



Additional May 2012 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Dear Friends,

We wanted to let you know about additional events taking place this month that might be of interest to you. We especially invite you to attend our upcoming “Debate in the Neighborhood” final tournament, as well as our co-sponsored event in honor of Mother’s day, “We All Have Mothers!” Information on both programs is below.

***** *Upcoming Interfaith Center Events* *****

“Debate in the Neighborhood” Final Tournament

Date: Sunday, May 20

Time: 9:00 am Welcome; 10:00 - 4:00 pm Elimination Rounds; **4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Final Tournament and Awards Ceremony**

Location: East Side High School, 420 E. 12th Street (near 1st Avenue)

FREE – No RSVP required.

The high point of our “Debate in the Neighborhood” program is this final tournament, where mixed teams of students from the Hindu Temple Society of North America in Flushing, the Jamaica Muslim Center, and the Sikh Cultural Society and Gurdwara in Ozone Park (in partnership with UNITED SIKHS), will debate the statement “Ethnic Profiling is a Justified Means of Combating Terrorism.” Come to cheer on these future leaders of Queens and New York City as they debate this matter of concern to every American.

A collaboration of ICNY and the **International Debate Education Association (IDEA)**, and funded by **Open Society Youth Initiative**, Debate in the Neighborhood aims to engage immigrant and first-generation students in the enriching educational tradition of debate, and to foster understanding, cooperation, and a free and lively exchange of ideas among young New Yorkers from diverse cultures, ethnicities and religious traditions.

For more information, contact Kevin Childress at (212) 870-3510 or kevin@interfaithcenter.org.

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

We All Have Mothers! Jewish & Muslim Women in Conversation

Date: Wednesday, May 16

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, Amsterdam Avenue at 76th St.

In honor of Mother's Day, we invite you to join Jewish and Muslim women to share all we have in common as mothers and daughters. We will study Biblical and Quranic texts, as well as selections from the Hadith of Muslim tradition and the midrashim of Jewish tradition.

Participating will be **Daisy Khan**, Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement (ASMA) and JCC Executive Director **Rabbi Joy Levitt**. *Co-sponsored by the JCC, ASMA, and the Interfaith Center of New York.* For more information: call 646-505-5708 or see www.jccmanhattan.org/jewishlearning.

All tickets are \$10. [Click here](#) to register.

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

New York Times: Mother's Day Letter to Mrs. Michele Obama on Fracking

On Saturday, May 11, 2012, Mrs. Angela Monti Fox, mother of the producer of Gasland, a film on hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, will publish a public letter to Mrs. Michele Obama stating community concerns regarding the health risks posed to children by natural gas extraction. The ongoing U.S. fracking boom has spurred the proliferation of drill rigs in backyards, schoolyards, and family farms across America, in locations where children live,

play, and learn. Please purchase a copy of the NY Times to read the letter, co-signed by many women, including religious leaders in ICNY's network. To learn more about Gasland and the health risks of hydraulic fracturing, please visit <http://www.gaslandthemovie.com/>

"Support the Sisters" Vigils in Support of Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Date: Tuesdays, May 15, 22, and 29

Time: 4:30 to 6:00 pm

Location: In front of St. Patrick's Cathedral, 460 Madison Ave.

Call to Action Metro NY, together with the Manhattan chapter of Voice of the Faithful, is organizing vigils on three Tuesdays in May to support the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, LCWR. Similar vigils will take place on the same days in various cities throughout the nation. The vigils are a response to the Vatican's assault on the largest leadership organization for U.S. women religious. The Vatican has appointed Seattle Archbishop Peter Sartain to bring the LCWR more in line with the "teachings and discipline of the Church" on such things as human sexuality, life issues, and feminist themes. You are encouraged to bring signs which reflect our support for the sisters. "We are all nuns", the headline for Nicholas Kristof's column in the NYTimes, could be an example. Signs should be as large as possible and the words should be easily read from a distance. For background information, see <http://nconline.org/news/women-religious/vatican-orders-lcwr-be-closer-teachings-and->

[discipline-church](#) or http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/19/us/vatican-reprimands-us-nuns-group.html?_r=1.

“So Called” Verses of Violence in Abrahamic Texts

Date: Thursday, May 17

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Turkish Cultural Center/Peace Islands Institute, 535 Fifth Avenue, 6th Floor (Enter at 44th Street)

This forum of Abraham’s Table will explore “so called” verses of violence in Torah, Bible and Qur’an. A general perspective on how to understand these verses will be studied with a sample interpretation of such verses. Speaking will be Rabbi Marc Schneier, President of The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, Rev. N.J. L’Heureux Jr., Executive Director of The Queens Federation of Churches, and Imam Shamsi Ali, Imam and director of Jamaica Muslim Center in Queens. Kosher food will be available. Click [here](#) to RSVP. For more information, call 212.510.8644 or see www.peaceislands.org.

