



March 2013 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Dear Friends,

On March 4, at the beginning of Women's History Month, look for a special email from us launching a campaign to focus attention on our Domestic Violence Training Program for Religious Leaders with CONNECT Faith. ICNY is currently partnering with CONNECT Faith to bring Domestic Violence training with Afghan women in Queens. Please [click here](#) to learn how you can help.

Last Saturday the New York Times published [this article](#) about our partner the Harlem Community Justice Center's Parole Court Graduation ceremony. With help from the JC Flowers Foundation, ICNY and HCJC's "[Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support](#)" program supports many of the graduating parolees. One of the honorees at this event was Eric Stewart, who attends the Resurrection Chapel of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, and is part of a team of Harlem, faith-based volunteers recruited by The Interfaith Center of New York who provide hospitality every week to parole clients and staff at the Harlem Reentry Court. To learn more about volunteering with Circles of Support contact Pastor Arthur Barnes at Arthur@interfaithcenter.org.

Finally, the two concluding classes in our Religious Diversity course for social workers are Friday March 1 (Sexuality and LGBT) and March 8 (Depression and Mental Illness). On March 25-26, our "Debate in the Neighborhood" will bring together all of the Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu students here at ICNY. Mixed-faith teams will debate the issue of Privacy vs. the Use of Surveillance Technologies as they prepare for the final tournament on May 4, to which members of the public are invited.

We hope that these monthly e-bulletins impart useful information. ICNY seeks to increase mutual understanding of people of different faith, ethnic and cultural traditions. Please support our work by participating in our programs, by promoting our message to new people, and by making (tax deductible) donations. Take action with just a simple click to "like" us on Facebook, "follow" us on Twitter, or make a contribution. Thank you.



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

Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support: Lunch and Learn

Date: Thursday, March 14

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Location: Elmendorf Reformed Church, 171 E. 121st St., between Third and Lexington Avenues

Please join The Interfaith Center of New York and the Harlem Community Justice Center for a Lunch and Learn event. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Harold Dean Trulear, professor of Applied Theology, Howard University School of Divinity. Besides a lunch and a great speaker, the event is also an opportunity to network. The Lunch and Learn events are focused on issues of importance to the formerly incarcerated, their families, and faith volunteers and service providers that work with them. You can RSVP to: 212-870-3513 or darren@interfaithcenter.org.

The Interfaith Center of New York is seeking out local restaurants and houses of worship willing to provide lunch (home-cooked or store bought is fine) for the next L&L. Contributors should be willing to provide lunch for about 30-40 people.

The Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support initiative is made possible through a generous grant from the J.C Flowers Foundation.

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

“A New New Testament”

Date: Tuesday, March 5

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Union Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway, New York

Over the past century, numerous lost scriptures have been discovered, authenticated, translated, debated and celebrated. Many of these documents were as important to shaping early Christian communities and beliefs as what we have come to call the New Testament; these were not the work of shunned sects or rebel apostles but part of the vibrant conversations that sparked the rise of Christianity. Yet these scriptures are rarely read in contemporary churches; they are discussed mostly by scholars. Why should these books be set aside? In February 2012, Hal Taussig, a Biblical scholar and practicing pastor, and nineteen other American spiritual leaders and religious scholars gathered to consider how more recently discovered texts not included in the Bible can be read alongside the Bible as we know it. They selected 10 often overlooked texts to add to the New Testament. The result is A NEW NEW TESTAMENT: A Bible for the 21st Century Combining Traditional and Newly Discovered Texts. The panel speakers on March 5 will be: Bishop Alfred Johnson of the Church of the Village and Rev. Margaret Aymer of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary, and the moderator is Celene Lillie, a graduate student at Union Theological Seminary. [Click here](#) to RSVP. For more information, contact Simmi Aujla, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, simmi.aujla@hmhpub.com.

