



September 2012 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Dear Friends,

In August, ICNY joined with the Sikh Coalition and 150 other organizations in calling upon the Senate Judiciary Committee to convene hearings on the increase of hate groups and hate crimes in the United States. A [letter](#) requesting the hearings was sent on Tuesday, Aug. 21. Anyone wishing to support this initiative can contact the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) directly and urge them to prioritize hearings, and contact the offices of [Judiciary Committee members](#) by phone and email. On Wednesday, Aug. 8, ICNY, United Sikhs and other partners organized a vigil in NYC's Washington Square Park, honoring the victims of the Sikh temple tragedy in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Coverage of the event in the Huffington Post (including a slideshow of photos from this vigil) is available [here](#).

In response to the feminist punk rock group sentences in Russia and current blasphemy charges against Pakistani girl Rimsha Masih, the International Herald Tribune published an Op-Ed by ICNY Executive Director about women, [Blasphemy and the Law](#) last week that argued blasphemy laws as currently applied are blunt and counterproductive instruments for confronting legitimate religious concerns. The full text of this article is appended to the end of this email.

In an August 21st [Statement](#), ICNY called on public officials, politicians and candidates both locally and nationally to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards acts of religiously or ethnically motivated hatred. ICNY is also working with a coalition of interfaith leaders on additional statements, letters and actions in light of hate ads that have been introduced to New York's public transportation platforms, as well as an increase in national incidents of hate crimes including attacks on Muslim houses of worship in Missouri, California, Illinois, and New York. Please watch our web site for developments: www.interfaithcenter.org.

Below we list programs offered by The Interfaith Center of New York in September. 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 Events* *****

A 9/11 Commemoration: Recounting the World History of "The Golden Rule"

Virtually every civilization and faith tradition in the history of the world has espoused some form of "The Golden Rule," a belief that all human beings should treat each other with care and respect. Tuesday, September 11 (the eleventh anniversary of 9/11) seems an appropriate and constructive time to contemplate the universal value of The Golden Rule.

We invite everyone to follow [@ICNY](#) on Twitter and join us in reflecting on The Golden Rule, and share your thoughts on how we can all better exercise this tenet in our daily lives. The event will start at 12:00 am on Tuesday, September 11, as ICNY begins to recount the world history of The Golden Rule on Twitter, and continue throughout the day, broadcasting excerpts from the earliest written references from ancient Babylon, China and Egypt, the philosophical writings of Greece, Rome and India, and messages from founders of the world's religions, large and small.

Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support: Worship Service in Harlem

Date: Sunday, Sept. 23

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Salem United Methodist Church

Salem United Methodist Church's first annual reentry service will feature music, presentations from various faith communities, as well as a guest preacher TBA. We would like all of the Reentry Circles of Support family to come out as we raise consciousness, open hearts and heal communities. For more information, contact Darren Ferguson, (212) 870-3513 or Darren@interfaithcenter.org.

Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support: Life Skills Group

Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support will be starting a life skills group at St. Lukes AME Church in Harlem within the next few weeks. The group will meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings for 8 weeks -- start date to be announced later in September. Topics will include Violence and Anger, Community Awareness, HIV and AIDS, Self Help, Growth and Development, Self Identification, Employability and Health and Wellness. An additional weekly group will start at a separate location later this year. If you know of any formerly incarcerated persons who could benefit from such a group, please contact Darren Ferguson, Outreach Coordinator, as soon as possible: (212) 870-3513 or Darren@interfaithcenter.org.

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

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) –

New Immigration Policy for “Dreamers”

On June 15th, 2012 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a new policy that will offer relief from deportation to young immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and who meet other specific requirements. Immigrants who qualify will also be eligible to apply for work permits. In New York State as many as 110,000 young people could qualify. Many local organizations are providing legal assistance for filing applications for the Program – the application process began on August 15, 2012.

