



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

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share some highlights from our programs this past month.

- Our religious diversity education program for social workers is continuing in full force, with 100 social workers registered to participate- so far, they have experienced programs on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; the next three weeks will include exposure to Hinduism & Sikhism, Buddhism, and Afro-Caribbean religions.
- Working with Catholic Charities, we are beginning a Catholic-Muslim partnership project, which aims to grow the dialogue and collaboration between Catholics and Muslims on social service provision in the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island.

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

- **CUSTODY, FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION: COURTS CARING FOR OUR CHILDREN**

Date: Thursday March 11, 2010, 9:30am to 11:00am

Location: Brooklyn Supreme Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Room 1137 (Board Room)  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

The Supreme Court, Kings County and the Interfaith Center of New York invite Brooklyn's religious and community leaders to a breakfast seminar. Speakers include: Hon. Jeffrey Sunshine- Supervising Judge for Matrimonial Matters, Supreme Court Kings County; Hon. Betty Staton – Judicial Hearing Officer, Kings County Family Court; Anne Marie Jolly, Esq., - Counsel to the Administrative Judge of New York City Family Court. To RSVP, contact Anushavan Margaryan at (212) 870-3515 or by e-mail, [anushavan@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:anushavan@interfaithcenter.org). Please leave your name, address, telephone number, and email address.

- **HOST A LAWHELP WORKSHOP FOR YOUR COMMUNITY**

If your community needs legal education about their rights, consider hosting a LawHelp workshop in your place of worship. LawHelp.org/NY helps low and moderate income people find free legal aid programs in their communities, and answers questions about their legal rights related to housing, work, family, bankruptcy, disability, immigration and other topics. The Interfaith Center of New York is working with LawHelp to schedule community education workshops to provide legal information. If you would like to host a workshop, please contact Anushavan Margaryan at (212) 870-3515 or [anushavan@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:anushavan@interfaithcenter.org)

\*\*\*\*\*CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMS\*\*\*\*\*

- **GROW MORE FOOD FORUM**

Date: March 25, 2010, 6pm-8pm

Location: TBA

Faith Leaders for Food Justice and Just Food present the Grow More Food Forum, where you can learn how to get your community involved in urban agriculture! The Faith Leaders for Food Justice is a collaborative of faith leaders who, through advocacy, organizing, and awareness-building, is committed to just and sustainable food. This group promotes access to quality food, food security, ensuring living wages and fair treatment for food workers, and the health and well being of all New Yorkers. Faith Leaders for Food Justice is a working group of the Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice, a collaborative of many NY organizations. The Interfaith Center of New York is a member of [FLEJ](#). To learn more about the Grow More Food Forum or the Faith Leaders for Food Justice, please email Kerry Birnbach, [kbirnbach@nyccah.org](mailto:kbirnbach@nyccah.org) at the NYC Coalition Against Hunger.

\*\*\*\*\*OTHER EVENTS IN NEW YORK AREA\*\*\*\*\*

- **CENSUS 2010 LAUNCHES IN MARCH: STAKES ARE HIGH**

Date: March 15-April 15; Forms must be mailed back by April 15, 2010.

The stakes are high: an accurate count of the local population helps to ensure that your community receives its fair share of federal funding. This funding includes resources for services, such as health care, education, and roads. Religious leaders can play an important role in encouraging their communities to fill out their forms. You can visit <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/> now to see your area's 2000 Census mail participation rate and check the site daily for updates on how your area is doing in terms of 2010 participation, beginning March 22. Talking points and outreach strategies are presented at <http://2010.census.gov/partners/toolkits/toolkits-take10.php>

**THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS: “BARDO: TIBETAN ART OF THE AFTERLIFE”**

Date: Now until September 6, 2010

Location: The Rubin Museum, 150 W 17th st. New York, NY 10011

Bardo: Tibetan Art of the Afterlife comprises rarely seen paintings, sculptures, illuminated manuscript pages of the Tibetan Book of the Dead, ritual cards, and other artifacts created principally as tools to instill an awareness of the impermanence of life and to prepare the living for the appearance of serene and searing visions in death's aftermath. Some 63 works of art will be displayed alongside room-size shrines, models, and digital visualizations.

- **LAUNCH OF MANHATTAN BOROUGH BUDGET PRIORITIES SURVEY**

Date: Now until Friday, March 5, 2010  
Website: <http://www.mbpo.webserves.us/>

The first-ever Manhattan Borough Board Budget Priorities Survey is available online. The new survey, which takes less than 5 minutes to complete, will allow the public to register their priorities for the City budget online. Responses will be accepted until March 5, 2010.

