



Dear Friends,

Exciting news! Last month, we wrote you about an [interfaith letter to President Obama](#) on immigration reform. While the letter was initiated by the New York State Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform, we are delighted to report that the letter was signed by nearly 600 religious leaders from around the country. Tomorrow, Thursday, July 1, on the eve of Independence Day, that letter will be presented in a press conference at Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House. It will be hand delivered to White House officials thereafter. The Interfaith Center, a member of the Network, will join in at the press conference and the meeting. To learn more, please read the [media advisory](#)!

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

- **RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN AMERICA**

Date: July 6-11, 2010

This course offers a combination of theoretical and experiential training in the beliefs and practices of America's new religious landscape. The course places an emphasis on the great diversity within each tradition while utilizing the City itself as the perfect classroom for examining urban religion, the affects of immigrations, and interfaith community relations.

Each day in the course will examine one or more major religious traditions, through presentations, site visits, and small group discussions. Morning sessions will feature theoretical introductions to beliefs and practices. Afternoon sessions will offer an immersion in New York's religious communities, with field trips to variety of local places worship, conversations with men and women from specific religious communities, and experience of religious rituals. A significant part of the training will include approaches to teaching about world religions in local contexts. Faith-specific evening cultural events will be available for all participants. Registration for this program is now closed. For further information about the program, contact [rtimarchi@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:rtimarchi@interfaithcenter.org) or by phone 212-870-3514.

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

- **CONGREGATIONS: TAKE A PLEDGE TO FIGHT DIABETES AND SIGN UP FOR FAITH FIGHTS DIABETES!**

Did you know that diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death in New York City? As a religious leader, you can make a difference: Faith Leaders can sign the "I Will Fight Diabetes" Pledge and the Listserv and pledge to fight the Diabetes epidemic in New York City. Over 1.8 million New Yorkers have been diagnosed with the disease with over 730,000 people who have yet to be diagnosed. To learn more about the program and join, visit the [Faith Fights Diabetes Campaign](#). We also invite your congregation to complete a one-page survey to assess their risk for diabetes. To request surveys or learn more, please contact Sarah Sayeed at [ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org) or 212-870-3519

- **EARTH DEMOCRACY: LECTURE BY DR. VANDANA SHIVA**

Date: Wednesday, July 7, 2010, 6:00pm

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

Introduced by Peggy Shepard, Executive Director of WeACT, world renowned scientist, environmentalist, and agricultural activist Vandana Shiva comes to Riverside Church! For more information and to RSVP, please contact [thecssr@gmail.com](mailto:thecssr@gmail.com) Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Science and Religion, Columbia University; Riverside Church; WeACT; Sisters of Earth; Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice; GreenFaith; New York Faith and Justice; and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The Interfaith Center of New York is a member of Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice. Free and open to the public.

\*\*\*\*\***ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN THE NEW YORK AREA**\*\*\*\*\*

- **NYC RALLY AT MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HEADQUARTERS**

Date: Thursday, July 8, 2010, 12 noon

Location: MLB Headquarters, 245 Park Ave (46th and Park Ave.)

Let's send a message to Arizona: we oppose the un-American law (SB1070) that threatens civil rights and undermines basic notions of fairness. We call on MLB to do the same. Move the 2011 All-Star Game out of Arizona and Protest Anti-Immigrant Laws! For more details to get involved in the action, please contact [fliu@thenyic.org](mailto:fliu@thenyic.org) or 212-727-2227, ext. 246 at the New York Immigration Coalition.

- **COMMISSION ON THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH SYSTEM MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Date: Monday, July 12, 2010, 6:30 pm

Location: Urban Justice Center, 123 William Street, 16th floor Conference Room.

At this CPHS membership meeting, Judith Arroyo, RN, President of Local 436, is our guest speaker and will talk about the city budget and the importance of public health nursing.

- **COMMONWEALTH REPORT COMPARES US HEALTH SYSTEM ON INTERNATIONAL SCALE**

The Commonwealth Fund just released a study which shows that the U.S. ranks last among seven countries on health system performance measures. The full report, *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: How the Performance of the U.S. Health Care System Compares Internationally, 2010 Update* is available at the [Fund website](#).