



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

Interfaith Center of New York: May Eblast

If you would like to have your event advertised in our e-blast please send details to info@interfaithcenter.org

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

******Interfaith Center of New York Programs******

25th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice: Creating Safety, Preserving Faith: Religious Leaders Address Domestic Violence

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 25 - Thursday, May 26, 2011

Location: Stony Point, New York (bus available)

This Spring's Marshall Meyer Retreat will consider the reality of domestic violence in all faith communities and explore the ways in which religious leaders can work to end abuse. We will examine the importance of theological and pastoral responses to the problem of domestic violence, highlighting the importance of elements in our traditions which emphasize the dignity of women. The retreat will also seek to equip religious leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify domestic violence and take action where intervention is required. Speakers, panels, and small groups will discuss ways in which we can address domestic violence by resourcing our own traditions as well as social and municipal resources. A screening of the recent documentary *I Believe You: Faiths' Response to Intimate Partner Violence* will

ground our discussion. Please consider joining us for this important event. The retreat will take place over the course of two days, and all religious leaders are invited to attend. For interested participants, the Interfaith Center will provide a bus service from our Manhattan office to the retreat center. Please RSVP by clicking "Learn More" and faxing the completed response form to Sarah Sayeed at (212) 870-3499. All questions should be directed to Sarah at ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or (212) 870-3519

Interfaith Center Annual Gala Dinner

Date/Time: June 6th, 2011, 6:30pm

Location: Tribeca Rooftop, Manhattan

Celebrating the *internationally acclaimed award-winning musician Wynton Marsalis!* Master of Ceremonies: **Nancy Giles**, *Actor & CBS News Sunday Morning Contributor*. Please contact Ellen Greeley via email or phone for ticket information (ellen@interfaithcenter.org OR 212 870-3511)

Needed: Faith Leaders Experienced In Inter-Faith Connection

Date/Time: Summer and Fall 2011

Location: Varied

To support religious pluralism and multi-faith cooperation, and to counter religious intolerance as part of the new "Prepare NY" coalition.

The Interfaith Center of NY is a cofounder of this new coalition along with Auburn Seminary, Intersections, Odyssey Networks, Quest and Tanenbaum. *See www.prepareny.com*

Prepare NY is a community-building initiative created to promote conversation and connection between New Yorkers in this tenth anniversary year following the attacks of September 11, 2001. In this season of heightened emotion and memory there is need for opportunities for learning, relationship-building, reflection, and discussion. In this anniversary year it is particularly important that we help build understanding about -- and solidarity with -- any faith communities that are experiencing any kinds

of persecution, including those who have been erroneously assigned collective blame in connection with the attacks of September 11, 2001.

We invite you to host an event between now and the end of this year. The Interfaith Center can provide speakers and other resources – including representatives of faith communities such as the New York City Muslim and Sikh communities, as well as some speakers who lost family members on 9/11/01 or who were direct survivors. These family members and survivors are committed to joining with their neighbors to build up our shared communities and to ensure that the lingering wounds from that terrible day ten years ago do not include the continued violence, harassment, and prejudice that some of our neighbors are experiencing.

For more information contact Annie Rawlings, Prepare NY Education Director for The Interfaith Center of NY: annie@interfaithcenter.org 212-870-3518

*****Other Programs in the NYC area*****

9/11 Healing and Remembrance Program

Date/Time: April-July 2011

Location: NYC, Arlington, Shanksville

Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, the 9-11 Healing and Remembrance Program will provide survivors, families, emergency responders, and others with a centralized resource to provide case management services to access needed victim services, such as mental health counseling or emotional support, and information on events and activities related to the commemoration of the 9-11 attacks. The Mental Health Association of NYC (MHA-NYC) will ensure that the 10th anniversary of September 11 is a meaningful and healing time by offering those affected a variety of resources to encourage hope and renewal. Visit the website www.9-11healingandremembrance.org or call 1-866-212-0444 for more information.

9/11: Today and Tomorrow

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 25th 2011, 6:30pm & Wednesday, June 22nd 2011, 6:30pm

Location: The National September 11th Memorial and Museum, 20 Vesey Street, NYC

Please join us for a dynamic, public speaker series exploring topics relevant to 9/11 and how they continue to shape the world in which we live. For more information visit www.national911memorial.org/rsvp

9/11 Conspiracy Theories: Why They Exist and What Role They Play in Society
Wednesday, May 25, 6:30pm

Professors Kathryn Olmsted and Michael Barkun address broader questions of why conspiracy theories exist and how they should be viewed in the context of post-9/11 communities. Both have written books on the subject and will discuss the psychological underpinnings of these theories, their historical roles in shaping public opinion and how we should view or evaluate their relevance today.

Covering Catastrophe: Broadcast Journalists Report 9/11 Wednesday, June 22, 6:30pm

Allison Gilbert, Phil Hirschhorn, Melinda Murphy, Mitchell Stephens, and Robyn Walensky, the co-editors of the book *Covering Catastrophe: Broadcast Journalists Report September 11*, share their compelling stories and explore the challenges members of the media faced while balancing an obligation to report the facts with their own emotional and compassionate responses to the tragedy.

Five Week Citizenship (Civics) Test and Interview Preparation Class

Date/Time: Saturdays, May 14th-June 18th 10am-1pm. New York City College of Technology, Howard Building, 25 Chapel Street, 4th floor, rm 408, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Location: New York City College of Technology, Howard Building, 25 Chapel Street, 4th floor, rm 408, Brooklyn, NY 11201

You must present proof of Lawful Permanent Residence status to be admitted to the class.

www.cuny.edu/citizenshipnow

To register or for more information, contact Aura Gomez at

(646) 285-4248, or at aura.gomez@mail.cuny.edu

Letter in Support of a Young Girl in Texas—Please Consider Signing

On March 8, 2011, an 11-year-old girl was raped by 19 men and boys in Cleveland, Texas. Media including the New York Times coverage of this incident focused on statements made by local community members expressing concern for the futures of the men and boys involved, questioning her parent's ability to care for her, and even criticizing the 11-year-old girl about the clothes and makeup she wore. A community rally was held in Cleveland where both victim-blaming and blaming of the victim's parents were front and center. Outraged anti-violence and women's activists, independent media outlets and individuals engaged in a vigorous debate about ethics of reporting on societal violence. This petition is a letter to the child. Once signatures are collected, the letter will be delivered to the family by local women activists who are in touch with the family. Please disseminate widely and join us in supporting the child and sending a clear message that she is not to blame. <http://www.change.org/petitions/letter-in-support-of-a-young-girl-in-texas>

The 3rd annual DIVINAMENTE NYC festival

Date/Time: May 18th through 22nd

Location: see www.divanamente.com for details

Founded by renowned Italian actress Pamela Villoresi (artistic director), the festival celebrates the spiritual dimension of the arts and their ability to bridge national boundaries. On the 150th anniversary of the unification of Italy, artists from different backgrounds have been invited to reflect upon the idea of "home": the home of our birthplace, the home where we have chosen to live, or the home we seek in our imagination.