- **NYC NEW SANCTUARY COALITION SPRING FUNDRAISER BANQUET**

Date: Saturday, March 6, 2010, 7-9:30pm  
Location: Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Sq South, NY, NY

The Banquet will honor three allies in media, politics, and law. The New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC is an interfaith network of immigrant families, faith communities, and organizations, standing together to publicly resist unjust deportations, to create a humane instead of a hostile public discourse about immigration, and ultimately to bring about reform of the United States' flawed immigration system. To RSVP contact Mark Marsh at 718-297-9733 or [Markmarsh25@hotmail.com](mailto:Markmarsh25@hotmail.com)

- **A SYMPOSIUM ON THE LIFE OF HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD**

Date: Sunday, March 7, 2010 1:30-3:30pm  
Location: Bait-uz-Zafar Mosque, 118-15 McLaughlin Ave, Holliswood, New York 11423

The program is sponsored by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of New York. Some of the speakers will include: Dr. Kareem Sharif, Ibrahim Abdul-Matin author of "Green Deen: How American Muslims Go Green," Imam Daud A. Hanif, and more. RSVP to [info.newyork@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:info.newyork@ahmadiyya.us) or at 917-363-3673 or 718-479-3345.

- **NATIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER FOR THE HEALING OF AIDS**

Date: Sunday, March 7, 2010-March 13, 2010  
Location: Anywhere

The Balm In Gilead is calling on ALL believers of every creed, color and culture to prayer and educate the people of the United States about the major public health crisis of HIV/AIDS in our country. Get Information on How Your Faith Community Can Participate! Register Your Congregation Today! [www.NWPHA.ORG](http://www.NWPHA.ORG). To Become a Partner in Prayer And Education. For the Healing of AIDS call 888-225-6243 or email [info@nationalweekofprayerforthehealingofAIDS.org](mailto:info@nationalweekofprayerforthehealingofAIDS.org).

- **SAY NO TO GITMO AT HOME AND ABROAD: VIGIL FOR FAHAD HASHMI.**

Date: Monday, March 8, 2010, 6:00pm - 7:00pm  
Location: Across from the Metropolitan Correctional Center, 150 Park Row (at Pearl Street) in lower Manhattan

Monday, March 8th will mark the 1,371st day of Fahad Hashmi's incarceration and the 871st day since the implementation of SAMs (Special Administrative Measures) in his case, under which he has been held in pre-trial solitary confinement. As human rights groups and psychiatrists around the world have noted, prolonged solitary confinement constitutes torture and often results in permanent psychological damage. Fahad's trial is set for late April and our work is now more important than ever. Please join Theatres Against War and CAIR-NY on Monday night and help draw attention to this gross abuse of civil liberties and human rights happening right in our own backyard. Please wear something orange. Invite your friends to attend the vigil. 550 scholars, artists, and writers - including David Cole, Henry Louis Gates, Judith Butler, Angela Davis, Eric Foner, Noam Chomsky, Tony Judt, Susan Faludi, and many more signed a statement of concern in support of Syed Fahad Hashmi. Visit <http://www.educatorsforcivilliberties.org/> and [www.freefahad.com](http://www.freefahad.com) to learn more about the case.

- **IMMIGRATION AND ISLAM**

Date, Monday, March 8, 2010, 7:00pm

Location: Proshansky Auditorium, 365 Fifth Avenue between 34th and 35th Streets

This program will examine questions such as: What impact do Muslim immigrants and Islamic practices have on the societies they join? What unique challenges do Muslim immigrants face? How do Western nations promote self-perceived openness in the face of anti-Muslim sentiment in their countries? Featuring Jose Casanova, Professor of Sociology at Georgetown University and a Senior Fellow in Georgetown's Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs; Tariq Modood, Professor of Sociology at the University of Bristol and Director of the University's Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Citizenship; and Aristide Zolberg, Walter P. Eberstadt Professor of Political Science at The New School University. Chase Robinson, Provost of the Graduate Center, will moderate the discussion. Co-sponsored by the Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center at the Graduate Center. Event is free but you must register: <http://www.greatissuesforum.org/>

- **PHAGWAH CELEBRATION**

Date: Thursday, March 11, 2010, 9:30am-12:00pm

Location: 118-09 Sutter Ave

United Hindu Cultural Council of USA, in collaboration with the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau, 106th Precinct, 102 Precinct, and the Queens Borough President, Hon. Helen Marshall invite you to attend the Phagwah Celebration. Phagwah is a Hindu festival celebrated by Caribbean Hindus, also known as Holi in India. Named after the lunar month of Phagun (Hindi: Phalgun), the festival celebrates the triumph of good over evil and marks the start of the Hindu New Year. Celebrations include traditional music and dance. RSVP as soon as possible to Chan or Vidya Jamoona at 718 323 8900, or 106th Precinct Community Affairs at 718 845 2228 or Detective Theogene at 646 610 7870.