Voices of Everyday Peacebuilders: Stories of Learning Peace

Date: Friday, March 15

Time: 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: NYU's Kimmel Center (60 Washington Square South), NYC

The National Peace Academy (NPA), in partnership with [Pasos Peace Museum](#), is hosting a special evening event in conjunction with the exhibit, "[A Peace of My Mind](#)." Corresponding with NPA's 4-year anniversary, the event will feature the stories of everyday peacebuilders and their journeys in becoming agents of change. ICNY's executive director, the Rev. Chloe Breyer, is a featured storyteller/peacebuilder at the event. The evening also complements the exhibit, "A Peace of My Mind," which features thoughts about peace from people from all walks of life, and is open to the public through March 25. [Click here](#) for more information. [Click here to RSVP](#).

Exodus Conversations

Beginning Monday, March 18

Location: www.exodusconversations.org (available March 18)

In response to rising anti-Muslim sentiment in America, three distinguished writers, a Jew, a Christian and a Muslim, began an extended discussion to explore the story of the Exodus, the ancient saga of the Israelites' struggle for freedom. Why choose the Exodus? Because it is an important narrative in all three traditions. The aim is to construct a new resource to promote understanding, one that can be used for the celebration of Passover and for interfaith dialogues year round. These writers explored sixteen issues raised by the text of the Haggadah (the guide to the Passover service), including: What are the implications of believing your group is chosen or exalted by God? What are your hopes for women in your tradition today? How does your religious community handle dissent? How do you understand the obligation to care for the needy? The scholars have examined both differences and similarities among the traditions as well as differences within their respective faith communities. For more information, contact Ruth J. Abram, info@exodusconversations.org or (212) 873-5127.

Queens call to Action to Prevent Violence

Date: Friday, March 22

Time: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Community Mediation Services Inc., 89-64 163rd St., Jamaica, NY 11432

Recent tragedies evoke concerns about violence in our neighborhoods. Have you witnessed bullying or hate crimes, domestic violence or child abuse, seen what damage guns and gangs can do? Join this Open Space to examine the issue of violence, share ideas, suggest solutions, and propose actions. Please RSVP by March 15 to Nikki at (718) 523-6868, ext. 251 or thay@mediatenyc.org.

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

NAACP Presents “The Great Debate”

Date: Saturday, March 2

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: First Corinthian Baptist Church, 1912 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd., New York, NY 10026

Inspired by the 2007 movie, “The Great Debaters” starring actor Denzel Washington, Scot X. Esdaile, President of the Connecticut State Conference and NAACP National Board Member created the “NAACP Great Debate series” in 2008. The debate series, which is one of a kind in the country, brings together highly acclaimed debate teams from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU’s) to compete against their Ivy League counterparts. The teams debate some of the most pressing social, cultural, and political issues of the day. In 2013, the NAACP Great Debate series will achieve yet another first, when students from Howard and Columbia University will debate for the first time in New York City. This debate is especially unique, in that it will be held not on a college campus, but at First Corinthian Baptist Church, located in the village of Harlem. Admission is free. For more information, please contact NAACP New York State Conference NYSNAACP@AOL.COM or (212) 344-7474.

Special VIP Screening and Panel Discussion on "A Place at the Table"

Date: Saturday, March 2

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Sunshine Cinema, 143 E. Houston St., Manhattan

Through a generous grant from the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund, the New York City Coalition Against Hunger is holding screenings of *A Place at the Table*, followed by panels with filmmakers and the Coalition’s Executive Director Joel Berg, who appears in the film and is a nationally-recognized expert on hunger. These screenings will be available at no cost for people with limited incomes. Click here to buy tickets:

<https://www.nyccah.org/civicrm/event/register?reset=1&id=22>.

When I Call for Help: A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence against Women

Date: Sunday, March 3

Time: 3:30 pm

Location: Upper Room, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Williamsburg Brooklyn at N 8th St & Havemeyer (L train to Bedford Ave)

Please join this information reading and presentation. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by OLMC MONICA MINISTRY AND GLAD TIDINGS. www.olmcchurchbk.com.

