



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

January 2013 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Dear Friends,

Greetings and Happy New Year from The Interfaith Center of New York. ICNY began 2013 with exciting news about a restricted donation from the GHR Foundation that will enable us to expand our Catholic-Muslim joint service projects. In addition, we are pleased to announce that continued support from the Open Society Institute will enlarge our Debate in the Neighborhood program to include religiously diverse youth from the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens. These and other ICNY programs are described in our [2012 Annual Report](#).

If you have not already done so, please consider [making a donation](#) to support our ongoing work to help make New York safe for religious diversity.

We join others around New York in mourning our neighbor, Sunando Sen, a small-business owner and Hindu resident of Queens fatally attacked by a mentally-ill woman citing revenge for the attacks of 9/11. Information regarding an interfaith vigil will be forthcoming. Please also see Dr. Sarah Sayeed's article in the Huffington Post about continued intolerance in the latest round of MTA subway ads: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-sayeed-phd/what-pamela-geller-can-teach-us-on-christmas_b_2352405.html

January is a month where we look to get our organizational house in order. To that end, we are looking for a part-time office manager. The job description is available [here](#).

Below we list programs offered by The Interfaith Center of New York in January. 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 and ICNY Co-Sponsored Events* *******

27th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice: The Challenge of Homelessness: Strategies to Provide Support and Restore Hope

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Dining Rooms C&D, Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive (entrance also on Claremont, between W. 120th and 119th). Close to #1 train, 116th Street, Columbia University station

Each night more than 50,000 New Yorkers experience homelessness. An even more shocking statistic is that nearly 40%, or 20,000 of the homeless individuals are children. The number of

homeless New Yorkers in shelters has risen by more than half over the past decade. Join a diverse group of New York's religious leaders as we learn and discuss the causes of homelessness, and who is typically most at risk. Learn about how faith leaders can get involved in the service and advocacy options to transform homelessness. This is an informational and networking program for clergy, grassroots lay leaders, faith-based service providers and advocacy leaders concerned about homelessness in New York City. Please RSVP early as space is limited- registration is required. Questions may be directed to ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or (212) 870-3519. To register online, complete the RSVP form here: <https://app.icontact.com/icp/sub/survey/start?sid=13681&cid=48147>.

***** *Additional Events in the New York Area* *****

Deadline for Hurricane Sandy survivors in New York to register for Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster assistance has been extended to January 28, 2013

Applicant's Guide to the Individuals & Households Program provides information in 22 languages that will help you understand the disaster assistance program and how to apply: <http://www.fema.gov/help-after-disaster>. Visit fema.gov/sandy for FEMA's overall Hurricane Sandy information.

One NYC One Nation Program to Award Micro-Grants to Diverse Groups Collaborating on Community Projects

Deadline: January 31

The UnityNYC Grant Awards will award grants up to \$3,000 to faith-based or neighborhood-based immigrant and non-immigrant groups that collaborate on community projects. The grants will support the City's ongoing commitment to sustaining healthy communities through high impact service projects. UnityNYC Grant Awards will tap into New York City's diverse neighborhood groups to proactively address critical needs and promote opportunities that directly contribute to the public good. Applications are being accepted from resident-led volunteer groups in all five boroughs. Groups will be selected based on their demonstrated ability to unite residents from diverse backgrounds, mobilize at least 20 volunteers, and execute a well-planned project. Preference will be given to groups operating in low-income, underserved communities. Partner with one or many groups, come up with an idea, and apply! The deadline is January 31st, 2013. To access the application please see the Citizens Committee for NYC's website: <http://www.citizensnyc.org/programs/grants/unitygrants.html>.

Enter the Conversation: Dr. Eben Alexander

Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Ave. at 112th St., New York City, NY 10025

The Cathedral hosts an important dialogue on the afterlife with Dr. Eben Alexander in conversation with The Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski. Dr. Alexander, a neurosurgeon who has spent the past 15 years at the Brigham & Women's/Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, underwent a transformative spiritual awakening following a near-fatal bout of bacterial meningitis and a seven-day-long coma. His forthcoming book, *Proof of Heaven*, offers readers a new argument for the existence of the soul and life after death, presented through the lived experience of a highly rigorous scientific mind. Please join to listen to these men of science and faith and contemplate the miracles of life and death. Contact information for questions or more info: Isadora Wilkenfeld, iwilkenfeld@stjohndivine.org or (212) 316-7468.

Mayoral Candidate Forum ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Date: Wednesday, January 16

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm (doors open at 5:30)

Location: LIU Brooklyn, Kumble Theater, 1 University Plaza, Brooklyn, NY 11201 (On Flatbush Avenue between DeKalb Avenue and Willoughby Street:

<http://www.kumbletheater.org/directions.html>)

This event is open to the public and free. Light refreshments will be available. Seating is limited so reserve your seats early. <http://wewantpublichealthmayor.eventbrite.com/#>. This is a non-partisan, public education event. All candidates have been invited. Do you have a question you'd like to ask the candidates? Send questions [here](#). For more information, call (212) 246-0803 for English and (212) 627-2227 x248 for Spanish.

Psychotherapy and Spirituality in the Twenty-First Century: The Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute 75th Anniversary Conference

Date: Friday, January 18

Location: The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive at W. 120th Street, New York, NY 10115

A 1-day professional conference. For more information regarding speakers, lectures, panel discussions, and to register, please check website www.blantonpeale.org or call (212) 725-7850 ext. 120 or ext. 106. Deadline for registration is Wed., January 9, 2013.