For detailed information, visit the “Dream Center” on the web site of the New York Immigration Coalition: <http://thenyic.org/deferred-action-2012>. A list of free legal clinics and information sessions taking place in September and October, along with a list of free and low-

cost immigrant service providers, can be found on the web site via this link: <http://thenyic.org/find-help> .

The Interfaith Center of New York was a co-founder of the New York State Interfaith Network for Immigration.

(Please include this information in your faith community's bulletin, newsletter, weekly announcement, website, etc.)

Volunteers needed:

Are you a lawyer or law student that can [volunteer your time](#)? The New York Immigration Coalition has hundreds of young people who have been screened for eligibility but now require legal assistance to complete their applications. Training and supervision will be provided by experienced immigration attorneys so even if you do not have immigration law experience, you can still volunteer!**Would you like to [volunteer with the NYIC](#)?** Individuals are needed who can help out at community education events and legal clinics, come to our office to photocopy materials for informational sessions and legal clinics, schedule appointments for applicants with attorneys, schedule legal clinics in coordination with legal and community groups, maintain files and data entry, answer phones and respond to messages.**Are you interested in providing pro bono legal assistance or** if you would like to consider having your law firm take on a lead sponsorship role in this effort?

You can sign up to be a volunteer here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dGZGemhmZ2c5WmlNbnU2ZzVqcU05TGc6MQ#gid=0> Or call: (212) 627-2227 ext 243.

9/11 Unity Walk – co-sponsored by ICNY and Religions for Peace USA

Date: Sunday, September 9

Time: 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: Start at Washington Square & Fifth Avenue; End at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church (near WTC site)

How will you honor 9/11 this year? With your hands, heart, and feet? In community with others?

The 9/11 Unity Walk is a chance for people of faith and goodwill of New York City to take the remembrance of a cataclysmic time and uplift the unity that was exhibited throughout the city during those tragic events. The 9/11 Unity Walk is an event that strives to involve members of our mutual religious communities in this building up of understanding and cooperation between religious traditions and faiths. The Unity Walks have occurred for many years in Washington D.C, New York City, and other US communities. The 2012 9/11 Unity Walk NYC begins at 3 pm in Washington Square Park, visits several religious communities along its path, and concludes with a brief service at 5 pm at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church at 22 Barclay St, adjoining the WTC site.

Collective, collaborative action between people of diverse faiths is one of the strongest avenues for humans to reflect and be reminded of our common commitments and responsibilities. Recent tragic events in Wisconsin, Missouri, and Colorado perpetuate a narrative of violence and division and remind us of the urgency of our action. With the anniversary of 9/11, we have a unique opportunity to remind ourselves and educate future generations about our shared values as people of faith and goodwill.

We look forward to seeing you at Washington Square Park at 3:00 PM on Sunday September 9th. For more information, contact Aaron Stauffer at stauffer.aaron@gmail.com.

Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf: “Moving the Mountain: Beyond Ground Zero to a New Vision of Islam in America

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 19

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: John Jay College of Criminal Justice – CUNY, 524 West 59th Street (between 10th and 11th Avenues), Room L61

The 9/11 Community for Common Ground Initiative, The Interfaith Center of New York, and the CUNY Dispute Resolution Consortium at John Jay College invite you to an evening with Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf to discuss his new book, "Moving the Mountain; Beyond Ground Zero to a New Vision for Islam in America." For more information, contact Gerry Bogacz, (646) 957-6442 or cz403@yahoo.com.

International Day of Peace Vigil

Date: Friday, Sept. 21

Time: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Tillman Chapel at the UN Church Center, 777 UN Plaza (1st Ave. and 44th Street)

The Vigil will feature artists, religious leaders, and NGO leaders who will consider the “Things that Make for Peace.” Participants will be invited throughout the day to write their prayers and hopes for peace upon luminaries which will then be taken to the Central Park Bandshell on Sunday the 23rd for the “Vigil for International Peace and Ecology.” Friday’s event will be organized in ½ hour blocks from 8:00 – 11:00 am and 1:00 – 3:00 pm beginning with the ringing of the bell. Constituency will be invited to quiet prayer during the day.