Spiritual Empowerment for Women & Girls: CSW Parallel Event

Monday, March 4th. 4:30 - 6:00 pm

UN Church Center (44th St. & 1st Ave. New York, NY) 11th Floor

Won Buddhism UN Office with Temple of Understanding and Religions for Peace Women

program are now planning a CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) parallel event: "Spiritual Empowerment for Women & Girls" on March 4th. Monday 4:30 - 6:00 pm at the UN Church Center (44th St. & 1st Ave. New York, NY) 11th Floor. (<http://www.ngocsw.org/>)

FEMA and NOAA Promote National Severe Weather Preparedness Week

Date: March 3 – 9

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are continuing their partnership to increase public awareness of the hazards posed by severe weather and the common-sense steps we can all take to be better prepared. March 3 marks the start of National Severe Weather Preparedness Week. Severe weather affects everyone and FEMA and NOAA are asking for your help to increase awareness and to motivate individuals, families, businesses, and communities to know their risk, take action, and be an example through the *Be a Force of Nature* pledge campaign. Together, they call upon you to [Pledge to Prepare](#) and to *Be a Force of Nature*. Join today and pledge to be prepared for the severe weather in your area. We also ask you to visit ready.gov/severe-weather or noaa.gov/wrn to pledge and learn more information on tornadoes and severe thunderstorms to be better prepared.

"From Enemy to Brother: What Changed?--Converts and the Revolution in Catholic Teaching on the Jews"

Date: Monday, March 4

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Fordham's Lincoln Center campus, 113 West 60th Street, in the 12th Floor Lounge

Please join the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture for a forum featuring a dialogue between the Jewish studies scholar Susannah Heschel of Dartmouth College and historian John Connelly, University of California, Berkeley, and author of *From Enemy to Brother: The Revolution in Catholic Teaching on the Jews, 1933-1965* (Harvard University Press, 2012). RSVP to CRCEvent@fordham.edu or 212-636-7347.

Church World Service: Recovery Tools & Training

Dates and Locations:

Monday, March 4, First Presbyterian, 89-60 164th Street - Queens, NY

Wednesday, March 6, Church of the Gateway 200 Boscombe Ave. (at Page Ave & Outer Bridge) - Staten Island, NY 10309

Thursday March 7, St. Mark's United Methodist 2017 Beverly Road - Brooklyn, NY

Recovery from a disaster event requires a whole-community approach. This workshop gives an overview of long term recovery and shares lessons learned and best practices gathered from decades of experience in large and small disasters. Anyone dedicated to helping rebuild homes and lives may attend: long-term recovery leadership, faith based groups, religious leaders, community leaders, social service organizations, disaster case managers, and other persons

concerned about recovery. There is no cost for the training, the lunch or materials. The training is a gift of Church World Service and the faith groups providing leadership. For registration, email Alisa.Brumfield@fema.dhs.gov with the following information: First & Last Name, Phone number, Email, Agency Name, and Date/Location of session you would like to attend. Please indicate any dietary restrictions.

Global Awareness of the Epidemic of Violence Against Women

Date: Wednesday, March 6

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: The Church of the Holy Trinity, 316 East 88th Street, New York, NY 10128

L.O.V.E. (Liberate Ourselves, Value Everyone) Task Force on Non-Violent Living invites you to a panel discussion with moderator Kate Gilmore, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General & Deputy Executive Director (Programme) UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund). This is a Parallel Event during the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW).

Contact Information for questions or more info: Dr. Victoria Rollins, (917) 523-7895, nonviolentliving88@gmail.com.

"Our Deportation Crisis - What's Next?"

Date: Friday, March 8

Time: 8:15 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Saint Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Avenue (at 54th Street)

This working conference, coordinated by [New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC](#), along with supporters and national allies, will convene 300 local and regional attorneys, advocates, organizers, unions, and faith leaders for a day of critical dialogue. Together we will examine the key role Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) plays in maintaining a system of brutal regulations and procedures that traps individuals and families, incarcerates children, forces police to act as federal agents, and divides communities. Come learn what you can do to advocate for more humane immigration policies. To register for the conference, please complete the [online registration form](#).

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: How can faith communities help to end it?

Date: Friday, March 8

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Location: Mpanzi, 815 2nd Ave., First Floor Hospitality Room, New York 10017

You are invited to a storytelling event on the occasion of the 57th session of the United Nations commission on the Status of Women, co-organized by Mpanzi in collaboration with The Lutheran World Federation and other partners. At the event, Mpanzi will launch a storybook and "Nasema La" (meaning "I Say No") initiative. To participate, kindly RSVP to Jackie Ogega, co-founder and director of Mpanzi: jogega@mpanzi.org.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform: A Business Plan for the American Economy

Date: Monday, March 11

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: NASDAQ MarketSite, 4 Times Square (E. 43rd St. and Broadway) - Please note the entrance is on Broadway and photo ID will be required.

