



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

Dear Friends,

This month, The Interfaith Center of New York launched a new partnership with the New York Public Library's in a series called "**411 on Faith.**" These programs host religious leaders to present at local branches of the New York Public Library in Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island. The first program was conducted in Staten Island's Huguenot Branch; seven additional programs will be hosted from November to February in the remaining two boroughs. Please visit the [NYPL information page](#) for branch locations and additional programs that are a part of the [Three Faiths](#) exhibit being hosted by the Library.

Additionally, our Catholic-Muslim Partnership in Social Services program held its first youth meeting in Staten Island. High school students of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) and Miraj Islamic School met at the CYO headquarters in Staten Island on Saturday, October 30th. The students participated in ice-breaker introductions with toilet paper! Each student ripped off a few squares and introduced themselves by saying as many things about themselves as the number of squares they ripped. They ate pizza together and discussed Muslim and Catholic teachings about caring for the needy and how they live out these principles in their own lives, and how they hope to contribute further to society. Students will continue these meetings by visiting a Catholic church and an Islamic center together where they will continue to learn about the two faiths and join together to conduct basic maintenance at these sites (for example, light painting or rearranging).

Lastly, we hope to see many of our religious leaders at the upcoming Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat, "Building Sacred Space in the City: Religious Freedom in Bricks and Mortar!" and at the Courts programs this month.

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

- **THE 24TH RABBI MARSHALL T. MEYER RETREAT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: BUILDING SACRED SPACE IN THE CITY: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN BRICKS AND MORTAR**

Date: Thursday, November 4, 2010, 8:30am-5:00pm

Location: Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY

Religious leaders are invited to attend this fall's Marshall Meyer retreat, a day long program held here in NYC. The program will explore how houses of worship are organized in different faith

communities, as well as the range of meanings these spaces may have in different communities. We will also learn about the practical steps communities can take to build new houses of worship, and to save existing ones that are in disrepair or need to be expanded. How, we will ask, can religious communities partner effectively with government agencies and community organizations to create the spaces they need to thrive? Please join us on November 4th to discuss these issues, and learn from the experiences of religious leaders, community board members, landmarks preservationists, and city planning experts. Please complete the [RSVP form](#) and email it to [ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org)

- **411 ON FAITH PANEL**

Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2010, at 6:30 pm

Location: Countee Cullen Library (104 West 136th Street, New York, NY 10030)

Join us for the second in the *411 on Faith* panel series. In partnership with the New York Public Library – and in conjunction with the library’s “Three Faiths” exhibit of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim texts – the Interfaith Center of New York offers a series of moderated conversations with local religious leaders about their faith traditions and experiences of the city. Come out to your neighborhood public library and meet your neighbors from diverse religious traditions. Hear their New York stories, learn how they’ve built communities, and see how they are working to contribute to the life of the city. For the second panel in the series, speakers will include: **Dr. Thelma C. Davidson Adair** of the Mount Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church, **Aisha al-Adawiya** of Women in Islam, and **Imam Souleimane Konate** of Harlem’s Masjid Aqsa.

- **411 ON FAITH PANEL**

Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2010, at 6:00 pm

Location: Parkchester Library (1985 Westchester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10462)

For the third panel in the series, speakers will include **Shaykh Moussa Drammeh** of the Islamic Cultural Center of North America, **Juan Carlos Ruiz** of Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, and **Pandit Vishnu Sukul** of the Vishnu Mandir. Listen to religious leaders speak about their faith traditions speak about their experiences in New York at your local public library.

