



INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

November 2015 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

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Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Please consider attending this Wednesday's Marshall Meyer Retreat "***Coming Home: Faith Communities Supporting Successful Reentry***," where we will be joined by Joseph Ponte, Commissioner of NYC Department of Correction and two graduates of the Harlem Community Justice Center's "Raising My Voice" public-speaking program for formerly incarcerated individuals. [To RSVP, click HERE](#). For further information, please see [the below listing](#).

In response to incendiary comments about immigrants and religious minorities by a couple of the Republican candidates for President, in October, Shoulder-to-Shoulder and the National Religious Campaign Against Torture with the National Cathedral in Washington created a pledge to stand against bigotry and uphold religious freedom. [Please see the website](#) where you can sign onto the pledge yourself.

Locally, The Interfaith Center of New York went out to Brighton Beach with Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams to support the Turkish American Eyup Sultan Cultural Center of New York. The Cultural Center suffered negative effects from *The Daily News*' mishandled coverage of Donald Trump's comments about his willingness to close mosques. [See ICNY and President Ibrahim Sen's statement here](#). Also, with the Micah Table, ICNY galvanized religious leaders to participate in three days of action in Times Square, outside Rikers Island and in the city streets for #RiseupOctober. See this article titled "[The Faces of Protest](#)" in *NY City Lens*, a news site produced by students at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism.

Later this month, watch your inbox for the 3rd episode of our podcast series "NYC Faith Leaders," where we talk with Sheikha Fariha of the Nur Ashki Jerrahi mosque in Soho about the spiritual path of Sufism, the direct transmission of divine love

through the relationship of Sheikha and dervish, and the awakening of the heart in community worship.

Also this month our "Interfaith Matters Blog" will provide recommendations for books that highlight New York City's amazing religious diversity. Take a little time during the Thanksgiving break to read one of these books and learn about our diverse NYC neighbors.

Best Wishes,



Rev. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director
The Interfaith Center of New York

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Coming Home: Faith Communities Supporting Successful Reentry

ICNY's Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat



Date: Wednesday, November 4

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Interchurch Building, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

Sockman Lounge on the Main Floor

Join us for the **Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat, "Coming Home: Faith Communities Supporting Successful Reentry."** The Marshall Meyer Retreat is New York City's principal concourse for interfaith dialogue on local social justice issues. This year's retreat, held in partnership with Circles of Support and the J.C. Flowers Foundation, will feature leading experts from the faith, government and community sectors who will share the latest on new and innovative programs geared to support formerly incarcerated individuals on their journey toward reentry.

This year's conference presenters will include **Marta Nelson**, Executive Director of the Governor's Reentry Task Force, **Commissioner Joseph Ponte**, NYC Department of Correction, **Jeffrey Smith**, Professor and Author of "Mr. Smith Goes to

Prison,” **Debbie Boar** and **Chris Watler** of the Harlem Community Justice Center, **Sister Tesa** from Hour Children, **Mika’il DeVeaux**, Professor & Doctoral Candidate, **Willard Shelton**, Network in the Community, **Rabbi Helene Ferris**, part-time Chaplain at the Taconic Correctional Facility, **Barbara Barron** from CASES, **Margaret diZerega** from the Vera Institute of Justice, and **Russelle Miller-Hill "Rusti"** and **Jeffery Rivera**, recent graduates of *Raising My Voice*: a leadership program to help individuals returning to the community share their stories. Special thanks to **Dr. Rev. Alfonso Wyatt**, this year’s conference moderator.

We hope you can join us! [KINDLY RSVP HERE](#).

For more information about this event, please visit the [Interfaith Center of New York's website](#). A flyer for the event can be found [here](#). The retreat program is available [here](#).

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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



Karma: Cause, Effect and the Illusion of Fate:
Marc Andrus + Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel



Date: Monday, November 2

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Rubin Museum, 150 West 17th Street, New York, NY

Bishop Marc Andrus of the Episcopal Diocese of California will address his state’s drought and other implications of our collective responsibility with the Buddhist teacher Elizabeth Mattis Namgyel.

Marc Handley Andrus is the eighth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California. He was installed as bishop in 2006, a position of oversight for a diocese comprised of 27,000 communicants in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties and the cities of Los Altos and part of Palo Alto. His leadership has focused on key issues related to peace and justice, including immigration reform, climate change, civil rights for LGBT persons, and health care. An example of his local engagement includes co-chairing a community-wide planning process for

rebuilding St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco. Prior to his election as Bishop of California, Andrus served as Bishop Suffragan in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama.