Robert Greifeld, CEO of NASDAQ OMX, and Jeremy Robbins, Director of the Partnership for a New American Economy, will discuss the national focus on Comprehensive Immigration Reform and how the business community has rallied behind this important issue. Registration is required, please visit www.ajcnyc.org/immigration2013.

“180 Days Well Spent” community screening

Date: Monday, March 11

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Cafe Amrita, 301 W 110th Street (between Frederick Douglass and Manhattan Avenue)

In memory of Linda Levine, educator, activist for justice in education, and remarkable human being, please join Participatory Action Research Center for Education Organizing, together with Bloomingdale Family Program; Change the Stakes; Graduate School of Education, Bank Street College of Education; Metro Center at NYU; New York Collective of Radical Educators; New York Performance Standards Consortium; Parent Leadership Project; Public Science Project of the CUNY Graduate Center; Teacher’s College Institute for Urban and Minority Education; and Time Out from Testing for this community screening - a collaboration between parents and educators about creating good schools for our children without high stakes tests. For more information contact Donna Nevel, denevel@gmail.com or (917) 570-4371.

2013 Interfaith Movie Night – “Where Do We Go Now”

Date: Wednesday, March 13

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Plymouth Church Reception Room, 75 Hicks Street (between Orange and Cranberry Sts.), Brooklyn Heights

Set in a remote Lebanese village where the church and mosque stand side-by-side, the film follows the antics of townswomen who unite to keep their men from fighting each other, employing one clever ruse after another to distract their sons and husbands from their worst instincts. A light supper will be served at 6:30 with movie starting promptly at 7:00.

Contributions of side dishes, desserts and drinks are welcome. Films are free of charge and open to the public. Each screening will be followed by an opportunity for brief discussion. Sponsored by the Plymouth Interfaith Connection Group. For more information, call (718) 624-4743. See www.plymouthchurch.org.

Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Week

Dates: March 15, 16, 17

Location: Participating Houses of Worship

Places of worship across the nation are joining the [National Cathedral](#), [PICO](#) and [Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence](#), a coalition of nearly 50 denominations and faith-based organizations, to remember those who have lost their lives to gunfire and to discuss how communities of faith can work together to help reduce gun violence. For places of worship to RSVP: <http://faithsagainstgunviolence.org/sabbath/>. For ideas and resources for the Sabbath events: <http://faithsagainstgunviolence.org/toolkit/>. A list of participants and their events can be accessed here: <http://faithsagainstgunviolence.org/search/>.

FYI: If you are concerned about gun violence in America, please sign this petition calling on the President and Congress to Ban Assault Weapons: http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/50350/c/10067/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=9154.

FPWA Let the Children Come Sunday

Date: Sunday, March 17

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agency's major action concerning the proposed cuts to Early Childhood Education and After School Programming will be the Let the Children Come Sunday on March 17th - a Sunday where houses of worship across New York City raise this issue in the pulpit through preaching, bulletin inserts to educate congregants and an opportunity to sign post cards urging legislators to act justly on this issue. FPWA will provide a Let the Children Come packet with background on the issue, bulletin inserts and relevant scriptural references. All houses of worship are invited to participate and churches can be creative with how they incorporate this into Sunday worship. Furthermore, if your congregation would like to hear a testimony from a parent and/or child who will be directly impacted by the cuts please contact me and FPWA can arrange for this to occur during worship. To receive a packet, please email aalston@fpwa.org including the size of your congregation.

Bronx Clergy Passover Seder: Celebrating the Journey to Freedom

Date: Monday, March 18

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Bronx Christian Fellowship Church, 1015 E. Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY 10469

As we approach holy season, faith based leaders from all religions as well as the Bronx Christian Fellowship Church community at large are invited to learn and be a part of an International Seder where Jews from different part of the world will be present. From Russian Jews to Ethiopian Jews this will be an enlightening event for all. Hear their stories and partake in their custom.

