcopal Church, 82 Prospect Street, White Plains, NY 10606

Rabbi Joel Mosbacher, the Leader of "New Jersey Together Against Gun Violence" and of Metro IAF's campaign, "Do Not Stand Idly By", will brief us on his trip to Europe seeking out international allies and European gun manufacturers to work with us on gun industry reform. Invitees: Westchester United and Metro IAF Members, Friends and Supporters; Mayors, Police Chiefs, and Officials who will be publicly asked to take steps to prevent gun violence. If you are interested in the Industrial Areas Organization or Westchester United, this is a good event to attend. For more information, click [here](#).

### **Black History Panel**

Date: Wednesday, Feb 19

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112th Street), New York, NY 10025

Peace Islands Institute will host a Black History panel titled “Black Identities in New Media”. The panel will feature former BET Networks host April Silver and Assistant Systems Editor at the Washington Post, Soraya McDonald. Please join Peace Islands Institute to learn more about the evolution of the black identity in American media. To RSVP: sent email to [rsvp@peaceislands.org](mailto:rsvp@peaceislands.org). For additional information click [here](#).

### Black History Month Celebration



Date: Thursday, Feb 27

Time: 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Dreiser Loop Community Center, 177 Dreiser Loop, Bronx, NY 10475

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. presents “Black History Month”- Celebrating African-American Culture. Seats are limited. For more information call (718) 590-3522 or email [lroldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:lroldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov) to confirm your attendance.

**\*\*\*\*\* ADL Calendar of Observances for February 2014 \*\*\*\*\***

## FEBRUARY 2014

<b>February</b>	Full Month	<b>BLACK HISTORY MONTH</b> Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.
<b>February 1</b>	Saturday	<b>NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY</b> Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
<b>February 14</b>	Friday	<b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b> Celebrates the idea of romantic love.
<b>February 14</b>	Friday	<b>RACE RELATIONS DAY</b> The National Council of Churches in recognition of the importance of interracial relations and learning.
<b>February 15</b>	Saturday	<b>SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY</b> Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.
<b>February 15</b>	Saturday	<b>NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist</b> Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.
<b>February 17</b>	Monday	<b>PRESIDENTS' DAY</b> Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.
<b>February 26– March 1</b>	Wednesday– Saturday	<b>AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í</b> 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.
<b>February 28</b>	Friday	<b>MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu</b> Also called <i>Shiva Ratri</i> , it is the Great Festival of Shiva.

The full ADL Calendar of Observances for 2014 is available [here](#).

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