- **YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE PERFORMANCE OF THE CASTLE!**

Date: Friday, March 12, 2010 – 7:45pm

Location: Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 7 West 83rd Street

The Fortune Society is pleased to invite members of New York's religious and spiritual communities to a FREE performance of The Castle, a play by Fortune Society Founder David Rothenberg, hosted by Congregation Rodeph Sholom. The Castle is a dramatic and inspirational tale of four individuals' courageous paths to rebuilding their lives after a combined 70 years in prison. It recently concluded a 14-month run Off-Broadway. We invite you to see the play and to talk to us about bringing this profound production to your place of worship. Please RSVP to Rodeph Sholom by March 10! 646-454-3102 or [brotherhood@crsnyc.org](mailto:brotherhood@crsnyc.org)

- **SCREENING OF SOPHIE SCHOLL**

Date: Saturday, March 13, 2010, 8pm

Location: New Drop Moravian Church, 2205 Richmond Road, Staten Island, NY 10306

As part of the "Christian Response to the Holocaust" movie series a screening of Sophia Scholl will be held with a discussion panel afterwards. The movie depicts the last six days of the life of Sophia Scholl; the only female member of the underground resistance movement, called the White Rose, in Munich.

- **VOICES OF FAITH FOR PEACE**

Date: Saturday, March 13, 2010, 1pm-4:30pm

Location: St. Lawrence of Canterbury Church, 655 Old Country rd (off Deer Park Ave North of N. State Dix Hills, NY)

Gathering of Light Multifaith Spiritual Fellowship (GOL) invites the many diverse faith groups of Long Island to pray for one common effort: peace on earth. Participants and audience are welcome to come and go all afternoon. The day will consist of 12 different faith traditions from multiple communities, chanting a simple chant/ (song) prayer from their tradition for 15 minutes. It will total 3 1/2 hours of continuous sacred sound. It is a profoundly powerful event. This year we will be making origami peace cranes to extend the work of Sadako Sasaki of Hiroshima. For more information contact: Rev. Jo Ann Barrett, at 631-265-3822 or [gatheringLT@aol.com](mailto:gatheringLT@aol.com).

- **BUILDING BRIDGES COALITION OF STATEN ISLAND: 7TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH PASSOVER SEDER**

Date: Sunday, March 14, 2010, at 3pm

Location: St. Teresa's Church, 1634 Victory Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10314 – Corner of Slosson Avenue

Reservations and payment required by March 4, 2010 as seating is limited. Cuisine will be by Kaplan's Kosher Catering-Make. Please make checks payable to "Building Bridges Coalition of

Staten Island Corp.” The cost will be \$28.00 Adults/\$15.00 Children (12 and under). Email [information@buildingbridgessi.org](mailto:information@buildingbridgessi.org) for information about how to reserve your spot or call 718-816-1998.

- **BODY, HEART, MIND: SOMATICS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Date: Monday, March 22-Thursday, March 25, 2010

Location: John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Bill Leicht and colleagues will teach this course on embodied peace building. Topics include: Body Awareness for Conflict Resolution with Paul Linden; Transforming Conflict into Connection and Healing with David Weinstock; Peace Dojos for Nonviolence Development with William Leicht. Visit [John Jay registration website](#) to apply.

- **FIRST CONFERENCE FOR THE AFRICAN IMMIGRANT VICTIMS PROGRAM**

Date: Wednesday, March 31st from 9:00am to 1:30pm

Location: Kings County District Attorney’s Office, 350 Jay Street, 15th Floor Brooklyn, New York

The African Immigrant Victims Program at the Kings County District Attorney’s Office is proud to announce its first conference. The program was designed to bridge the gaps between the African community and the Criminal Justice system here in Brooklyn. The goal of the program is to provide culturally appropriate services for African immigrant victims and to build strong relationships with the African immigrant agencies in New York City. There will be presenters from these agencies at the conference and they will be provided information about how to provide services to this community and where to find resources. If you have any questions, please contact Jessie Bekoe at 718- 250-3556

- **CHAPLAINS UNDER FIRE**

Date: Tuesday, April 6, at 6:30 pm

Location: Walter Reade Theater (165 West 65th Street)

Filmmakers Lawrence and Nickelson spent three months in Afghanistan and Iraq to examine the complex world of military chaplains. This new independent documentary examines not only how chaplains help soldiers cope but also the moral and political controversies triggered at home and on the battlefield. For more information about tickets, visit [filmlinc.com](http://filmlinc.com). For more information about the film, visit [www.chaplainsunderfire.com](http://www.chaplainsunderfire.com). Chaplains Under Fire will be screened by The Film Society of Lincoln Center's Independents Night. Followed by a Q&A with the filmmakers and a reception in the Furman Gallery.

