



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

Dear Friends,

As we build our partnership with the Courts, a seed planted nearly three years ago recently bore fruit. At a 2007 Courts Roundtable about domestic violence, religious leaders discussed the challenge of arranging a place to exchange children when orders of protection are in effect. The places considered most safe for such exchanges were police precincts and McDonalds-- until just two weeks ago, when we launched a safe-exchange partnership project between the Courts and houses of worship. Through this pilot program, St. Luke's A.M.E. Church will serve as a place of safe exchange for supervised visitation. In preparation, staff and volunteers at St. Luke's were trained by CONNECT and Safe Horizon about domestic violence and safe exchanges. We will keep you updated as the program unfolds, and a successful pilot may open possibilities for other houses of worship to take part.

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.

- **QUEENS RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS COURT PROGRAM:
“FAMILIES AND FAMILY COURT”**

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2010, 9-11am

Location: 151-02 Jamaica Ave (across from Rufus King park) Queens, NY 11432

Hundreds of thousands of families turn to the New York City Family Courts each year seeking stability and safety – victims of domestic violence, those paying or seeking child support, foster care, adoption, and families trying to resolve custody or visitation disputes – are just some of the important matters resolved in Family Court. Yet, despite the importance of these issues, Family Court can be a challenging and overwhelming place. This workshop will provide participants with the tools to better empower the families in their communities to successfully navigate the complex Family Court. It will include an overview of the Family Court, including how to begin a case, find a lawyer, and what to expect in the courthouse. In addition, all participants will be provided with a full resource portfolio that they can take back to their communities. RSVP at (212) 870-3515 or anushavan@interfaithcenter.org Please leave your name, address, telephone number, and email address.

- **THE EIGHTH ANNUAL JAMES PARKS MORTON AWARDS DINNER**

Date: Tuesday, June 8th, 2010 6:30pm cocktails, 7:30 pm Dinner

Location: Tribeca Rooftop, 2 Debrosses St. (Canal and Hudson Sts)

The Gala will honor composer and musician Philip Glass. Glass is famous for his opera *Satyagraha*, *Einstein on the Beach*, *Akhmaten*, *Koyaanisqatsi*, among other award winning compositions. Musical guests include: Wendy Sutter, cellist; Erol Josue performing traditional Haitian music with Jowee Omicil. The master of ceremonies will be Sam Waterston, the award winning actor from *Law and Order*. To purchase tickets please call 212-870-3510.

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

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

The Interfaith Center of New York has partnered with the Institute for Leadership on a New Diabetes Initiative. We are asking Faith Leaders to sign the “I Will Fight Diabetes” Pledge and the Listserv. In doing so you are pledging to fight the Diabetes epidemic that is the fourth leading cause of death 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. Come partner with us to help make these numbers smaller and make New York a healthier city. Go to:

<http://www.faithfightsdabetes.org/join/index.php> to sign the pledge now! 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 or 212-870-3519.

- **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

*******OTHER EVENTS IN THE NEW YORK AREA*******

- **MARCH AND RALLY ON MAY DAY TO DEMAND FULL RIGHTS FOR IMMIGRANTS AND WORKERS IN OUR CITY AND NATION**

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2010 Assemble at 11am- March at Noon

Location: Forley Square, Lower Manhattan- at Worth St (Between Centre and Lafayette St)

Please join NYC religious, labor, community and immigrant organizations for what should be a historic March and Rally on May Day to demand full rights for immigrants and workers in our city and nation, as well as a public program to create jobs for all. As faith leaders and our communities, we march for human rights and to create the Beloved Community!

- **BRONX FOOD SUMMIT: “LET’S TALK FOOD”**

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2010 —9am- 5pm

Location: Hostos Community College, 500 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY

Just Food, Why Hunger and the Baum Forum invite you to: Let's Talk Food! The Bronx Food Summit will mobilize forces to address the lack of fresh, healthy food choices and to challenge the dietary habits of our community. Bronx residents have the power to create change. This event will provide the forum where that change begins. Please visit www.bronxfood.org to register online and learn more! For more information on becoming a sponsor or partner organization, facilitating workshops or becoming a volunteer, please contact Regina Ginyard, General Coordinator, at bronxfoodsummit@gmail.com.

- **THE LAUNCHING OF KIDSPIRIT ONLINE**

Date: May 3, 2010

www.kidspiritonline.com

KidSpirit Magazine—winner of the 2009 NAPPA Gold Award and “Top Pick” in the Books and Magazines category— launches KidSpirit Online, a website poised to be the most significant forum to date for empowering teenagers to explore ethical, spiritual, and philosophical questions, and to aid adults working in the field of youth development. Teens are now able to comment on each other's work, create forums to further discussions inspired by the magazine, and start groups related to the teen Editorial Board's mission to “help young people of the world show their colors and share each other's belief systems, cultures, art, traditions, ideas, and values.” Members over 13 can also express their ideas on personal pages and blogs.

