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

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Dear Friends,

Please join us in welcoming Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo to the staff of ICNY.



Melissa comes to us from NYU where she taught courses on Feminism, Science and Technology studies, Latin American/Latin@ studies, and Medical Ethics. She has also had experience in the Public and Nonprofit sectors working for Nina Vasquez and in public relations at the United Nations. At ICNY, Melissa will be serving as Program Associate for Religion and Civic Connections. She can be reached at 212-870-3513 or [Melissa@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:Melissa@interfaithcenter.org). Welcome Melissa!

Over the past ten days, ICNY and our partner NYDIS and other members of the 9/11 Museum's Interfaith advisory panel have made the news by calling for the Museum to add greater context about Islam to its video "The Rise of Al-Qaida" which we believe should do more to distinguish between Al-Qaida and Islam, the religious tradition of 1.6 billion people. Here is [the original NYTimes article](#) by Sharon Otterman, and here is [the letter](#) that members of the advisory board sent to the Museum. In addition, ICNY was featured in video and print news reports on [Fox](#), the [Daily Beast](#), the [Huffington Post](#), and [The Washington Post](#), et al.

This attention has proved to be a double-edged sword. Last week our website and

social media channels received a lot of positive hits, but also a lot of negative messages from people especially upset by our position on the video. If you believe in ICNY's work generally and ALSO agree with our views about the 9/11 Museum's video please consider making your views known in two ways: First post comments on [our Facebook page](#) or [Twitter](#), to show your support. If you are able and inclined, please take the time to articulate why what ICNY does matters. In addition, you might consider making your voice heard by writing to the 9/11 Museum directly:

National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center  
200 Liberty Street, 16th Floor  
New York, NY 10281  
[info@911memorial.org](mailto:info@911memorial.org)

We would be very grateful if you feel so moved to take either of these steps.

In other news, below we bring you some recent highlights from ICNY, including Dr. Sarah Sayeed being recognized for her service to immigrant communities in New York by the NYPD, the Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support volunteer training, the final "Debate in the Neighborhood" tournament on cyberbullying for Sikh, Hindu, Christian, and Muslim youth, and a street-naming ceremony honoring the son of of long-time ICNY friend Talat Hamdani. After many years Talat's son, Salman Hamdani, a Police Cadet, lost his life trying to save others on 9/11.

Best Wishes,



Rev. Chloe Breyer  
Executive Director  
The Interfaith Center of New York

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**\*\*\*\*\* ICNY Recent Highlights\*\*\*\*\***

**NYPD Community Appreciation Day:  
Celebrating Immigrant Heritage**



On April 23rd, Sarah Sayeed, Director of Community Partnerships was among 23 people recognized, and received a plaque from the NYPD “in recognition of their selfless dedication and service to the immigrant community of New York City and continued support of the New York City Police Department.” Each person also received a City Council citation signed by Council Member Jumaane D. Williams and a citation signed by Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. The event was sponsored by the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau New Immigrant Outreach Unit and held at Brooklyn Borough Hall.

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### Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support



In April, The Interfaith Center of New York and the Harlem Community Justice Center convened a training session (led by the incomparable and inspiring Rev. Darren Ferguson, pictured above) that helped volunteers learn to work with formerly incarcerated people as they return to their families and communities in Harlem. See a Photo Album from this training [here](#).

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### Debate in the Neighborhood



ICNY's Debate in the Neighborhood program finished up its third year with a final tournament on April 12. Students from Sikh, Hindu and Muslim communities debated topics straight out of today's news headlines, including [this debate](#) on whether the MTA should refuse to display non-commercial ads in the transit system, and this [prize-winning debate](#) on whether school principals should get involved when cyberbullying takes place outside the school. We'd like to thank our final round judges Kimberly O'Haver (Open Society Foundation's Youth Initiative), Hon. Kelly O'Neill Levy (Harlem Community Justice Center), Sandy Maskell (Mentoring USA), and Dr. Jeremy Waldron (NYU School of Law). And we encourage you to view the debate videos and be inspired by the intelligence, passion and energy these students bring to a discussion of security and freedom of speech.