The Interfaith Center and Connect Faith will be co-hosting a segment called Peace from the Inside Out - Self, Family, Community and the World, including Interfaith Reflections and Litany, from 11:45pm-12:15pm.

For more information, contact Rev. Kathleen Stone, Office of the Chaplain, Church Center for the United Nations, 212-682-3633, ext. 3127 or chaplain@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Dharma Talk by Korean Buddhist Seon Master Jinje, with Response by the Reverend Fletcher Harper

Date: Thursday, October 4

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza (44th Street and First Avenue)

Seon Master Jinje, Supreme Patriarch of the Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, will speak on "World Peace and the Ecological Crisis: A Buddhist Wisdom," with a response by the Reverend Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith. A light lunch will be provided. The program is co-sponsored by The Interfaith Center of New York and the Temple of Understanding. It is part of the ongoing programs of the Interfaith Consortium for an Ecological Civilization, coordinated by the Temple of Understanding. Admission is free, but in order to reserve a seat, please RSVP by October 1, by e-mail to jinje4worldpeace@yahoo.com or leave a message at (201) 988-0798.

Master Jinje Sunim was born in 1934 and entered monastic life at the age of nineteen. He received Dharma transmission from Master Haynggok in 1967. In 2011 he was appointed the Supreme Patriarch of the Jogye Order, Korea's largest Buddhist group and part of the tradition centering on meditation known as Ganhwa Seon in Korea, Ch'an in China and Zen in Japan and the West.

The Reverend Fletcher Harper is an Episcopal priest and the Executive Director of GreenFaith. He is an award-winning spiritual writer and nationally recognized preacher on the environment.

New York Peace Walk – a silent walk around Central Park

Date: Sunday, October 7

Time: 2:30 pm

Location: Gather at the NY Academy of Medicine, 1216 5th Avenue at E. 103rd Street.

In this time of great change across the Middle East and through the Muslim World, support peace in the Middle East, and respect for Muslims and Jews everywhere.

Originators: Buddhist teacher Dr. Jack Kornfield, Dr. Stephen Fulder, Israeli founder of Middleway, a Palestinian Israeli peace organization that has been organizing large silent peace walks in Israel and Palestine for more than 10 years, Professor Sami Zaidalkilani, An-Najah, a Palestinian peace negotiator of National University, Nablus- Palestine

Cosponsoring organizations invited – contact Gal Romano: gal.peacewalk@gmail.com. For more information visit the web site: www.nypeacewalk.org.

WEBINAR: An Interfaith Framework for Teaching World Religions

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 9
Time: 2:00 pm

The United States is the most religiously diverse country in the world. How can we help students to appreciate the depth and complexity of this rich religious landscape? This webinar will present a framework for the teaching of world religions that incorporates "lived religions" as a way to better understand the religious lives and world views of our neighbors of various faiths. Led by Dr. Henry Goldschmidt, Director of Education Programs at the Interfaith Center of New York, and Stephen Arbogast, Senior Chaplain and Chair of the Religious Studies Department at the National Cathedral School. Co-sponsored by ICNY and the National Association of Episcopal Schools. Applicable to Grades 6 to 12. [Click here for more information and registration](#). Registration is free for educators at NAES member schools, \$75 for non-members.

***** *Additional Events in the New York Area* *****

“The Other Son” - Free Screening of New Film Opening in September Nationwide

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 5
Time: 7:00 pm
Location: Midtown Manhattan - location will be given with RSVP

THE OTHER SON is the moving and provocative tale – filmed in Israel and the West Bank - of two young men – one Israeli, the other Palestinian, who discover they were accidentally switched at birth, and the complex repercussions on themselves and their respective families.

