



## ***January 2014 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements***

Dear Friends,

Greetings and Happy New Year from the Interfaith Center of New York.

Last month we held the 29th Marshall Meyer Retreat, "Child Welfare and Foster Care," held Dec. 4, 2013 in NYC. New York City Administration for Children's Services [Commissioner Ronald Richter](#) presented the opening address, introduced by his colleague [Benita Miller](#). Morning panels helped "[Demystify](#)" the ACS and informed us about [ACS Community Partnerships](#). Def Dance Jam Workshop performed an excerpt from "[Fostering Faith](#)." One afternoon panel examined how the [Casey Faith Based Initiative](#) connects ACS with faith communities. The final panel addressed the need for [Cultural Responsiveness](#) when dealing with families and children in crisis. Throughout the day, leaders from numerous religions offered insightful reflections on child welfare from the perspective of their faiths, among them [Rabbi Wolf Weiser](#), [Manmeet Kaur](#), [Imam Samer Alraey](#), [Anindita Chaterjee Bhaumik](#), [Venerable T.K. Nakagaki](#) and [Rev. Dr. Emma Jordon Simpson](#). As [many attendees observed](#), the Marshall Meyer Retreats help meet the critical need to connect government services with people in need across New York City. Virtually all of the retreat was filmed and is [available online](#).

In December, the Catholic-Muslim Partnership successfully completed joint service activities in Staten Island and the Bronx. In Staten Island, youth from the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center and Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish teamed up to cook for the Project Hospitality soup kitchen serving the homeless. We are happy to share two news articles that covered this event from the [Staten Island Advance](#) and [Catholic New York](#). In the Highbridge section of the Bronx, Muslim and Catholic volunteers staffed a free Christmas day luncheon that was organized by Highbridge Community Life Center and supported by the Muslim Women's Institute (see photos below). The lunch drew 200 community members, including seniors and neighborhood shelter residents and distributed free gloves, scarves, socks and ear muffs to each person who attended.



Below we list programs offered by The Interfaith Center of New York in December. We also list additional upcoming events that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. A listing does not imply endorsement.



**\*\*\*\*\* Upcoming Interfaith Center of New York Events\*\*\*\*\***

**3rd Annual Debate in the Neighborhood Program**



Announcing a free program for students at local congregations, faith-based organizations, and schools. With support from the Open Society Foundations and International Debate Education Association, ICNY is pleased to offer the third annual Debate in the Neighborhood program, starting in January 2014.

Students in the program will receive training in public speaking, critical thinking, and other debate skills, to help them find their voices as future leaders of their communities. They will participate in interfaith conversations, to foster mutual understanding across faith lines. And they will work with their peers in other faith communities to explore the limits, if any, of our right to free speech in a diverse society.

If you would like to offer Debate in the Neighborhood to young people in your community, contact ICNY's Director of Education Programs, Henry Goldschmidt, at [hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org), or 212-870-3514.

**2014 NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers**



K-12 teachers at public, private, and faith-based schools are invited to apply for a three week summer institute, *Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity*. The institute is a project of the Interfaith Center of New York and Union Theological Seminary, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It will bring twenty-five teachers from throughout the United States to New York City in July 2014, to work with leading scholars of religion, meet with diverse religious leaders, visit local houses of worship, and conduct original field research. We hope you will apply! Past participants describe the institute as “my best professional development experience ever” and “one of the best learning experiences of my life.” All participants receive a \$2,700 stipend, to help pay travel and living expenses for the duration of the institute. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to explore the religious worlds of New York. For more information and application materials, please see [www.religiousworldsnyc.org](http://www.religiousworldsnyc.org).

**\*\*\*\*\* ICNY Co-Sponsored Events\*\*\*\*\***

**2014 Echoing Green Fellowships**



Are you working to solve some of the world’s biggest problems? Are you dedicated to improving the life outcomes of black men and boys in the U.S.? Are you the next-generation social entrepreneurs and committed to working on innovations in mitigation and adaptation to climate change? If so, Echoing Green wants to hear from you. Echoing Green Fellowship Programs identify promising social entrepreneurs and emerging leaders with bold ideas. Application will be open from December 3, 2013 to January 6, 2014. Be Bold. Think Big. Drive Change. For more information visit: <http://www.echoinggreen.org/fellowship>

**\*\*\*\*\* Additional Events that may be of Interest to You \*\*\*\*\***

Interfaith Support for Syrian Refugees in Jordan  
 **Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief**

As the largest refugee crisis over the past three decades continues to worsen, the humanitarian needs of Syrian refugees fleeing the horrors of their country's civil war are profound and are leading to desperate conditions in host nations. We [diverse faith leaders from New York City] stand together as faith based organizations in our commitment to raise awareness of their plight and provide vital assistance to the 500,000+ Syrian Refugees in Jordan, an ever-growing population. We urge other people of faith, bound by the universal principle of humanitarian action, to join us in our critical efforts to save lives and ease suffering. One way to support refugees is through the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief's Syrian relief campaign at: <http://www.jdc.org/jcdr/where-we-work/syrian-refugees-in-jordan.html>.

**Are You Prepared for Sandy 2? What' will you do differently?**



Date: Tuesday, Jan 7

Time: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Bronx Christian Fellowship, 1015 EAST GUN HILL ROAD, BRONX, NY 10469

As you prepare to hit the ground running for 2014? Are you prepared to serve your constituents in their hour of need? Many organizations were blindsided by the impact from hurricane Sandy; thankfully, the Bronx was spared from the brunt of the storm.