- **BRONX ROUNDTABLE: FINDING FREE AND RELIABLE LEGAL ASSISTANCE, TIPS FOR WORKING WITH AN IMMIGRANT POPULATION**

Date: Thursday, November 18th, 2010, 9:00am - 11:00am

Location: Bronx Family Court, 900 Sheridan Avenue, 9th Floor Library, Bronx, NY 10451

Our Courts program roundtables continue in the Bronx this month with a training session called "Finding Free and Reliable Legal Assistance, Tips for Working with an Immigrant Population." This workshop will provide participants with the tools to assist low-income community members with legal problems by teaching community leaders to use the LawHelp.org/NY website to find expert-written information on the legal rights of immigrants, to use LawHelp/NY's directory of

nearly every free legal service provider throughout New York State, and to find information on navigating New York's court system. All participants will be provided with multilingual fliers and brochures. Featuring: Leah Margulies, Esq., Project Director, LawHelp.org/NY, and Molly Coe, NYC Outreach Coordinator, LawHelp.org/NY. To RSVP call (212) 870-3515 and leave your name, organization/house of Worship, phone number and email address or send an email with that information to [anushavan@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:anushavan@interfaithcenter.org).

\*\*\*\*\***CO-SPONSORED**  
**PROGRAMS**\*\*\*\*\*

- **EXPLORING OUR NEIGHBORS' SPIRITUALITY**

Date: Sunday, November 7, 2010, at 7 p.m., and each Sunday thereafter through spring 2011  
Location: The Astoria Presbyterian Church, 23-35, Broadway, Astoria, NY 11106

In response to the recent Ground Zero mosque controversy and in the spirit of community building, the Astoria Presbyterian Church will host this interfaith forum series. As we all know, Astoria is such a diverse community, and we have people worshiping in very different ways living side by side, but how much can we really say we know about our neighbor's religious practices and beliefs? A forum seems like the perfect way to bring people together and encourage constructive conversation. The series will start on Sunday, November 7 at 7:00p.m. and continue on the first Sunday of each month through spring 2011. A wide-range of religions and spiritual disciplines including Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Eastern Orthodox and Jainism will be explored. Leaders from the various faiths will be invited to speak in an open forum format, where questions from the public will be encouraged. On Nov. 7, Imam Shamsi Ali of the Islamic Cultural Center of New York and the Al-Hikmah Mosque in Astoria is scheduled to speak about the religion of Islam. Imam Ali, a renowned Qur'an scholar, has been recognized internationally for his work as an interfaith bridge builder. In 2006 he was named one of the seven most influential religious leaders in New York City by New York Magazine.

- **NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH: TAKE A PLEDGE TO FIGHT DIABETES AND SIGN UP FOR FAITH FIGHTS DIABETES!**

Did you know that diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death in New York City? Many of us have family members, friends, colleagues who are impacted by this serious illness. As a religious leader, you can make a difference: Faith Leaders can sign the "I Will Fight Diabetes" Pledge and the Listserve and pledge to fight the Diabetes epidemic 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. Sign up at <http://www.faithfightsdiabetes.org/join/index.php> and be a part of the fight against diabetes! 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](mailto:ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org) or 212-870-3519.

\*\*\*\*\***ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN THE NEW YORK AREA**\*\*\*\*\*

- **KIDSPIRIT FUNDRAISING CELEBRATION**

Date: November 7th, 2010, 4 pm to 7 pm

Location: Brooklyn Historical Society,

Buy tickets for the upcoming KidSpirit Fundraising Celebration! The party features KidSpirit editors reading from their work, followed by a reception. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$20 for students. Whether you can attend the celebration or not, please consider additionally supporting our efforts at KidSpirit Online. To buy tickets or contribute, please click [here](#). KidSpirit Online is published by KidSpirit, Inc., a non-profit corporation. Our mission is two-fold: to bring high-quality, youth-driven, and ad-free magazine content to our readers, and to create a unique online community which nurtures the inner development of youth in a safe and inclusive atmosphere.