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### Honoring Salman Hamdani



On Monday, April 28, a [street naming ceremony](#) was held in honor of Salman Hamdani, a Pakistani-American EMT and a member of the New York City Police Department's cadet program who died as a first responder on 9/11. His mother

Mrs. Hamdani has been struggling since 9/11 to have Salman be recognized for who he was, a true American hero. In the immediate aftermath, flyers about the missing Hamdani were ripped down, and Mrs. Hamdani faced questions by the police about his politics. His body was found after four months, and eventually he was celebrated by the New York Police Department and Mayor Bloomberg as a first responder. With the 9/11 Memorial not recognizing Hamdani as [an “official” first responder](#), the street naming represents a significant achievement and victory for his mother, Talat Hamdani, the Hamdani family and for American Muslims. Sarah Sayeed, Director of Community Partnerships attended the program held in Bayside Queens.

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By Ellen Greeley  
ICNY Development Director

### Not Your Typical Rubber Chicken Dinner

Galas in New York are notorious for serving bland food and known for dull dinner conversations. The exception to the rule is the James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards Dinner. Of course I am biased being the development director for the last four years at ICNY and tasked with coordinating the dinner, but ask any of our patrons and they will tell you that our dinners have been far from ordinary. Take for instance, the dress code. You will not find tuxedos and formal attire, but instead notice the elegantly flowing saris, African patterned dresses, and glistening head scarves and prayer caps. Diverse religious leaders representing over 15 different faith traditions mix with long-time and new ICNY friends sparking new relationships. At its core, Eastern and Western religious leaders and secularists intersect to celebrate ICNY Founder The Very Reverend James Parks Morton's vision for making New York City and the world safer through increasing respect and mutual understanding among people of different faiths, ethnicities, and cultural traditions.

The gala is also an opportunity to honor those distinguished individuals who exemplify an outstanding commitment to promoting human development and peace -values shared by the world's great religious traditions. This year our honorees

include **The Honorable Al Gore**, 45th Vice President of the United States and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2007 for his multi-decade commitment to preserving our environment and conveying forceful messages about the impact of advanced technology on our global economics and livelihoods.

We fete Attorney **Peter L. Zimroth** for using his legal skills to further the ideals of justice. He spearheaded public financing legislation for New York City, argued successfully in a landmark Supreme Court case admitting women into the City's so-called private clubs, and most recently agreed to serve as the federal court appointed monitor of the New York City's "stop and frisk" program. He and his colleagues at Arnold & Porter currently represent a community of Muslims in Bridgewater, New Jersey which are fighting the township's attempts to prevent the establishment of a mosque.

Mrs. **Gaetana Enders'** humanitarian efforts is a cause for celebration. As a wife of the Deputy Chief of U.S. Mission in Cambodia from 1970 to 1974, she became deeply involved in the unfolding tragedy in Southeast Asia. She founded a volunteer organization to assist refugees; by the end, the people she housed numbered 27,000 before she left. Upon her return to the U.S. she assisted in resettling refugees from Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia and was named to a special committee by President Ford. Today she continues her activism by volunteering at many cultural and medical facilities.

In his centennial year of birth, **His Holiness Sri Swami Satchidananda** is being honored as an interfaith visionary, who served as a dynamic advocate for world peace. As an interfaith pioneer, he participated in and organized interfaith gatherings and seminars; created innovative interfaith programs, retreats, and worship services; and built the Light Of Truth Universal Shrine in central Virginia, the world's first interfaith shrine which houses altars for the various religions of the world. Though he passed away in 2002, his life and teachings continue to inspire and guide thousands worldwide.

Hosting the ceremonies is Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist and The New York Times Editorial Board Member Serge Schmemmann. Adding to the evening, will be dramatic readings from The Very Reverend Morton's unpublished biography.

Come [purchase a ticket](#), join the festivities and [donate](#) to help continue the innovative work of ICNY. We promise you a most memorable evening.

