



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

Dear Friends,

As controversy about a Muslim community center near Ground Zero continues, and as Muslim communities around the United States are experiencing a new wave of backlash, The Interfaith Center of New York has joined New York Neighbors for American Values, a coalition that brings together diverse organizations and communities to stand together for religious freedom, diversity, and equality. ICNY has responded to many queries from media outlets, by giving interviews and assisting journalists to connect with sources including Associated Press, Reuters, and The Christian Science Monitor. Rev. Chloe Breyer has also appeared on Fox News, NBC News, and NY1; we have been mentioned in The New Yorker and Newsweek. In the months ahead, we will continue to advance a message of inclusion and our work to create three-way dialogues between diverse religious communities of New York and religious and secular institutions. We look forward to your ongoing support and participation in our activities.

Read articles written by ICNY staff, as published in The Huffington Post: "[The Faithful Search: A Civics Primer for Real Patriots](#)," by Rev. Chloe Breyer and Matt Weiner, and "[Building Shared Cultural and Spiritual Spaces: Lessons in the Mosque Debate](#)," by Sarah Sayeed.

Below we list 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: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN BRICKS AND MORTAR**

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

Location: Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive

This fall's Marshall Meyer retreat will be a day long program held here in NYC and 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, city planners, and other experts. In preparation for this program, we would like to ask you to submit two-three photos of your place of worship's interior and exterior. To submit your photos, share experiences or ideas, or ask questions please email ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org. We will also be sending out formal invitations to religious leaders in upcoming weeks.

*****9/11 EVENTS AND CO-SPONSORED
PROGRAMS*****

- **VIGIL FOR EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Date: Friday September 10, 2010, 7:15pm - 10pm

Location: Corner of Church St. and Park Place

On the eve of the 9/11 anniversary, we will join together in support of the American constitutional values of religious freedom, diversity, and equality, and the rights of Muslim Americans to build a community center at 51 Park Place. Please bring candles and American flags, but no signs. We are gathering in peaceful, respectful remembrance and unity. Our program will include music and words of wisdom from faith leaders and elected officials, including special invited guest speaker Congressman Keith Ellison. Please wear white in solidarity and peace. The Interfaith Center is a member of the coalition and we welcome faith communities to participate. The organizers respect the observation of Sabbath and hope that Sabbath observers can join as the event will occur after sunset Friday. For more information, or to join the coalition, please visit nyneighbors.org.

- **9-11 WTC MEMORIAL – 9th ANNUAL FLOATING LANTERNS CEREMONY**

Date: Saturday September 11, 2010, 6pm – 9pm

Location: South Side of Pier 40 (W. Houston St. & West Street) Subway: #1 to Houston Street

To commemorate the victims for the 9/11, we will offer interfaith prayers for peace, and prepare a traditional Japanese floating lanterns ceremony to remember the victims. Rev. T.K. Nakagaki of the New York Buddhist Church will lead the ceremony with the assistance of the Interfaith Center of New York and other religious leaders representing many different faiths. This ritual is similar to one held in Hiroshima each year where people gather to float lanterns in remembrance of the victims of the atomic bombings and all victims of war. Special to this year's event will be an exclusive piano and drum performance to remember the 65th Anniversary of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki atomic bombings, and played on the HIBAKU Piano; which survived the atomic bombing in Hiroshima. The event is FREE and members of the public are invited come early to write loved ones' names or a peace message on a lantern. For more information visit www.newyorkbuddhistchurch.org or call 212-678-0305.

- **HINDU AMERICAN SEVA CHARITIES SEPTEMBER 11 EVENT**

Date: Saturday September 11, 2010

Hindu American Seva Charities is a progressive American organization promoting pluralism, tolerance, social justice, civic engagement (including acculturation and adaptation of New Americans and immigrants), and advancing interfaith and community service. On September 11, they will be saying prayers in temples and ashrams across America to observe the National Day of Remembrance, Ganesh Chaturthi (Removal of Obstacles), Mahatma Gandhi's September 11, 1906 launch of Satyagraha-non-violence movement, and Swami Vivekananda's 1893 famous

speech in Chicago, delivered on September 11. For more information, please go to <http://www.hinduamericanseva.org/yogathon>.

