



May 2012 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Dear Friends,

Tomorrow on May Day, "Occupy" activists and their labor & immigration allies are launching the "99% Spring." **OccupyFaithNYC will gather at 4pm at the Gandhi statue in Union Square Park tomorrow**; faith leaders will be gathering as early as 3:30 pm. A General Assembly beginning at 5pm at Union Square's NW corner will be followed at 5:30 by a march to Zuccotti Park. Faith leaders are invited to provide a nonviolent, faith-based voice for justice. **Text @OccupyFaith to 23559** to receive live text updates. Comprehensive details for May Day events go to: <http://maydaynyc.org/> Twitter- follow [@OWSMayDay](https://twitter.com/OWSMayDay) and hashtags #MayDay and #MINYC

Next month, ICNY hopes to see you at 10 Desbrosses Street, in Tribeca on June 11 for the **10th Annual James Parks Morton Awards Dinner honoring 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Leymah Gbowee and Documentary Filmmaker and Philanthropist Abigail Disney**. The cocktail reception begins at 6:30 pm, followed by the dinner and awards ceremony at 7:30 pm. A screening of Ms. Disney's film "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" will precede the event at 5:00 pm, and [beautiful handmade quilts](#) from Quageh, a Liberian women's quilting cooperative, will be displayed – and on sale – throughout the evening. To reserve your spot at this event please contact Ellen Greeley at ellen@interfaithcenter.org, call (212) 870-3511, or visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1769918875?ref=ebtn>.

Please see ICNY article entitled "[Mosque growth study good news for Americans](#)" The article notes that a recent study showing 900 new mosques have been built in the United States since the year 2000 is a positive sign that America's Constitutional values are in good working order. For those of you following our "**Debate in the Neighborhood**" program (see details below), we encourage you to checkout [this 5 minute video](#) overview, which features some of the students in active debate. Details of the recent civil disobedience trial of diverse faith leaders and activists protesting NYPD's Stop and Frisk policy can be found on <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304050304577374480207883616.html>.

Below we list programs offered by the Interfaith Center of New York in May. 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 Events* *****

Debate in the Neighborhood Final Tournament

Date: Sunday, May 20

Time & Location: TBA – watch for announcements on www.interfaithcenter.org, [Twitter](#) or our [Facebook](#) page.

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. At this final tournament, mixed teams of students from the Hindu Temple Society of North America (in Flushing, Queens), the Jamaica Muslim Center, and the Sikh Cultural Society and Gurdwara (in Ozone Park) will debate on a topic relating to United States national security. Come to cheer on these future leaders of the Queens community as they debate matters of concern for every American. For more information, contact Kevin Childress at (212) 870-3510 or kevin@interfaithcenter.org.

Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support (a Joint Project of the Interfaith Center of New York and the Harlem Community Justice Center)

How to Become a “Welcoming Community” for Members, Family and Friends Returning From Prison --- A Training by the Rev. Darren A. Ferguson and Others

Date: Monday, May 21

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Infinity Mennonite Church, 2522 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. NY, NY, 10039

When someone comes home from prison to your community, including your faith community: how can you let them know that you are glad they are back? How can the faith community offer active support to the individual and their family? There is a lot you can do! To RSVP, or for more information, Contact: Rev. Darren Ferguson, Outreach Coordinator: 212-870-3513, Darren@interfaithcenter.org.

The 26th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice - Together in Service: Building Interfaith Partnerships for Social Action (registration required)

Date: Wednesday, May 30

Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Location: The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, Sockman Lounge (enter at 60 Claremont Avenue; #1 train to 116th & Columbia University)

Religious leaders from many traditions and communities are already working together on shared social concerns. The 26th Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat for Social Justice will give them an opportunity to share their experiences of interfaith collaboration, and develop strategies for interfaith coalition building. This conversation will contribute to the life of our city in a number of important ways. This one-day program, inspired by ICNY’s multi-year Catholic-Muslim Social Service Partnership Project, and made possible by the support of the GHR Foundation, will bring together religious leaders to:

- Learn about multi-faith action-oriented partnerships for service and social issue advocacy.
- Share successful strategies for building such partnerships, as well as the accomplishments and challenges of established interfaith coalitions.
- Discuss the process of program evaluation: How can we measure the effectiveness of interfaith partnerships in light of grant-makers' concerns?

To RSVP, complete the [reply form](#) and return by fax or email. To request an RSVP form, or for questions, contact Sarah Sayeed at (212) 870-3519 or ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org.

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

“Illuminated: The Art of Sacred Books” at the Rubin Museum of Art

Date: Now through September 3

Time: See <http://www.rmanyc.org/pages/load/50> for hours.

Location: The Rubin Museum of Art, 150 W. 17 St., NYC 10011

Gold, silver, and other precious materials were often used to adorn objects of religious devotion, especially the sacred books of the living traditions of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Christianity, and Islam. Highlights from the exhibition include a bifolio of the famous “Blue Qur’an,” written in gold on indigo colored velum in Tunisia between the 9th and 10th centuries; a Japanese Buddhist Sutra scroll written in gold on indigo paper in 1720; medieval Gospels written in gold letters on blue and purple parchment; illuminated pages of Jain Sutras; and illustrated Indian Hindu classics. For more information, see <http://www.rmanyc.org/>.