Elizabeth Mattis-Namgyel has studied and practiced Buddhism for thirty years under the guidance of her teacher and husband Dzigar Kongtrul Rinpoche. Mattis-Namgyel is known for her willingness to question precepts in order to reach a place of genuine practice and awakening. She asks audiences to engage in the practice of open questioning while she takes a fresh look at all of their assumptions and beliefs about spirituality. She is the author of *The Power of an Open Question* and is working on her new book *The Logic of Faith*. Tickets: \$25.00 Members: \$22.50. To purchase tickets [click here](#).

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Other Events



If you have an upcoming event that you think ICNY's audience might like to know about, please notify us by [filling out this event form](#). We will try to include events in future bulletins.

Arab American Association Of New York 14th Annual Benefit Gala



Date: Thursday, November 5

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Widdi Catering Hall, 5602 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11220

The Arab American Association of New York is hosting their 14th Annual Benefits Gala. Proudly Honoring: Dr. Naji Abi-Shahine, Physician and Benefactor; Imam Al Hajj Talib Abdur-Rashid, Interfaith Social Justice Advocate; and Samy & Randy Abed, Local Business Leaders. For more information, click [here](#). To Purchase tickets, click [here](#).

National Donor Sabbath



Date: November 13 - November 15
Time: All Weekend

Donate Life New York State will be celebrating National Donor Sabbath to raise awareness of the need for lifesaving organ, tissue, and eye donations in the faith community. Donation and transplant professionals join faith communities to focus on the lifesaving and enhancing gifts passed to others through organ, tissue and blood stem cell donation. For more information, please click [here](#).

Screening of PBS Documentary CHAPLAINS



Date: Monday, November 16
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: The Stern Auditorium, Mount Sinai Hospital, 1468 Madison Ave, New York, NY

CHAPLAINS is a new 2-hour documentary film that takes the viewer into the dynamic world of interfaith chaplains - men and women who represent their own particular faith tradition but are trained to be of comfort and support to everyone - religious or not. With a tradition dating back centuries, chaplains today are on the front lines - often in the midst of life and death situations - where the questions are the deepest and the need for spiritual and pastoral care the greatest. This screening will feature Martin Doblemeier, the film maker, and a panel of interfaith chaplains from a variety of ministry contexts to discuss issues raised in the film. For more information, contact Jen Quintana at Jen@journeyfilms.com or click [here](#).

Muslim & Jewish Women Leadership Conference



Date: December 6 ([Registration is now open](#) with an early bird discount.)

Location: Princeton University

Several hundred women will gather at Princeton University on December 6 for the 2015 Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom Leadership Conference!

At the conference, participants will be able to:

- Meet other Muslim and Jewish women from throughout the United States
- Learn from the Muslim and Jewish women who are changing the dynamics between Muslims and Jews
- Share best practices on Muslim-Jewish dialogue and relationship development
- Participate in workshops facilitated by the leaders in interfaith dialogue
- Learn how to become an advocate of building relationships between Muslims and Jews and how to fight together to stop anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiment

The 2015 conference will be co-sponsored by the Princeton University Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, the Center for Jewish Life, the Muslim Life Program and the Foundation of Ethnic Understanding (FFEU) Women's Weekend of Twinning. [REGISTER TODAY.](#)

T'ruah's Human Rights Shabbat 2015



Human Rights Shabbat is a T'ruah initiative to educate Jewish communities about the intersection of Jewish values and universal human rights. T'ruah's Human Rights Shabbat celebrates International Human Rights Day, December 10. In 2015, T'ruah's Human Rights Shabbat is December 11-12, with the alternate date of December 4-5 or whatever date is best for your community. [Sign up now](#), then figure out what you'll do to celebrate in the fall. Please contact Rabbi Lev Meirowitz Nelson, lmnelson@truah.org, with any questions. Current and past Human Rights Shabbat materials are available [here](#).

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NOVEMBER 2015

November	Full Month	NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.
November 1		ALL SAINTS' DAY • Western Christian Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.
November 2		ALL SOULS' DAY • Christian Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as <i>Día de los Muertos</i> between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.
November 3		ELECTION DAY A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.
November 9		KRISTALLNACHT Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.
November 11		VETERANS' DAY Honors the U. S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.
November 11		DIWALI • Hindu Also called <i>Deepavali</i> , "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
November 11		BANDI-CHHOR DIWAS • Sikh A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.
November 12		BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.
November 16		INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.
November 16–22		AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.
November 20		TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.
November 25		GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev's was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.
November 26		THANKSGIVING DAY Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.

November 26

DAY OF THE COVENANT • Bahá'í

Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.

November 29

ADVENT • Christian

Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.

The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2015 is available [here](#).

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