Remembering the Life and Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Date: Sunday, January 20

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: Free Synagogue of Flushing, 136-23 Sanford Avenue (Entrance at 41-60 Kissena Boulevard), Flushing, NY 11355

Each year the Free Synagogue of Flushing gathers to remember the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's observance will focus on the theme of "What Does It Mean to US?" as we learn to live in a society in flux. Special guest speakers include Rector Father Wilfredo Benitez, Dr. Uma Mysorekar, and Rabbi Michael Weisser. The entire

community is invited to join with clergy and congregants for this wonderful program. All are welcome and there is no charge. For more information call (718) 961-0030.

On Different Grounds: Jewish & Christian Understandings of the Land of Israel

Date: Sunday, January 27

Time: 4:00 pm, in conjunction with Choral Evensong

Location: Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street, New York, NY 10025

Dr. Amy-Jill Levine is one of the most distinguished contemporary scholars of the New Testament and Early Judaism. Author and editor of numerous books and articles, including the recent *The Meaning of the Bible: What The Jewish Scriptures and the Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us* (HarperOne) and *The Jewish Annotated New Testament* (Oxford), Professor Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Science. A dynamic speaker and teacher with numerous awards and honors and a consultant for many groups, both Jewish and Christian, working toward peace in the Middle East, she has a broad following among Christians and Jews. To purchase a lecture (\$25), click here: <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pe/9705703>.

2nd Annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walk-a-Thon

Date: Saturday, February 9

Time & Location: TBA

One in four teens will experience teen dating violence (U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics 2001). “More than 40% of teen victims report abuse took place on school grounds” (breakthecycle.org). To help break the cycle, The Healing Center is holding the 2nd annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walk-a-Thon. For more information please call (718) 238-5158. www.thehealingcenterny.org.

Woolf Institute (Cambridge) Online Course: Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges

Date: Monday, February 25 (deadline for registration, February 1)

Time & Location: Online (see below)

The course is taught at a final-year undergraduate level and the e-learning approach allows participants to study wherever and whenever they choose via the internet. With the support of Woolf Institute tutors, participants will work both individually and jointly with other students. The deadline for applications is Friday 1 February 2013. The course commences, with induction week, on Monday 25 February 2013. The application form is available to download at <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/courses/jcme.asp>. The course fee is £350. The course appeals to those interested in history as well as in how faith is impacting on society today, particularly people working in and with faith communities. Past participants have included police officers,

educators, human rights officers, lawyers, religious and community leaders, film directors, and journalists. For questions, contact eth22@cam.ac.uk.

Heifer International - Congregational Resources

Since 1944, Heifer International has helped more than 15.5 million people in over 125 countries, including the United States, become self-reliant through sustainable agricultural practices. Heifer International works on the ground and hand-in-hand with impoverished communities, developing a sustainable approach to meeting their unique needs for nutrition, income, housing, education, and sanitation. Heifer International is happy to offer resources and curriculum especially designed for use in faith based communities. One of our most popular programs, Animal Crackers, is a complete set of lesson plans for Christian or Jewish spiritual studies. This exciting educational fundraising program features five sessions for children, youth and adults on the topics of Hunger and the Bible/Tanakh, Animals, People and their Needs, Land and the Environment, and Passing on the Gift. To view all of our congregational resources, please visit: <http://www.heifer.org/getinvolved/congregation-resources> or get in touch with your local Community Engagement Coordinator: Beatrice Biira (Manhattan/Bronx/Westchester) - beatrice.biira@heifer.org; Sabrina Eveland (Brooklyn/Long Island/Queens)- sabrina.eveland@heifer.org.

MY World: a global survey for citizens

The United Nations and partners have teamed up to put in place an innovative global survey, known as MY World, so people can participate in the post-2015 process telling us the changes that would make the most difference to their lives. Results will be submitted to the High Level Panel before their meetings in Monrovia, Jakarta and New York before they present their final report to the Secretary General to advise him on their vision of the post-2015 development agenda. MY World will continue gathering people's voices and results will be shared with the Secretary General and global leaders as they prepare the next development agenda in the run up to 2015. The survey is available online at www.myworld2015.org in the six UN official languages.

Eligibility for DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

Deferred Action is not amnesty. It is a new policy of the Department of Homeland Security to allow certain young people, who did not purposefully violate immigration law to continue to live and to work in the United States for two (2) years with renewals possible. Eligibility criteria for DACA benefits are the following:

Be under 31 years of age on June 15, 2012; Continuous residence in the United States since June 15, 2007, to Present (5yrs); Have physical presence in the United States on June 15, 2012; Be without a valid immigration status on June 15, 2012; Be at least 15 years of age on the date of application (or between 5 and 14 if in removal or with final orders); Have entered the United States when you were younger than 16 years of age; Have a high school diploma or GED certificate, be enrolled in school, or are a veteran of the United States military; Submit to an FBI

and DHS background check and have no disqualifying criminal record (other than possibly a small misdemeanor), or evidence of being a threat to the national security.

For more information, see <http://www.dhs.gov/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals>.

***** *ADL Calendar of Observances for January 2013* *****

January 1

Tuesday

NEW YEAR'S DAY

The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.

January 1

Tuesday

TEMPLE DAY • Buddhist

Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.

January 6

Sunday

EPIPHANY • Christian

Known as Theophany in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.

January 6

Sunday

CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian

Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.

January 7

Monday

CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian

Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.

January 14

Monday

MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu

Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.

January 15

Tuesday

WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í

Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.

January 21

Monday

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY

The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.

January 24

Thursday

MILAD AL-NABI • Islamic

Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

January 26

Saturday

TU B'SHVAT • Jewish

New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.

January 27

Sunday

UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.

January 27

Sunday

MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist

In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.

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