- **THE LIBERTY WALK: INTERFAITH RALLY FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

Date: Sunday, September 12, 2010, 3pm

Location: Starting at St Peter's Church on the corner of Church and Barclay and ending at Park51.

We are pleased to announce that Religious Freedom USA is leading a demonstration in support of Park51. We must support the religious freedoms that are at stake for all Americans. We will walk from St Peter's to a synagogue (TBD), World Trade Center, and finish at Park51. Please be respectful and mindful. We won't allow any signs at this demonstration. Rather, we ask everyone to bring a flag to the demonstration as a reminder of religious freedom. Together, not as Christians, Jews, or Muslims, but as Americans, we can uphold the American values that brought our ancestors here, the freedoms that we take for granted, and the ideals that we must uphold for our future.

- **10th ANNUAL INTERFAITH RAMADAN GATHERING: HUNGER IN NEW YORK CITY**

Date: Monday, September 13, 2010, 6pm – 8pm

Location: Union Theological Seminary, James Chapel and Refectory, 3041 Broadway @ 121st Street, New York NY 10027

The 10th annual Interfaith Ramadan Program at Union Theological Seminary brings together diverse men and women to deepen relationships and understandings across faith traditions. Ramadan offers a significant opportunity to discuss the critical social justice issue of hunger and food justice in New York City. Speakers include: Rabbi Maurice Appebaum, Ahavas Israel, Anju Bhargava, Convenor, Hindu American Seva Charities, Jeanne McGettigan, Coordinator, Emergency Food Services, Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York and Sultana Ocasio, Muslim Women's Institute for Research & Development

- **FAITH LEADERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: QUARTERLY BREAKFAST ON FOOD AND HEALTH DISPARITIES**

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010, 8:30am - 11:00am

Location: Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

Speakers include Dr. Nicholas Freudenberg from Hunter College, expert in food policy and public health. RSVP to Sarah Sayeed at the Interfaith Center of NY, ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or (212) 870-3519.

- **CONGREGATIONS: 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? 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. Go to: <http://www.faithfightsdiaabetes.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.

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

- **ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN: A FREATURE DOCUMENTARY ON MUSLIM-AMERICAN CHILDREN FROM THE NEW YORK TRI-STATE AREA**

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 7th, 2010, 6:30pm; Doors open at 6pm

Location: 274 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.C. (Between 29th & 30th)

Abraham's Children, a film by Nina Froriep, explores the diversity of Muslim American identity by examining the lives of ten Muslim children living in New York. It seeks to counter the negative stereotyping of Muslims in America by revealing the everyday lives of children from this community. Panelists include: Dr. Louis Cristillo, Nina Froriep, and Susan Smith. This panel will be moderated by Intersections Project Manager Sara Reef. Please RSVP to info@intersectionsinternational.org.

- **MICAH FELLOW**

Date: Application due by Friday September 10, 2010.

Applications are being accepted for a part-time Fellowship for a highly motivated and organized individual with a prophetic theological imagination and strong community outreach skills. The Fellows' time will split between research and faith-rooted organizing in the Living Wage NYC campaign. This fellowship can be counted as a supervised ministry placement. Please send your resume, three references, and a writing sample to Rev. Peter G. Heltzel, Ph.D. at peterheltzel@gmail.com.

- **GRAND RATHA YATRA**

Date: Sunday September 12, 2010, 1pm-4pm

Location: The Hindu Temple Society of North America 45-57 Browne Street, Flushing, NY 11355

Join the The Hindu Temple Society of North America in celebrating the Ratha Yatra. The Ratha will start from the Temple at 1pm after the pooja in the Temple, make a full Pradakshina around the temple block and will reach Main Street approximately at 2pm. The Ratha will return to the temple by approximately 4pm. For more information, email the temple at webmaster@nyganeshtemple.org or call (718) 461-8055.

- **MICAH LIVING WAGE CLERGY BREAKFAST**

Date: Wednesday September 15, 2010, 9am-11:00am

Location: Park Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Park Avenue and 85th St, NY, NY (4, 5 and 6 Trains to the 86th Street Station).