- **NEW YORK ACTION SUMMIT FOR LATINO/IMMIGRANT WORKER SAFETY AND HEALTH**

Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 9 am to 4 pm

Location: Lehman College-Lovinger Theater, Bronx, New York, NY

Following the successful National Action Summit for Latino Worker Health and Safety held in Texas this Spring, Regional Administrator Robert Kulick has scheduled the next New York Action Summit for Latino/Immigrant Workers Safety and Health for November 16. Lunch will be provided. We envision the Conference will bring together representatives from labor groups, community organizations, worker centers, safety and health professionals, educators, government officials, consulates, employer associations, the media and other non-traditional partners to develop new partnerships, target and expand out-reach and share the most effective strategies to reach Latino immigrant workers. We will have more information, including registration information, in the next few weeks. In the meantime, please save the date. Contact Diana Cortez at [cortez.diana@dol.gov](mailto:cortez.diana@dol.gov) for information.

- **MICAH INSTITUTE TO DELIVER SUPPORT FOR FAIR WAGES TO CITY COUNCIL**

Date: Wednesday, November 17th, 2010, 11am

Location: City Hall, New York, NY

Micah Institute and a delegation of religious leaders will deliver post cards that support the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act to city council and Speaker Quinn. We envision this as a large action that will involve both clergy and community leaders. Please email Ava Farkas if you would like to participate in this political intervention at [afarkas@rwdsu.org](mailto:afarkas@rwdsu.org)

- **MY BROTHER'S KEEPER: PEOPLE OF FAITH CONFRONT HATE CRIMES**

Date: Saturday, November 20, 9 am to 4 pm

Location: Grace UMC, 125 W. 104th St., New York City

In New York City, 2010 saw a [spate of attacks directed at Mexican immigrants](#) in Staten Island, and the virulent Islamophobia laid bare by the opposition to the Cordoba House project at 51 Park Place was accompanied by the vicious [slashing of a Muslim cab driver](#). Meanwhile, three men were tortured and sodomized for hours in a [horrific anti-gay attack](#) in October. The case was unusual only in its brutality; in 2009, 360 people were victims of [anti-gay hate crimes in the city](#), according to the Anti-Violence Project's annual survey. Two of the Mexican Staten Islanders attacked in July were also gay, an attack reminiscent of the 2008 murder of Jose Sucuzhanay, whose attackers beat him and his brother shouting both anti-Latino and anti-gay slurs.... *My Brother's Keeper* will look at the full spectrum of the rising problem of hate violence and all affected communities. The symposium has several overarching goals: bringing the issue and the victims to light, educating our church communities and making conversation about the problem possible; bringing the church together, lifting up all who are affected and binding us together in common humanity; and articulating a Christian response, and a Christian *imperative* to respond. This program will include a panel of speakers – Terry Todd, Rosario Quinones and Fred Brewington – and a performance of the play "What Killed Marcelo Lucero? along with a discussion afterwards with Teatro Experimental actor-vists. There will be small group discussions and other opportunities for participation, as well as safe spaces for worship and healing. Active participation of conference youth groups is also planned. For more information, please click [here](#).

- **FACES OF IMMIGRATION: A WORKSHOP IN IMAGE THEATER**

Date: Saturday, November 20th, and Sunday, November 21st, 2010, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm  
Location: Brecht Forum, 451 West Street (between Bank & Bethune Streets, New York, NY 10014

This workshop, facilitated by Marie-Claire Picher, will focus on and emphasize immigration themes and issues and is open to anyone who is interested in these issues or would like to learn more about them while simultaneously training in Image Theater techniques. The workshop will especially benefit people who are working in the area of immigrants' rights. No prior theater experience is necessary to participate in this workshop. Participants must commit to attending both sessions in their entirety. During Theater of the Oppressed workshops a process develops among the members and when people arrive late, leave early or fail to return to the next session that process is compromised. If you think you will not be able to attend the whole workshop please consider enrolling in a future workshop when your schedule will allow you to attend for its complete duration. If you have any questions, please call (212) 242-4201 or email [brechtforum@brechtforum.org](mailto:brechtforum@brechtforum.org).