- **SCREENING OF FREDRICK MARX'S NEW FILM “JOURNEY FROM ZANSKAR”**

Date: May 5-26, 2010

Location: Rubin Museum

From the co-creator of Hoop Dreams comes a film about a daring attempt to save Tibetan Buddhism in the Himalayas. To view the trailer, please visit www.journeyfromzanskar.com/trailer.asp Screenings on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, and a Friday in May are \$12. See schedule and ticket information for all screenings at www.rmanyc.org/zanskar

- **135TH ST MARINE TRANSFER STATION (MTS) COMMUNITY VISIONING**

Date: Saturday, May 8th, 2010 9:30-3pm

Location: The Faculty Dining Hall at City College 3rd Floor, Convent Ave between 135th St and 138th, NY, NY

West Harlem is no place for that old, abandoned sanitation facility at 135th Street in the Hudson River. Do you have ideas for how the site can be redeveloped? Do you want a revitalized West Harlem waterfront for you, your family, and this community? If so the time has come! The time

has come to turn the abandoned 135th Street Marine Transfer Station (MTS) in the Hudson River into a community asset. The site is ripe for redevelopment to continue the revitalization of the West Harlem Waterfront that began with the West Harlem Piers Park. It is up to the West Harlem community to decide what the MTS will become and what it will look like. That is why WE ACT for Environmental Justice and Community Board 9 (CB9) have partnered to help make the community's vision a reality. Come and share your ideas!

- **DRIVEN BY PURPOSE SEMINAR**

Date: Saturday, May 8th, 2010 10am-1pm

Location: Christian HELPS Ministries, Berriman St, Brooklyn 11208 Brooklyn

Ministries United for the Arts presents "Driven by Purpose Seminar". Donation of \$25 suggested: includes copy of new book. For more information call 718-916-7171 or www.risingstarsoutreach.com

- **THE DIALOGUE PROJECT IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR: COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**

The goal of this program is to pair new immigrants with long time residents in Brooklyn. We are now recruiting English speaking volunteers. Volunteers will be paired with a new immigrant who is learning English and is currently enrolled in an ESL program. Participants will meet once a week for five weeks to speak in English about diverse topics and interests. If you are interested please contact Marie Darden at 718-768-2175 or at marie@thedialogueproject.org

- **FARM THE LAND, GROW THE SPIRIT: A 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. For additional information, visit www.stonypointcenter.org

- **LEARN ABOUT NEW "CARD ACT"**

The Federal Reserve Board issued proposed rules on the final provisions of the CARD Act which go into effect in August 2010. The two provisions deal with 1) defining what is a reasonable penalty fee size, and 2) setting up guidelines for banks to follow under a new provision that requires them to review rate increases and reduce them in certain circumstances. A summary of the proposal can be found here: <http://www.defendyourdollars.org/pdf/summary-CARD-Act-0310.pdf>.

- **JOIN THE MAYOR’S FAITH LEADERS UNITED AGAINST ILLEGAL GUNS**

The mayor recently held an interfaith breakfast with more than 400 members of the New York City’s religious community. During the breakfast they engaged in an important discussion about the problem of gun violence, especially among youth, in New York City. As a result of the discussion, a new coalition of Faith Leaders United Against Illegal Guns was formed. So far, over 160 faith Leaders have joined this new coalition, which is dedicated to preventing the flow of out of state illegal guns into New York City. To join the coalition and sign a pledge card contact faithleaders@mayorsagainstillegalguns.org

- **SUBSCRIBE TO THE YOUTUBE CHANNEL “NATIONAL COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT COALITION”**

Receive notices of updates on efforts to rein-in the financial industry in Congress and the nation. <http://www.youtube.com/reinvestmentworks>

- **NEW SAFESTART ACCOUNT BY OFFICE OF FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT (OFE)**

Tired of paying fees at check cashers? Frustrated by your bank’s overdraft charges? Then sign up for the new NYC SafeStart Account, a safe banking account for all New Yorkers. As a NYC SafeStart Account holder you’ll receive an ATM Card for easy access to your money, but unlike other accounts, you’ll never be charged overdraft fees. And there are no monthly fees, as long as you meet the minimum balance (\$25 or less). Call 311 to find a branch in your area to open a NYC SafeStart Account!