Join religious leaders from around the city for a Micah Living Wage Clergy Breakfast. At this gathering we will introduce the Living Wage NYC campaign which aims to end taxpayer-subsidized poverty wages and to create living wage jobs through setting wage standards on city economic development projects. The Living Wage NYC Campaign is one of the local initiatives of Micah Challenge US which works to meet the global Millennium Development Goals to cut poverty in half by 2015 through events and activities in partnership with the Micah Institute at New York Theological Seminary. A key constituency in winning this grass-roots economic justice campaign will be the interfaith community, with its moral leadership and social witness, and with its active membership and institutional resources. The breakfast is the first gathering building toward a citywide interfaith "Micah Living Wage Weekend" to be held on October 8-10 to promote preaching, teaching and prayer services about reducing poverty in communities of faith across the city. Resources for the weekend will be available at the breakfast.

RSVP at faithforlivingwage@gmail.com.

- **RELIEF, REFORM, RESPECT: CIVIC LEADERS STAND FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES**

Date: Wednesday September 15th, 2010

Location: Washington, D.C.

Sign on to the statement, "[Civic Leaders Stand for Immigrant Families](#)." We demand RELIEF: Stop tearing apart our families; REFORM: Pass immigration reform now; and RESPECT: For all communities. Buses will leave from The New York Immigration Coalition Offices 137-139 West 25th Street between 6th Ave. and 7th Ave. Departure time TBA. For more information contact Christina Baal at cbaal@thenyic.org or 212.627.2227 x246.

- **MICAH DOCTOR OF MINISTRY IN TRANSFORMATIONAL ORGANIZING**

Date: Applications due by Wednesday September 15, 2010

Location: New York Theological Seminary, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 500, NY, NY 10115

This new Doctor of Ministry for religious leaders seeks to re-imagine Christian theology and ethics through the lens of faith-rooted organizing for justice. We will focus on the biblical and theological foundations of organizing, the history of social movements and the practices of faith-rooted organizing for justice today. During the first academic year there will be three, one-week intensives in October, February and June; one week the second year and the third year will be spent writing your dissertation. Request an application to be part of this groundbreaking inaugural class of prophetic ministers rooted in a faith-based model of organizing. RSVP to Rev. Dr. Keith Russell, Director, Doctor of Ministry Program, #212-870-2101 or krussell@nyts.edu.

- **MICAH INSTITUTE GLOBAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: ADAM TAYLOR
“MOBILIZING HOPE” BOOK LAUNCH**

Date: Friday September 17, 2010, 4pm-6pm

Location: Social Hall, Union Theological Seminary 3041 Broadway at 121st, NY, NY

White House Fellow Adam Russell Taylor will share reflections on his new book *Mobilizing Hope: Faith Inspired Activism for a Post-Civil Rights Generation* (InterVarsity Press). He will offer a prophetic, intercultural theological vision for social justice advocacy, what we can learn from previous faith-inspired social movements, and what are the new tools and strategies that are needed to be effective change agents in the Obama era. This event is sponsored by New York Faith and Justice, Union Theological Seminary, and the Micah Institute at New York Theological Seminary. Please send an RSVP to janethmartin@gmail.com.

- **MICAH CHALLENGE NYC WORSHIP SERVICE**

Date: Monday September 20, 2010, 7pm to 9pm

Location: The Salvation Army, 221 East 52nd Street, New York, NY off Third Avenue

The Micah Challenge USA, the Salvation Army, New York Faith and Justice, Metro Hope Church, and the Micah Institute are hosting a worship service to pray for world leaders attending the United Nations meetings to continue to work toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals to halve world poverty by 2015. They will make decisions on global poverty which will affect a billion people. Will you proclaim God's priorities of mercy and justice in our broken world? Pray for decisions that reflect God's values. Hear inspiring speakers from Haiti and Malawi. Stand with the poor. Join us in worship and prayer and learn about the MDGs and how you can help in the struggle to reach these goals. RSVP at www.micahchallenge.us.