Now is time for us to prepare; now is the time to make our borough resilient.

The Bronx Long Term Recovery Group, alongside NYC Department of Health, NYC Office of Emergency Management, Cause NY and Jewish Community Relations Council have partnered to provide Bronxites an opportunity to incubate the future of disaster preparedness and community resilience for our Borough. This process will be collaborative and intensive. Breakfast will be Served. If you are interested in registering at no cost, you must register [here](#). For more information, a flyer for this events is available [here](#).

**No Separate Justice! Panel and Campaign Launch**



Date: Tuesday, Jan 7

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012  
Join No Separate Justice for an important panel to launch a new public initiative titled, “No Separate Justice: A Post-9/11 Domestic Human Rights Campaign.” This new public education campaign aims to shed light on and end a pattern of human rights and civil liberties abuses in “War on Terror” cases in the criminal justice system. The panel will include discussion of the case of Syed Fahad Hashmi, who is currently serving a 15-year sentence at the federal “Supermax” prison in Colorado on material support charges, after three years of pre-trial solitary confinement and Special Administrative Measures at the MCC in New York. Family members of Syed Fahad Hashmi, Tarek Mehanna, Shifa Sadeqee, and Ahmed Abu Ali will speak about the civil liberties and human rights abuses in their loved ones' cases alongside Liliana Segura (former editor at The Nation), Pardiss Kebriaei from the Center for Constitutional Rights, and Tarek Ismail of the Human Rights Clinic at Columbia University Law School. Please RSVP on [Facebook](#).

### Anti-Fracking Rally



Date: Wednesday, Jan. 8

New Yorkers Against Fracking invites faith communities to participate in a major anti-fracking rally. The fate of our state could be determined in 2014. Lead the nation by saying no to fracking and making the transition to renewable energy. Cuomo will deliver his State of the State address in Albany to an audience of legislators, mayors, and other state leaders. Join NYAF and residents from across New York in sending a message directly to Cuomo. There will be buses to Albany from across the state: Long Island, Brooklyn Manhattan, Westchester, the Hudson Valley, Binghamton, Syracuse, Ithaca, Rochester, and Buffalo, with stops in between. Click [here](#) to register for a bus. Please spread the word to your community. Spiritual values can power positive change. Click [here](#) to sign up and spread the word on Facebook. If your institution would like to be listed as an endorser of the rally and/or would like [fliers](#) where you can share with your community email Eric Weltman at [eweltman@fwwatch.org](mailto:eweltman@fwwatch.org).

### An Interfaith Study Tour to Morocco: Spirituality and Giving in Ramadan



Date: Wednesday, Jul 2 - Thursday, Jul 10

Morocco, long a land of diverse cultures and a stronghold for the Muslim World, is the setting of this informative and inspiring interfaith study tour. Strategically scheduled during the holy month of Ramadan, participants will gain a deeper understanding of Islam: its theology, spirituality, and its relationship to the daily lives of Muslims. Attention will be given to both the commonalities and differences among Christians, Muslims and Jews, and to the contributions of Islamic Civilization throughout history to the West. Not only will participants from the West experience the religious and other cultural perspectives of Islamic scholars and civic leaders of this ancient Muslim region, but it will also provide Moroccan leaders first-hand perspectives of those from the West - a true experience of cultural exchange. Program Format consist of lectures, guest speakers, power point and video presentations. Meetings with local officials, religious leaders and scholars. Two-day International Conference Lectures will take place at historic sites in Casablanca, Marrakesh, Fez and Rabat. The cost is \$2,195.00. For more information, or to register for this program, please contact Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation at (401) 944-6077 or email [info@cecf-net.org](mailto:info@cecf-net.org) and Roots & Branches at (646) 401-2790 or email [info@rootsandbranchesprograms.org](mailto:info@rootsandbranchesprograms.org). A flyer for this event is available [here](#).

### 29th Annual MLK Birthday Celebration



Date: Friday, Jan 17

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: St. Joseph of the Holy Family Church, 405 West 125th St. New York, NY 10027  
Save the Date! The MLK Jr. Center NY Support Group will commemorate the 85th Anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth. In addition to the NY Support Group, this year's program is being co-sponsored by The Central Harlem Vicariate and the Office of Black Ministry of the New York Archdiocese. Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Al Sharpton. Free Admission. There will be entertainment and refreshment will be served. For more

information, a flyer for this event is available [here](#).

**\*\*\*\*\* ADL Calendar of Observances for January 2014 \*\*\*\*\***

The full ADL Calendar of Observances for 2014 is available [here](#).

January 1	Wednesday	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.
January 1	Wednesday	<b>TEMPLE DAY • Buddhist</b> Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.
January 6	Monday	<b>EPIPHANY • Christian</b> Known as <i>Theophany</i> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.
January 6	Monday	<b>CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian</b> Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.
January 7	Tuesday	<b>CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian</b> Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.
January 13	Monday	<b>MILAD AL-NABI • Islamic</b> Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.
January 14	Tuesday	<b>MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu</b> Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.
January 16	Thursday	<b>TU B'SHVAT • Jewish</b> New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.
January 16	Thursday	<b>MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist</b> In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.
January 19	Sunday	<b>WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í</b> Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.
January 20	Monday	<b>DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY</b> The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.
January 27	Monday	<b>UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY</b> Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.
January 31	Tuesday	<b>LUNAR NEW YEAR</b> On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.
		<b>NO NAME-CALLING WEEK</b> Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.

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