The UN Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action brown bag lunch: “How to Use Empathy in Conflict”

Date: Thursday, May 17

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Location: One UN Plaza (DC-1), Julia Taft Conference Room, 20th Floor

This experiential workshop on How to Use Empathy in Conflict will be facilitated by Mr. Marty Epstein, who presented his work on Non-Violent Communication at a 2011 brown bag lunch and has facilitated similar workshops in other workplace settings in the public and private sectors. The workshop is designed to provide tools to improve communication and cooperation, and support us to learn to have effective conversations not only in the workplace, but in our lives in general. While much of the session will focus on equipping the individual with tools to improve communication and address conflict constructively, the potential of these tools to be applied in a broader context will also be explored. This workshop can facilitate improved understanding of co-workers, better cooperation and collaboration, and contribute to an enhanced, productive working environment as well as real practical skills to be used in the field.

Please be informed that there will be one organized pick-up at 12.45 p.m. in the DC-1 lobby for participants who do not have a UN pass which is needed to enter the building. We regret that arrivals after that time cannot be picked up and escorted into the building and will not be able to attend.

2nd Annual Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Event

Date: Thursday, May 17

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: Bethzatha Church of God, 85-20 57th Avenue, Elmhurst, NY

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander month, Queens Council Member Karen Koslowitz, with several Asian American organizations, will host the 2nd annual Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Event. The evening will honor outstanding Asian Americans in the community and include several exciting dance and cultural performances. To RSVP, email koslowitz@council.nyc.gov or call 718.544-8800.

"The Uses and Abuses of Sacred Texts: The Hebrew Bible, The New Testament, The Qur'an"

Date: Sunday, May 20

Time: 12:45 to 3:15 pm

Location: Cathedral House Conference Room, Cathedral of St. John Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue

Registration Fee: \$20.00 (includes lunch)

What do the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament and the Qur'an really say about contemporary issues? In recent days, we have heard public figures justify their previously held opinions and biases by quoting from one of these holy books. Are these proof texts legitimate? Can these quotes, taken out of context, be valid as proofs of "higher values"? We will have the opportunity to look at these frequently quoted texts, and see what they really mean. With Rabbi Leonard Schoolman, Dr. Deirdre Good, and Dr. Hussein Rashid. For more information contact office@saintsaviour.org or 212-316-7483.

Help Raise New York State's Minimum Wage – Letter Sign-On Request

As you may know, an important economic justice campaign is now underway in New York State to raise the minimum wage, from its current \$7.25 an hour to \$ 8.50. This would be a significant step in helping raise hundreds of thousands of low waged workers across our state out of poverty. Please consider signing on to [this Clergy Letter](#) to Governor Cuomo in support of raising the minimum wage. To sign on, please RSVP to labrelig@aol.com with your name, title, and contact information.

We are trying to gather as many signatures as possible by May 18th.

For more information about the campaign go to: www.raisetheminimumwage.org

Thank you for your support and all you do for justice!

The UN Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action Brown Bag Lunch on Reconciliation Leaders: Training Leaders for Sustainable Development

Date: Thursday, May 31

Time: 1:00 – 2.30 pm

Location: 1 UN Plaza (DC-1), Julia Taft Conference Room, 20th floor

The Commission on Global Governance's report emphasizes that "the world needs leaders made strong by vision, sustained by ethics and revealed by political courage that looks to the longer term and future generations for whom the present is held in trust". In light of this recognition, the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will, developed for the Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service (GMRS), provides individuals and groups the perspectives, tools and techniques for multilateral approaches to sustainable development.

Reconciliation Leaders, the leadership that delivers interventions in the GMRS model are taught a systems-based approach and provided with a toolbox to facilitate reconciliation interventions in community, organizational, national and global settings. Using interactive exercises and drawing on their experiences as Reconciliation Leaders with UN entities in conflict-affected states such as Timor-Leste, Sudan, Philippines and in New York before and in the immediate post 9/11 period, the workshop will illustrate applications of the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation and the growth of the Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service. Presenters include Virginia Swain, Michiko Koruda, and Sarah Sayeed. For more information, go to <http://www.global-leader.org> and, www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org.