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

*Below we list programs offered by The Interfaith Center of New York in April. We also list additional upcoming events that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. Listing for non-ICNY events does not imply endorsement.*



### Tickets on Sale Now for 12th James Parks Morton Awards Gala

The Interfaith Center of New York Requests the Pleasure of Your Company at the 12th Annual James Parks Morton Awards Dinner, Thursday, June 5, 2014, 6:30 pm - 10:00 pm at New York Hilton Midtown, 1335 Avenue of the Americas at 53rd Street. Cocktails and Dinner will be served.

Honorees:

The Honorable Al Gore, 45th Vice President of the United States & Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2007

Peter L. Zimroth, Senior Counsel, Arnold & Porter LLP & Director, Center on Civil Justice, NYU Law School

Mrs. Gaetana Enders, Humanitarian  
His Holiness Sri Swami Satchidananda (posthumous), Interfaith Visionary & Founder, Integral Yoga International

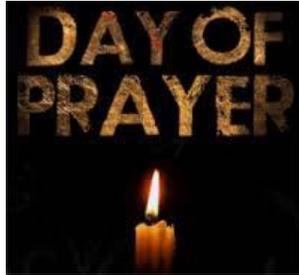
Dramatic Readings from The Very Reverend James Parks Morton's Unpublished Biography

Click [here](#) to buy tickets. For more information contact Ellen Greeley at (212) 870-3511 or email [ellen@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:ellen@interfaithcenter.org).

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

Brooklyn Multi-Faith Day of Prayer



Date: Thursday, May 1

Time: 9:00am

Location: Brooklyn Borough Hall, Courtroom, 209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

President Obama and Congress by Public Law 100-207, has designated the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer for all "faiths" to have the freedom to pray and exercise their faith openly. Contact Information for questions or more info:

RSVP by calling 718-802-4875 or by emailing [programs@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:programs@brooklynbp.nyc.gov)

### Buddha's Birthday Lantern Parade and Vesak Celebration



Date: Sunday, May 4

Times:

3:30pm ..... Cultural Performances

4:00pm ..... Vesak Ceremony

5:00pm ..... Lotus Lantern Parade

Location: Union Square Park -South Plaza (14th Street & Broadway, New York, NY)

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

**Holy Land by Mohamed Kacimi, translated by Chantal Bilodeau**



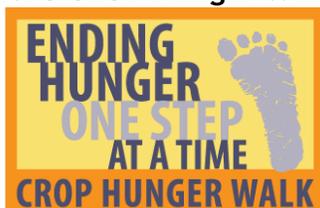
Date: Wednesday to Saturdays, now through May 10

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: HERE Arts Center, 145 6th Avenue (enter on Dominick St)

After being staged to critical acclaim in 9 countries, 3rd Kulture Kids is proud to present the US premiere of *Holy Land*. Can we find humor & poetry in extreme situations? Mohamed Kacimi's compelling and entertaining *Holy Land* answers this question as five contemporary characters face the devastation of war. Use ticket code 10HOLY10 for discounted tickets. See event listing [here](#). Contact Information for questions or more info: Pia Haddad: [info@3rdkulturekids.com](mailto:info@3rdkulturekids.com).

### NYC CROP Hunger Walk



Date: Sunday, May 4

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, 337 East 74th Street (between 1st and 2nd Avenues).

Help fight Hunger! Register for the NYC Crop Hunger Walk. See event listing [here](#). Contact Information for questions or more info: Ena Malone, NYC CROP Hunger Walk Co-coordinator, [nyycropwalk@gmail.org](mailto:nyycropwalk@gmail.org).

### Man to Man MENistry



Date: Sunday May 4, 11, 18, 25

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Union Theological Seminary 3041 Broadway and 121 Street, NY, NY 10027 in the PIT.

Man to Man (M2M) MENistry invites all men who are interested in being a part of this amazing interfaith fellowship of Kings who will not only discuss the realest issues that churches, communities and society fails to address, but learn to face and navigate through them. [Click here](#) for more information, or contact Pastor Arthur R. Barnes (347) 978-3394 or [pastorarbarnes@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorarbarnes@yahoo.com). A flyer for this event is [here](#).