Joseph (Jules Sitruk), an 18-year-old musician preparing to join the Israeli army for his mandatory military service, lives at home in a comfortable suburb of Tel Aviv with his parents, France-born physician Orith (Emmanuelle Devos) and Israel-born army commander Alon Silbers (Pascal Elbé). A blood test for Joseph’s military service reveals that he is not their biological son; during the Gulf War Joseph was evacuated from a clinic along with another baby; both were given back to the wrong families. While the Palestinian Joseph went to Tel Aviv with the Silbers, their actual Jewish son, Yacine (Medhi Dehbi) was brought to the West Bank by the Arab couple, Said (Khalifa Natour) and Leila (Areen Omari). The revelation turns the lives of the two families upside-down, forcing them to reassess their respective identities, values and beliefs.

Contact Information for questions or more info: Linda Altman, Linda@SusanSenkPR.com or (212) 876-5948.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture: Eboo Patel - Interfaith Leadership on America's Sacred Ground

Date: Monday, Sept. 10
Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: Union Theological Seminary, James Memorial Chapel, 3041 Broadway at 121st Street, New York, NY 10027

In the first of three lectures named for great figures associated with Union Theological Seminary, visiting guest lecturer Dr. Eboo Patel will look at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and work as an interfaith leader. Dr. King is of course widely known as a civil rights pioneer and a symbol of nonviolence. What is commonly missed is the central role that religious diversity played in his formation and imagination. Dr. Patel will highlight the role that other faith traditions played in Dr. King's spiritual formation, trace the interfaith themes in Dr. King's sermons, and make a case that Dr. King's legacy as an interfaith leader has great relevance to our nation at this historical moment. This lecture will also serve as a book launch for Dr. Patel's *Sacred Ground: Pluralism, Prejudice and the Promise of America*. Registration is Required, [R.S.V.P. Now!](#)

Ninth Annual Children of Abraham Peace Walk – Jews, Christians, Muslims, and Others Walking for Peace

Date: Tuesday, September 11
Time: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Locations: See Schedule Below

Please join us as we walk together in the spirit of peace. Jews, Christians, Muslims, and all people of good will walking together as we remember those who died on 9/11 and commemorate the spirit of ongoing friendship. After visiting local houses of worship and a firehouse we will walk to the Promenade to join others commemorating the anniversary. Refreshments will be served.

5:00 – Kane Street Synagogue, 236 Kane Street
5:30 – Dawood Mosque, 143 State Street
5:50 – Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, 131 Remsen Street
6:10 – Plymouth Church, 75 Hicks Street
6:30 – E205 FDNY Firehouse Engine 205 & Ladder 118, 74 Middagh Street.
7:00 Gathering with faith leaders and others on the Promenade.

For more information, please contact, Rabbi Ellen Lippman, (718) 633-6377; Rev. Tom Martinez, (718) 915-2600; Debbie Almontaser (917) 559-8480.

Locating the Sacred Festival

Dates: Sept. 12 through 23
Times and Locations vary. For a schedule, please see www.locatingthesacred.org.

Two years in the making, the festival has brought together hundreds of artists, arts workers and cultural activists to create more than twenty events over twelve days in churches, museums, cultural centers, botanical gardens and theaters across the city. We have come together around a shared vision: to re-connect with the sacred and bring our communities closer together.

Join us as we launch the festival with our [Opening Concert on Wednesday, September 12th](#) at the magnificent Church of the Ascension, with a program of transcendental music. This features

the experimental musician Bora Yoon in collaboration with the exhilarating Texas-based group Riyaz Qawwali, who perform the passionate devotional music of South Asia known as Qawwali.

This and the festival's more than twenty other performances, exhibitions and talks celebrate compassion and love. Take this opportunity to re-connect—with your breathing, with friends, with the city—and to draw comfort, strength and inspiration from new people and new places you encounter at the festival. Join us in locating what is sacred to us all.

Getting to Zero: HIV/AIDS Treatment in 2012: What Faith Communities Need to Know!

Date: Thursday, Sept. 13

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Gethsemane Baptist Church, 771 Fairmount Place (2 blocks off E. Tremont Ave. & Prospect Ave.), Bronx, NY 10460 Directions at <http://interfaithcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Bronx-directions-Gethsesame-2.pdf>.