- **GALA FOR THE COMMISSION ON THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH SYSTEM**

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010, 6-8:30pm

Location: Orensanz Cultural Center on the Lower East Side

We will be honoring very special Public Health Heroes and Sheroes (in alphabetical order): Maha Attieh, Arab American Family Support Center; LaRay Brown and Marlene Zurack, the Health and Hospitals Corporation; State Senator Tom Duane, Chair Senate Health Committee; Barbara Edmonds and Wanda Williams, DC 37; Lisa Sbrana, Legal Aid Health Law Unit; Dr. Jaime Torres, Latinos for National Health Insurance. Contact CPHS for additional information, ladyhealth@cphsnyc.org

- **GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS!**

Have a great idea for a community improvement project? Apply for a New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award! Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to volunteer-led groups to work on projects that bring neighbors together and that have positive community impacts. Our next grant deadline is March 14. For a grant application and for more info, visit [www.citizensnyc.org/grants](http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants), or contact Arif Ullah at 212.822.9580 /grants@citizensnyc.org

- **GREENFAITH FELLOWSHIP**

GreenFaith Fellowship Program and National Religious-Environmental Initiative for Lay & Ordained Leaders Seeks Applications for its fourth class of Fellows, with an application deadline of May 3. Interested candidates should see [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org) or contact Rabbi Lawrence Troster, the Fellowship Director, at [rabbiltroster@greenfaith.org](mailto:rabbiltroster@greenfaith.org) or 732-565-7740, ext. 302. Lay and ordained leaders from diverse religious traditions, and seminary students who have completed a year or equivalent of full-time study, are invited to apply. Deadline: May 3, 2010.

- **MULTI-FAITH PEACE INTERNSHIP**

Date: July 6-31, 2010

Location: Stony Point Center, 17 Crickettown Road, Stony Point, NY

You must be 18 to 28 years of age. Live in an intentional multifaith residential community, study nonviolence and faith-based community organizing, plant and tend CLT gardens, enjoy hiking, kayaking, drumming, ropes courses, big puppet making and good food. Interns will co-create their time together with elders from each tradition and will support CLT's Multifaith Family Peace Camp. Please contact Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb at [lgottlieb@stonypoint.org](mailto:lgottlieb@stonypoint.org). [www.stonypointcenter.org](http://www.stonypointcenter.org)

- **AMERICORPS INTERNS FOR HIRE**

Date: September 2010-August 2011

Available: Full-time, college-grad interns to work in direct-care addressing any of a variety of community needs. Starts Sep 2010, ends mid-Aug 2011. These are AmeriCorps members, pre-screened and highly qualified, who are relocating to NYC to work toward social justice and

human rights through service. Worksites pay \$24,000 for the entire year of full-time work. No other overhead or costs to worksites. Health insurance, housing, and food are covered by the sponsoring program: [www.NewYorkInternProgram.org](http://www.NewYorkInternProgram.org), a ministry of St. Mary's Episcopal Church-Manhattanville. For further info: Sarah Nazimova-Baum: Nazimova-Baum@earthlink.net or [NewYorkInternProgram@gmail.com](mailto:NewYorkInternProgram@gmail.com).

- **NEW RESOURCES ON CREDIT CARD LAWS AND CHANGES**

Defendyourdollars.org has provided a new link to a tip sheet about what to watch out for regarding debt settlement programs. This link includes a Spanish version also. [http://www.defendyourdollars.org/2010/01/what\\_you\\_need\\_to\\_know\\_about\\_de.html](http://www.defendyourdollars.org/2010/01/what_you_need_to_know_about_de.html).

If you've received a letter from your credit card company or bank telling you that the terms of your card agreement or checking/debit account are changing, Defend Your Dollars would love to take a look to help consumers like you from being tricked. Go to [http://cu.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/DYD\\_credit\\_card\\_tricks](http://cu.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/DYD_credit_card_tricks) for more information about changes in credit card laws, and the new law governing overdraft loans.

- **VOICES FROM VARICK: DETAINEE GRIEVANCES AT NEW YORK CITY'S ONLY FEDERAL IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITY**

[Voices from Varick](#) analyzes one year of grievances filed by immigration detainees housed in the Varick Federal Detention Facility. These include immigrants' stories of inadequate medical care and staff mistreatment. Voices from Varick is a Report of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

- **READ AND SIGN THE NYC'S FOOD PLEDGE**

The Manhattan Borough President has released a report entitled, "[FoodNYC: A Blueprint for a Sustainable Food System](#)," which will for the first time present a single, comprehensive vision for food policy in this city. The report, a follow up to the NYC Food & Climate Summit held with the non-profit Just Food and New York University in December, outlines an agenda that will create a more sustainable food system by prioritizing products from New York State, increasing access to healthy food in underserved neighborhoods, and expanding the food economy. Then [sign the NYC Food Pledge](#), and join thousands of New Yorkers in committing to explore the health, environmental and economic impacts of the food you consume.