The UN Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action brown bag lunch discussion: Making it Work Better – Critical Lessons in Peacebuilding & Prevention

Date: Tuesday, May 1

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

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

An overview of key developments, challenges & opportunities to improve the impact & effectiveness of peacebuilding, prevention and peace support operations. PLEASE NOTE 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 grounds pass needed to enter the building. Arrivals after that time cannot be picked up and escorted into the building and will not be able to attend. For more information, contact Gay Rosenblum-Kumar, Executive Secretary, UN Interagency Framework Team for Preventive Action, 212-906-5422 or gay.rosenblum-kumar@undp.org.

Big Apple Cogers

Date: Wednesday, May 2

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Professor Thom's, 219 2nd Avenue (2nd Avenue between 13th and 14th street)

The International Debate Education Association (www.idebate.org) is affiliating with the Cogers Trust (www.cogers.org) to hold a monthly debate event in NYC. The Society of Cogers, which was founded in the City of London in 1755 as a coffee bar debating society, can claim to be the oldest “free speech” forum in the world, and is quite possibly the oldest debating society in the world. IDEA is bringing this tradition to NY with the introduction of the Big Apple Cogers, which will meet the first Wednesday of each month at Professor Thom’s Bar (www.professorthoms.com) for a lively debate on current events. For more information, see <https://www.facebook.com/BigAppleCogers> or contact Nina Watkins, nwatkins@idebate.org.

Solidarity Through Service

Date: Thursday, May 3

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: The kitchen of the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew (263 W. 86th St.)

Spring of Solidarity is an exciting multi-faith season of action, with 10 congregations across all 5 boroughs of New York City coming together to mark World Malaria Day, create lasting relationships and make a difference on the local and global scales through doing service and raising funds. On Thursday, May 3rd diverse communities will come together for a service project: B’nai Jeshurun Synagogue and the Church of St. Paul and St. Andrew run a homeless shelter together, and they need our help! Volunteers will gather at 2:30 pm to cook dinner for the shelter, and reflect about the role of food in each of our traditions. Learn more at www.unitedsikhs.org/solidarity, or email hannah.m.shirey@gmail.com.

The Healing Center Workshop: “Economic Empowerment in Domestic Violence”

Date: Friday, May 4

Time: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location: Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church located at 6753 4th Avenue (between 68th and Senator Streets) in Brooklyn.

The workshop will be in Spanish, and will focus on financial information, bankruptcy, ruined credit, properties and much more. Presenting at this workshop will be a legal expert and a financial consultant. For more information, contact Maria Santiago, 718-238-5138.

“Oh, You Mean Cellophane and All That Crap,” presented by The Calder Foundation

Date: Saturday, May 5

Time: 2:00 pm to 2:00 am

Location: NYC location to be disclosed 3 May and schedule of programming available on calder.org/cellophane.

Twelve hours of visual and performance art, music, film and video programming that takes as its point of departure a 1933 sound-making mobile that conjures into space not a tangible representation of an object, but the disquieting experience of sound and anticipation. Provoking a similarly immersive experience of immateriality and its transformation of space, so integral to

Calder's work, will be works by contemporary artists and performers that swell beyond their material confines, activating the larger space around them with such phenomena as light, scent, sound, air, anticipation, and disorientation.

Campaign to Free Russell Maroon Shoats

Date: Saturday, May 5

Time: 6-8 PM

Location: St Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 West 126 Street, NY, NY

Russell Maroon Shoats has spent 40 years in prison, 30 of them in solitary confinement: cruel and unusual punishment for the "crime" of being a political inspiration. Help launch the international campaign to free Shoats, and join in an evening of music, spoken word and discussion on Maroon's life, featuring Theresa Shoatz, Maroon's daughter and Philadelphia-based prison justice activist; Fred Ho, internationally renowned saxophone player and composer; Arturo O'Farrill, legendary Cuban-American pianist; and Magdalena Gomez, poet and veteran of the Nuyorican Poets Movement. Free Admission. Contact Joel Kovel or Kanya D'Almeida for questions or more info: <http://russellmaroonshoats.wordpress.com/>.

Youth Summer Job & Internship Fair

Date: Tuesday, May 8

Time: 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Location: Lehman High School, 3000 East Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY

Sponsored by The Association of the Merchants & Business Professionals of Westchester Square Inc. For students or out-of-school youth (ages 14-24), looking for a summer job or internship. For more information contact Raquel Vazquez at CM Vacca's Office, 718-931-1721.

Raising the Age Community Forum

Date: Tuesday, May 8

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: Taino Towers, Crystal Ballroom, 240 E. 123rd Street, New York, NY

Hosted by Child Welfare Organizing Project, Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, NYCJJ & Community Connections for Youth. Did you know that New York is one of only TWO states that sets the age of criminal responsibility as low as 16? Would you like to learn more about this law, and about new legislation being proposed to change it? Come to our community forum and share your thoughts. Dialogue featuring the Honorable Judge Michael A. Corriero, executive director and founder New York Center for Juvenile Justice. For more information, or to RSVP: 212-348-3000 or allison@cwop.org. Register online at www.socializr.com/event/326741760.

Ancestral Chant Concert

Date: Saturday, June 9

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts, on Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus

Order tickets now for Ancestral Chant, a concert celebrating the lives and legacies of Cheryl Byron, Pearl Primus, and Nina Simone. Presented by Something Positive, a performing arts and education organization dedicated to the arts and cultures of the African diaspora, including the sacred arts of Afro-Caribbean religions. For more information, and to order tickets, see: <http://kumbletheater.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=460351>.