On Common Ground: AIDS Institute Faith Communities Project, Bronx Regional Committee, and The Health Ministry of Gethsemane Baptist Church present a community dialogue. Dinner will be provided. To register call Ron Derway at (800) 692-8528 by 9/6/12 or email at rgd01@health.state.ny.us. Testing will be available.

Helping Faith Communities Understand Child Sexual Abuse

Date: Wednesday, September 19

Time: 10:15 am - 1:30 pm

Location: Brooklyn Business Library 280 Cadman Plaza West, Brooklyn, NY 11201

Please join us for this participatory workshop with Rev. DeShannon Bowens, MS. therapist and founder of Ilera Counseling and Education services. The following topics will be included:

Dimensions of the problem

Defining child sexual abuse

Examining culture's effect on child sexual abuse and sexuality Signs and symptoms of abuse

Short and long term consequences How to respond

Resources

CONNECT is dedicated to preventing interpersonal violence, promoting gender justice and creating safe families and peaceful communities.

The Healing Center, also known as Trinity Healing Center, Inc., is a not-for-profit, community-based agency dedicated to the intervention and prevention of family violence and abuse, serving people of diverse faiths, cultures, and personal experiences. We seek to empower families to live safe and healthy lives utilizing a holistic approach.

For more information or to RSVP please contact: The Healing Center at 718.238-5138 or info@thehealingcenterny.org, or Sally MacNichol at 212.683.0015, Ext. 216, or CONNECTFaith@connectnyc.org.

Czech and Slovak Courses for Adult Learners

Date: Beginning Sept. 22, 2102

Location: Czech and Slovak School, 29-19 24 Avenue, Astoria, NY 11102

Classes in Czech beginner, Czech intermediate, Slovak beginner, taught by qualified Czech and Slovak teachers, meet on Saturdays for 11 two-hour sessions. The cost is \$150 plus the cost of books. For more information, see czechslovaksschool.com or email czskschool@bohemianhall.com or (201) 496-4393.

Hosting an International Fellow - Community Solutions Program

Date: August to December, 2012

Time: 4 months

Location: US-based host organizations

IREX seeks U.S. community-based organizations and government offices that actively engage in community development projects to host, mentor and guide international community leaders from July to December of 2012 as part of the U.S. State Department-funded Community Solutions Program. Community Solutions leaders are among the best and brightest global community leaders working in Transparency & Accountability, Tolerance & Conflict Resolution, Environmental Issues, and Women's Issues. This year participants are coming from 32 different countries. For more information about hosting a leader please contact communitysolutions@irex.org no later than June 8, 2012. To hear what past hosts have to say about the program visit our website. Contact Information for questions or more info: communitysolutions@irex.org, 202-628-8188 ext. 201

Practical Peacebuilding: Skills and Spiritual Practices for Conflict Transformation

Date: January 9 - 12, 2013

Time: All Day

Location: Desmond Tutu Center, General Theological Seminary, 440 W. 21st Street, New York

Cost: \$495

Conflict is simmering within congregations and communities, yet it can be the catalyst for positive change. General Theological Seminary and Candler School of Theology are co-offering Practical Peacebuilding, a four-day program in January 2013 that will teach you how to engage conflict constructively, strengthen your skills to facilitate a conflict transformation process, and guide you in spiritual practices and resources vital to sustaining this work. Continuing Education Units are available. To learn more and register, click [here](#).

***** *ADL Calendar of Observances for August 2012* *****

September 3

Monday

LABOR DAY

Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.

September 8

Saturday

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

Call to action for universal literacy.

September 15 -October 15

Full Month

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

September 17

Monday

CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY

Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.

September 17-18

Monday-Tuesday

ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish

Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.

September 19

Wednesday

GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu

Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.

September 22

Saturday

AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

The date when night and day are nearly of the same length. It marks the first day of fall.

September 26

Wednesday

YOM KIPPUR • Jewish

The “Day of Atonement” marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.

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