## AIDS Walk Volunteers Needed



Date: Sunday May 18

Location: Central Park, (59th street & 5th avenue), New York, NY

The 29th annual AIDS Walk New York is quickly approaching! Over 2,500 volunteers are needed to ensure a safe and fun day for all at AIDS Walk New York! There are opportunities for everyone, including groups! You can greet participants, total donations, cheer on walkers, and so much more! If your group is interested in volunteering, simply respond to this email and we can find a position for all of you. For day-of-event information, [click here](#). For more information contact Ernandine Sutarjadi, at (212) 807-9255 - Ext. 1702 or email [ernandines@aidswalk.net](mailto:ernandines@aidswalk.net).

## LifeWay Network's Event Towards New Life: An Expanding Community of Change



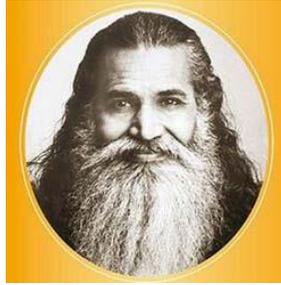
Date: Wednesday May 21

Time: 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm

Location: Wallace Hall, The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola Park Avenue and 84th Street New York, NY 10028

LifeWay Network is non-profit organization collaborating to end human trafficking. Please join us for our annual Event Towards New Life where the Freedom Award will be presented to Holly Atkison, Assistant Professor of Medicine & Preventive Medicine; Director, Human Rights Program; Arnhold Global Health Institute at Mount Sinai. The keynote speaker will be Kevin Ryan, President, Convenat House International. Tickets are \$125 until May 7th (\$150 after May 7th). Please see: <http://lifewaynetwork.org>. Contact Information for questions or more info: 718-779-8075.

In Celebration and Honor of the 100th Birth Anniversary of Swami  
Satchidananda



Date: Saturday, June 7

Time: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Location: Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street, New York, NY 10025

In Celebration and Honor of the “Global Garland” 100th Birth Anniversary of Swami Satchidananda, The Interfaith Kirtan for World Peace is coming together for devotional chants and sacred music from a variety of global faiths. In the sacred space of the world’s largest Gothic Cathedral, we will unite our voices utilizing classic Kirtan call and response. Join this celebration of our unity in diversity and our common goal of world peace. Musical guests include: Krishna Das, GuruGanesha Singh, Kirtan Rabbi, Mandala, the PS41 Songbirds Choir, Tibetan Gongs with Grand Gongmaster Don Conreaux, and Islamic Call to Prayer.

Presented by The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Integral Yoga Institute of New York, the Temple of Understanding, [gratefulness.org](http://gratefulness.org), and the Lotus Center for All Faiths. To purchase tickets, please [click here](#).

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

May	Full Month	<b>ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH</b> Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.
May 3	Saturday	<b>WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY</b> Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.
May 5	Monday	<b>CINCO DE MAYO</b> In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla.
May 6	Tuesday	<b>INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY</b> Also known as <i>May Day</i> , it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers' strike for an eight-hour work day.
May 11	Sunday	<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> Children of all ages show appreciation for their mothers.
May 14	Wednesday	<b>BUDDHA DAY • Buddhist</b> Also known as <i>Vesak</i> or <i>Visakha Puja</i> , it marks the occasion of the birth, spiritual awakening and death of the historical Buddha.
May 15	Thursday	<b>THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist</b> In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.
May 18	Sunday	<b>LAG B'OMER • Jewish</b> Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE).
May 21	Wednesday	<b>WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT</b> Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.
May 23	Friday	<b>DECLARATION OF THE BAB • Bahá'í</b> Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced in Shíráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.
May 26	Monday	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> Initiated originally to honor the dead of the Civil War, this observance now pays homage to the dead of all U.S. wars.
May 29	Thursday	<b>ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í</b> Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
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May 29	Thursday	<b>ASCENSION DAY • Christian</b> Celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.

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

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