- **BUILDING BRIDGES INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION**

Date: Sunday, November 21, 2010, at 4:00 pm  
Location: Olivet Presbyterian Church, 97 Myrtle Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10310

The Building Bridges Coalition of Staten Island invites you to attend their annual interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration which will be preceded by an interfaith gathering for youth, grades 6 to 12, at 2:30 pm on Sunday, November 21. For more information about these events, call Olivet

Presbyterian Church at 718-981-5043. And for more information about the Building Bridges Coalition call 718-816-1998, or visit [www.buildingbridgessi.org](http://www.buildingbridgessi.org).

- **“IMAGINING HESCHEL” BY COLIN GREER, DIRECTED BY LARRY MOSS**

Date: November 4th-28th, 2010

Location: Cherry Lane Theater, 38 Commerce Street, New York NY, 10014

Culture Project presents *Imagining Heschel* starring Richard Dreyfuss and Rinde Eckert. *Imagining Heschel* explores private conversations between Cardinal Augustin Bea and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel from 1962 - 1973, when Heschel was asked to aid the Vatican Council in formally exonerating the Jews for the death of Christ - a crucial repudiation of anti-Semitism. Heschel resists, demanding the Vatican apologize for their acquiescence to the Holocaust, and an ideological test of wills ensues. Colin Greer's imagined discussions between these philosophical giants in the midst of the numerous struggles of the late 1960s -including the war in Vietnam which Heschel strenuously opposed, and the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, which he supported - lend enormous insight into contemporary issues of peaceful resolution in the Middle East. *Imagining Heschel* raises important questions about the justification of violence by any faith, and the limits of forgiveness. In 1994 Richard Dreyfuss read excerpts from Leonard Bernstein's Kaddish performed for Pope John Paul 2 in the very first official Vatican commemoration of the Holocaust. This event foreshadowed the role he was born to play: Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel. *Imagining Heschel* will play the following performance schedule: November 4 – November 9, November 11 – November 14, November 16 – November 20, November 22 – 23, and November 26 – 28. Mondays – Saturdays @ 8:00pm, Sundays @ 3:00pm. Tickets are \$80.00 and are available via [www.telecharge.com](http://www.telecharge.com). Purchase advance sale tickets through November 3 and receive 25% off the regular \$80.00 ticket price. Go to [www.broadwayoffers.com](http://www.broadwayoffers.com) and use code “CP60.”

- **GREEN DEEN: WHAT ISLAM TEACHES ABOUT PROTECTING THE PLANET**

"Deen" means belief, creed, path or way in Arabic. Christianity is a Deen. Judaism is a Deen. Buddhism is a Deen. A "Green Deen" is the choice to practice your religion while affirming the synergies between faith and the environment. *Green Deen* offers stories of Muslim-Americans who feel a responsibility to take care of the Earth and are taking practical steps to protect the planet. Their stories articulate an Earth-conscious, people-affirming, faith-based, and justice-centered orientation. The goal of *Green Deen* is to move faith communities, environmental advocates, and their allies to promote environmentalism that is steadfast, scientific, and practical. To learn more about *Green Deen* [here](#). "What Islam Teaches About Protecting the Planet," will be available for purchase in all bookstores starting October, 2010. If you would like to order your copy today online, just click here.

- **FREE MEDIATION AND JUDICIAL VOTER GUIDE**

Mediation is available free of charge through New York State Unified Court System-sponsored Community Dispute Resolution Centers (CDRC), which are located in every county throughout

the State. Visit [www.nycourts.gov/adr](http://www.nycourts.gov/adr) for a list of court-connected and CDRC mediation programs in your community. The 2010 Judicial Voter Guide is now available at [www.nycourts.gov/vote](http://www.nycourts.gov/vote). The 2010 non-partisan Judicial Voter Guide is designed to help you make a more informed decision on Election Day. It includes descriptions of elective judicial offices throughout the state. The Guide also provides a list of judicial candidates on the ballot in each county based on information provided by the state and county boards of election.