- **A MILLION MINUTES FOR PEACE: PLEDGE TO PRAY FOR PEACE AT NOON**

Date: Tuesday September 21, 2010, 12:00pm (noon)

Join Odyssey's "A Million Minutes for Peace" and pledge to pray for peace at noon on September 21, the United Nations International Day of Peace. Thousands of people from diverse faiths and spiritual traditions in over 114 countries will join you on that day. Please go to www.AMillionMinutesforPeace.org and pledge your one minute for peace. As a peace pledger, your name will be added to a list that will be presented to Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon just after he rings the Peace Bell at the United Nations on the International Day of Peace.

- **MICAH INSTITUTE GLOBAL JUSTICE SEMINAR: CO-FIGHTERS FOR JUSTICE**

Date: Friday September 24, 2010, 4pm to 6pm

Location: New York Theological Seminary, 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 500, NY, NY

Presenters: Christian T. Collins Winn, Ph.D. & Charles Moore

Topic: "Co-Fighters with Jesus: Why Christians Belong in Every Hell: the Blumhardts and Kingdom Justice"

The Micah Institute at NYTS is pleased to have the Blumhardt scholars, Dr. Christian Winn of Bethel University, St. Paul, MN, and Charles Moore of Church Communities International speak on the importance of the work and ministry of Johann Christoph Blumhardt and his son, Christoph Blumhardt. Both father and son preached on "kingdom justice" with Christoph describing Christians as "co-Fighters with Jesus" in his sermon "He Calls Us to Fight" in Jesus is Victor. He described our roles as "...we must be co-fighters with Jesus, in small things and in great..." Join us to learn more about the wisdom of the Blumhardt ministers. Send your RSVP to janethmartin@gmail.com.

- **MICAH CHALLENGE: 10-10-10 AND NEW YORK**

Date: Sunday October 10, 2010

2010 marks 10 years since nations of the world promised to meet the Millennium Development Goals - we have only 5 years to go to make the eight goals a reality. Lend a Hand is a special campaign to focus on our promise to the poor, ten years after the MDG commitments. Lend a Hand is a chance for us to join with the global church by promising to live justly, pray passionately, and advocate for the poor in this crucial time. We need to remind our leaders that acting to halve poverty is worth every effort. We must remember the poor on 10.10.10. 100 million Christians will join in prayer for an end to extreme poverty, and for our leaders to make decisions that reflect God's values. People will be urged to make a commitment to pray further for those in extreme poverty, and to hold their leaders accountable for their promises to the poor. This commitment is symbolized by the making of a simple handprint. These handprints will be collected after 10.10.10 and delivered to our leaders in Washington DC. Will you join us? To learn more about this event and how to get involved, please visit our website at <http://www.micahchallenge.us/action/lendahand.html>!

- **DOCUMENTARY "LOCAL FAITH COMMUNITIES" AVAILABLE ONLINE**
www.LocalFaithCommunities.org

At one time the Lower East Side was the most densely populated and diverse spot on the planet.... meet a few of the people behind 10 of our local faith institutions carrying this history forward. It's about community, local, personal. It's another tiny attempt to lower the need for vast military spending around the globe, decreasing some of the fear and prejudice around religions. Please share this with any community you think is struggling with or would just appreciate a supportive example of faith diversity and building beyond "tolerance." Direct contacts of interested groups or especially high schools, etc. are most welcome. A DVD can also be requested by emailing antoned@aol.com.

- **ALTERNATIVE GIFTS INTERNATIONAL (AGI)**

Alternative Gifts International is a social justice non-profit headquartered in Wichita, Kansas. Each year hundreds of inspired interfaith congregations, schools, and colleges throughout the

United States and Canada host *Alternative Gift Markets* where the local community comes to buy gifts of meaning, non-traditional gifts, gifts that bring aid to the world's poor and help sustain the environment. *Gifts Inspiring Change!* In our 24th year, we inspire support for humanitarian and environmental causes by offering donors the option to designate charitable gifts in the name of their relatives, friends, and associates. Our Kansas team is uniquely interfaith (Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Buddhist, and New Thought). In our own way, the diversity of our team is our proof that compassion comes from all faiths and we can unite and work together for a greater cause. If you feel there is a purpose for Alternative Gifts International in your life, school, or faith community please call 800-842-2243, or email tony@alternativegifts.org. To learn more or to request catalogs please visit www.alternativegifts.org.