



With support from the JC Flowers Foundation, ICNY and the Harlem Community Justice Center (HCJC) are pleased to announce Re-entry Family and Faith Circles of Support, a two-year initiative with HCJC and the Harlem faith communities. The program will support eligible parolees between the ages of 18-26 and their families before and after release. Harlem congregations and houses of worship are invited to engage parolees and their families in family-oriented activities, services, and referrals to provide them with a smoother return to society. Why become involved? The United States incarcerates more people than any country in the world. It costs New York State approximately \$55,000 each year to house an inmate. 42% of people on parole in New York City return to prison within three years. Probation or parole combined with community-based treatment costs 50% less than prison for drug-addicted offenders and has better results. Helping formerly incarcerated individuals and their families will help to reduce the recidivism rate and engage the person and their family in nurturing relationships with those the houses of worship are already called to serve. To join this initiative, contact Rev. Darren A. Ferguson at 212.870.3513, or Darren@interfaithcenter.org.

This month ICNY issued [a statement](#) concerned about recent revelations that almost 1,500 members of the NYPD were exposed to a grossly inaccurate and inflammatory video about Muslims in the United States. ICNY also joined the Muslim response, as reported in [this story](#) featured on NY1. In addition, over 100 people participated in an ICNY conference on January 19th, [Catholic-Muslim Social Service Partnerships: Lessons from Manhattan, Bronx and Staten Island](#). Read reflections about the conference by [Paul Moses](#), author of St. Francis and the Sultan, and [Fr. Elias Mallon](#), Educational and Interreligious Affairs Officer for Catholic Near East Welfare Association, both of whom attended and spoke at the conference.

Please mark your calendar for the 10th annual James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner on June 11th, 2012. The dinner will honor Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee and acclaimed film maker Abigail Disney. If you want to get your reservation for this event in early to guarantee a spot please contact Ellen Greeley at ellen@interfaithcenter.org.

Interfaith Center Sponsored Events

Social Work and Religious Diversity

Date: Fridays February 10th – March 23rd, 2012

Time: 9:00am – 1:00pm

Location: UJA-Federation of New York, 130 East 59th Street, 7th Floor

The Interfaith Center's annual seven-session course on Social Work and Religious Diversity begins on Friday, February 10th. This free course offers social workers and others a remarkable opportunity to explore the religious diversity of the communities they serve, and to reflect on the role of religion and spirituality in their own work as social service providers, mental health professionals, and social justice activists. The course is currently full, but spaces may become available. For more information, or to join the waiting list, please contact Miriam Herscher at miriam@interfaithcenter.org, or call 917-691-9912.

Free Legal Clinic - Brooklyn

Date: February 29th, 2012

Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm

Location: Union United Methodist Church, 121 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11216-3404

The Interfaith Center of New York and the New York State Courts Access to Justice Community Outreach Program are bringing Free Legal Consultation Services to needy members of the Brooklyn community. The Free Legal Clinic is facilitated by a team of volunteer New York State attorneys and court clerks who will be setting up temporary offices in Brooklyn on Wednesday, Feb. 29, to provide free legal consultations to those in need. Free legal counseling will be offered for one day only, in the areas of domestic violence, child custody and visitation, consumer debts (including bankruptcy/foreclosures) landlord/tenant issues, divorces, and immigration. Private appointments can be scheduled in advance by calling Union United Methodist Church at (718) 467-0458.

NEH Summer Institute for Teachers Application Deadline

Date: March 1st, 2012

Time: 12:00am, strict deadline

Location: Apply Online or Mail in your Application

Teachers, we hope you can join us from July 16 to August 3, 2012, for the inaugural meeting of the Religious Worlds of New York summer institute. The *Religious Worlds of New York* summer institute will help public, private, and parochial school teachers teach more effectively about the everyday lives of diverse religious communities. 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. In July of 2012, it will bring thirty teachers from throughout the United States to New York City, where they will engage with leading scholars of religious studies and a wide range of local religious leaders. The institute will introduce these teachers to six religious traditions that are part of the fabric of American life. It will help them distinguish between academic and devotional approaches to the study of religion. And it will give them the pedagogic tools they need to teach their students about “lived religion,” in addition to the conventional “world religions” curriculum. The institute will meet at Union Theological

Seminary, using the lovely UTS campus (in the Manhattan neighborhood of Morningside Heights) as a home base for our exploration of New York City's religious diversity. A stipend is available to participants. Applications are due by March 1, so please visit <http://interfaithcenter.org/archives/1719> for details on how to apply!

Other New York Events

“Inside ~ Outside Talks 2012” Work Sessions Focus on Cleaning up the Hudson River

Dates: Numerous events from Feb. 2 – May 10, 2012

Clean Mind Clean Heart Enhancement Group is continuing their focus of cleaning up the Hudson River and other bodies of water, through Tai Chi gatherings and other efforts. The organization is also looking to engage with the book “The Hidden Messages in Water” by Dr. Masaru Emoto, and discuss issues about water. For more information, contact James. R. Branch, (917) 975-4193 or branch_james@hotmail.com.