RSVP by March 4 here

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dGNITFJNYXktUk91dldlb3FxQldsGc6MQ>, or call (718) 231-1033. For questions contact Ariel Ennis, ennisa@jrcny.org or 212) 983-4800 x157. Dietary Laws Observed.

Aging Network Training

Date: Thursday, March 21

Time: 11:00- 3:00

Location: Hudson Pride Connections Center, 32 Jones Street, Jersey City, NJ 07032

Hudson Pride Connections Center is hosting the first Aging Network LGBT training. This training was developed by Public Health Institute, a leader in service education, in collaboration with LBGT and aging experts from across the country. It is a FREE educational training and you will receive a certificate at the completion of training session. Topics covered in the training include: Culture, needs, and concerns of LGBT older adults; Why LGBT older adults are less likely to access health and social; services; Exploring judgement and assumptions, myths, and misinformation about HIV and AIDS; Health disparities between LGBT older adults and those who are not LGBT; Tools and education to better serve the LGBT older adults who currently access your services, or who are in need of your services. Contact Information for questions or more info:Melissa Dobzinski, (201) 963-4779, ext. 418, Melissa@hudsonpride.org.

Building an Interfaith Community

Dates: August 8 – 30 (deadline for applications is April 1)

Location: Bossey, Switzerland

"What can we, as people of faith, do to respond and to overcome the pressing challenges of our time, such as violence and conflict, and build together mutually accountable societies based on respect and cooperation?" This is the question up to 30 young Christians, Muslims and Jews from around the world are to explore during a summer seminar at the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Institute in Bossey. The structure of the program includes spiritual exposure and sharing reflection on sacred scriptures as well as lectures and workshops on thematic issues. Participants should be between 18-35 years of age, well grounded in their own faiths and be positioned to influence the thinking of members of their wider faith communities after completion of the summer course. [Click here](#) for information on the course and how to apply.

Light & Spirituality

Free Media to view or download from OSCAR-nominated filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman. The film RADIANCE:The Experience of Light documents the story of illumination through religion, philosophy, and art as a living force for people from many cultures. Images from Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and other faiths, plus those from Pagan rituals and ancient Egypt are intricately woven together. RADIANCE invites the viewer to see how Light connects the visions and values of people from around the world. With the digitally mastered re-release of this film, are included several other productions that celebrate the Light: a film, CELEBRATION and a CD, The Poetry of Rumi. Materials available at <http://concentric.org/projects/2013/light-and-spirituality/light-and-spirituality-concentric.shtml>. For questions or more info: info@concentric.org.

JERUSALEM: Filmed in IMAX and 3D will be released in the fall of 2013 worldwide

From the Academy Award winning producer of such films as Gandhi, Chariots of Fire, Dances with Wolves and March of the Penguins, comes a documentary about JERUSALEM, filmed for the first time in IMAX and 3D. This ground-breaking film takes you on a first-hand journey that highlights the rich historical, spiritual, cultural and artistic beauty of Jerusalem; and through the unique perspectives of three teenagers, a Jew, a Christian and a Muslim, seeks to promote mutual understanding and goodwill among the three Abrahamic faiths. Please visit www.jerusalemthemovie.com to sign up for newsletters for updates on the film and its upcoming release. Facebook: www.facebook.com/jerusalemthemovie & Twitter: https://twitter.com/Jerusalem_Movie.

******* ADL Calendar of Observances for March 2013 *******

March
Full Month
NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
Honors women as significant agents of historical change.

March 2 – March 20
Sunday-Wednesday
NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í
Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.

March 8
Friday
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.

March 10
Sunday
MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu
Also called Shiva Ratri, it is the Great Festival of Shiva.

March 17
Sunday
ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian
Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.

March 21
Thursday
VERNAL EQUINOX
The date when night and day are nearly the same length. It marks the first day of the season of spring.

March 21

Thursday

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.

March 21

Thursday

NOWRUZ • Zoroastrian

A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year's Day in Baha'i tradition (Naw-Ruz).

March 24

Sunday

PALM SUNDAY • Christian

Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

March 26-April 1

Tuesday-Monday

PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish

The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.

March 31

Sunday

EASTER • Christian

Known as Pascha in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.

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