Women, Peace, and Security

Date: February 3rd, 2012

Time: 2:15pm – 4:15pm

Location: United Nations Secretariat Building, Room GA IB-50. Use Visitors Center entrance; room is located in the lower level, across from the bookstore

This conference is part of the Women in Leadership Series at the United Nations in NYC and Worcester, MA. Speaking at this event will be: Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, UN Security Council President during Resolution 1325 negotiations on Women, Peace, and Security, Ms. Michiko Kuroda, Former Chief of Staff Timor-Leste Peacekeeping Mission, Dr. Sarah Sayeed, President of Women in Islam and Program Associate at The Interfaith Center of New York, and Virginia Swain, Founder and Director of the Institute for Global Leadership and Co-founder of the Center for Global Community and World Law. RSVP required to vsvain@global-leader.org; for additional information contact Virginia Swain, vsvain@global-leader.org or 508-753-4172.

Muslim Rally for Social Justice

Date: February 3rd, 2012

Time: 3:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: Foley Square, Manhattan (bordered by Worth Street, Centre Street and Lafayette Street and between City Hall and Canal Street)

In support of Majlis al Shura of New York, CAIR-New York would like to inform you about the upcoming rally this Friday from 3-5pm at Foley Square in protest of the recent actions of the NYPD against the Muslim community. We urge the Muslim community of New York City to participate and call on all partners to do so as well. The NYPD has transgressed all boundaries of respect for our community namely in their installation of spying and surveillance program of masjids and MSA's in the tri-state area known as the "Demographics Unit" and more recently in the use of the anti-Muslim film "The Third Jihad" in NYPD trainings. Due to the fact that both the police commissioner and Mayor Bloomberg refuse to accept the severity of their actions, or meet with local Islamic leaders in an attempt to mend the situation, we as a community with full force must stand up to the mistreatment and dismissal of our community at large. Silence and lack of reaction to this pressing issue will only allow this type of systematic persecution of a minority community to continue and escalate without any reprimand. Please spread this message forward to your congregation, student clubs, local organizations, neighbors, family and friends urging them to join us this Friday at Foley Square in support of creating accountability in our policing system. It is our responsibility as citizens of this city and members of humanity to come together in unison speaking out against injustice. For more information, call (718) 205-3036.

Panel: Can the Occupy Wall Street Movement Reinvigorate Progressive Faith Communities?

Date: Monday, February 6, 7:15 – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Columbia University Faculty House. To reach Faculty House, enter the Columbia University campus via the gate on the east side of Broadway at 116th Street; go through campus and cross Amsterdam Avenue. Continue on West 116th past the Law School and turn left through the gate, turn right beyond Wien Hall on the right and go down the ramp to Faculty House.

Religious activists with roots in previous social justice struggles as well as in the Occupy Faith movement will discuss their histories in the movements for social justice and peace, the lessons they have learned about organizing, the reasons for the seeming eclipse of prophetic religion over the last thirty years and what is now happening as the Occupy Faith movement participates in and seeks to support the larger Occupy movement.

OPTIONAL DINNER: Members of the seminar will gather for an optional dinner in Faculty House at 6:00. The cost of the dinner is \$24 per person and payable only by cash or check made payable to Columbia University. (RSVP required – please see bottom of email.)

PLEASE RSVP to Sheila Collins Sheila.collins65@verizon.net by Wednesday, February 1, 2012 with a phone number where we may reach you on the day of the seminar in case of a last minute cancellation.

World Interfaith Harmony Week Event at the U.N.

Date: February 7th, 2012

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Location: The United Nations General Assembly Hall

The UN General Assembly Resolution, adopted in 2010, calls for the establishment of World Interfaith Harmony Week (1-7 February), reaffirming the role of mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue as important dimensions of a culture of peace. The program includes distinguished speakers, musicians and eminent representatives of diverse religious traditions. Register by February 1st at <http://www.interfaithharmonyweek.info>.

Security check-in begins at 9:00 a.m. Photo ID required.

Islamic Center at NYU Conference

Date: February 10th and 11th, 2012

Time: All Day

Location: The Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, NYU, 566 LaGuardia Place

The Islamic Center at New York University invites you to hear leading American Muslims engage the pressing challenges of our present and the great potentials of our future. Over a course of two days, thinkers, scholars, leaders and artists will debate, discuss and explore our embrace of the mainstream. Hosted in New York, this third of an annual series has become a critical moment on our calendars; a conference of introspection, dynamic exchange, fresh ideas and spiritual reconstruction. Join ICNYU on February 10th and 11th at NYU for our Third Annual Conference entitled "Where We Came From, Where We Are Going." Amongst many others, Shaykh Suhaib Webb, Shaykh Abdallah Adhami, Linda Sarsour, Haroon Moghul, Shaykh Khalil Abdur-Rashid, Raymond Brock-Murray, and Maryum Khwaja will be joining us. Please visit <http://www.icnyuconference.org/> to register.

John Philip Newell speaks on New Harmony in Our Broken World

Date: Sunday, March 25th, 2012

Time: 1-5 pm

Location: Fordham University, Rose Hill O'Keefe Commons, O'Hare Hall

John Philip Newell is a poet, scholar, and teacher, internationally acclaimed for his work in Celtic Spirituality. Canadian by birth, he now lives in Scotland. In an increasingly fragmented world, Newell calls us to a vision of life's essential oneness, inviting us to be part of a "new harmony." He points the way to a Christianity more integrated with the earth and with the rest of humanity – articulating a pathway toward transformation in our lives and world. There is limited seating, so please register by Monday, March 12 with Adelaide at asharris@scny.org. For more information call (718) 549-9200.