



INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

www.interfaithcenter.org

August 2014 E-Announcements



Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

News from the Middle East has not been good and we feel the ripples here in New York. The Islamic Center at NYU, together with Islamic Relief, is hosting an [Emergency Fundraiser for Gaza](#) on Sunday, August 10th. Funds raised will directly impact people in Gaza. In addition, Funds can be sent to support the bereft and wounded in Israel via through the [UJA Federation of New York](#). Also, see [Truah's statement](#) (formerly Rabbis for Human Rights).

Closer to home the death of Eric Gardner at the hands of Staten Island Police brings up questions of police accountability as it relates past and present to both race and religion. Sign on to [this petition](#) for further investigation.

Here at the Interfaith Center we are welcoming volunteers to gain valuable experience while working with us on diverse programs. If you're interested in volunteering time to ICNY, and are skilled in **Photography, Videography, Social Media, Data-Entry/Database**, please email your resume to elly@interfaithcenter.org.

This month we are pleased and honored to welcome our first guest blogger. Ram Mohan, a Trustee at The Hindu Temple Society of

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**Thursday Hospitality
Fundraiser:**

North America, launches [our inaugural guest blog](#) with this piece about how interfaith engagement (though programs such as those offered by ICNY) help faith communities connect with each other and work together on issues of common concern.

The "[Faith Leader Spotlight](#)" is a monthly installment featuring faith leaders working with New Yorkers in need. This series was created by ICNY interns and Princeton students Anna Rubin and Kujegi Camara who participate in the Interfaith Summer Internship Program of the Office of Religious Life. Please be sure to share these articles with others.

As our July NEH Summer Institute comes to a close, we'd like to thank the teachers who participated, and invite you to share a little of their experience:



The Institute, called "[Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity](#)" was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and was conducted by ICNY and Union Theological Seminary. Public, private, and parochial school teachers from across the U.S. gathered here in New York City for this three-week institute on teaching religious diversity to K-12 students. While learning from academic scholars of religion, and



[Click here](#) to help ICNY and Harlem Community Justice Center continue to provide men and women returning from prison with mentoring & encouragement.

Why is this important?

The Thursday Hospitality Center provides a safe and caring space designed to boost morale and raise self-esteem by making the recipients feel welcome.

Your Impact:

Every dollar you give will go towards funding Thursday Hospitality as it strives to make a positive impact on the morale of our returning citizens.

meeting with clergy and lay leaders from diverse faith communities, the institute participants also visited houses of worship in communities large and small. One of many highlights in the course of their study was this performance of a [Vodou Vévé Ritual](#), followed by [a discussion of Vodou and Yoruba faith traditions](#).

As a final note, the Interfaith Center relies on the outstanding work of a dedicated staff: Sarah Sayeed, Henry Goldschmidt, Ellen Greeley, Theo Harris and Kevin Childress. This month marks the one year anniversary of Elly Mason-Murray joining the organization. Elly manages ICNY's Human Resources, runs the office and is involved in the Center's social media. Elly has a B.S. degree in Health Administration/Long Term Care from the University of Phoenix. She is an active member of Trinity Baptist Church in the Bronx, and also volunteers her time participating in public health campaigns related to Sarcoidosis awareness, hypertension, teen pregnancy, elder care, and pet abuse. Congratulations on your anniversary with ICNY, Elly, and thank you for all you do.



Best Wishes,



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

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ICNY's Interfaith Matters



by Ram Mohan
Trustee,
Hindu Temple Society of North
America

"Inspiring Engagement"

When we work together great things happen. When people of different faiths work together diverse communities get stronger. We at the Hindu Temple in Flushing, NY have been interacting with The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) for a long time and know firsthand quite a bit about the work they do. ICNY acts as a "connector" of motivated individuals from diverse faiths who through their active engagement strive for a constructive end.

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ICNY Faith Leader Spotlight



Sister Maryam Husamudeen



Sister Maryam Husamudeen is, to put it simply, a pillar of her community. In her interfaith work and her social justice work in Harlem and around Manhattan, Sister Maryam is a builder of bridges and a connector of people. This is her official roll, as a Peer Bridger for the New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services currently. Additionally, she built bridges professionally previously as the program coordinator for SisterLink, the capstone program for Community Action for Prenatal Care (CAPC).

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30th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat For Social Justice: Harnessing Spirituality and Religion in End of Life Care



Date: Monday, September 22 (registration begin Aug. 20)

Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115 (accessible by the #1 subway, 116th Street, Columbia University stop)

As America evolves into a multiethnic society, the health care sector must also develop culturally and religiously appropriate and effective care for diverse populations. A patient's culture and religion can have significant impact on their reaction to pain, the dying process, and the decisions the patient and family must make. Religious leaders often play an important role in supporting patients and families through end of life care. Come join us for a one-day conference to understand the linkages between caring and healing, improve collaboration with health care professionals including chaplains, and learn more about diverse religious perspectives regarding the end of life and illness. Space is limited so please RSVP ASAP: Fax this [form](#) to Sarah Sayeed at (212) 870-3499, or email to ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org, or mail to 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 540 New York, NY 10115. For questions, please call (212) 870-3519.

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2014 Reentry Benefit Gospel Concert



Date: Friday, August 22

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: St. Luke AME Church, 1854 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10031

The Gospel Concert will feature Musical Director Gregory Kelly and various cast members from the new Vy Higginsen off-Broadway musical *Alive!*, along with other talented vocalists and musicians. Proceeds will go to fund the Thursday Hospitality part of the Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support Program at the Harlem Community Justice Center. For more information contact Theo Harris, theo@interfaithcenter.org or 212-870-3515.

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Training and Leadership Initiative for Formerly Incarcerated Individuals Launch: "Raising My Voice"



In collaboration with the Harlem Community Justice Center, the Interfaith Center of New York, and Network Support Services, the Reentry Faith and Family Circles of Support is pleased to announce a new training and leadership initiative, Raising My Voice. Members will receive 22 hours of an intensive public speaking training utilizing an 11 session, highly interactive curriculum designed specifically for formerly incarcerated. The Raising My Voice training is divided into four phases: Recruitment, Training, Completion, and Community Engagement. Each members of Raising My Voice will accomplish the following goals: Education, Employment Skills Development, and Civic Engagement. Trainees will receive metro cards for attendance and be provided a light supper and modest stipend for completing trainings. For more information, please see [Project Description](#), [Flyer](#), and [Application](#). Questions contact Linda Steele, Workforce Development Coordinator, Harlem Community Justice Center at 212-360-4117 or 347-410-1782 or lsteele@nycourts.gov.

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Seminar on Gun Violence and Interfaith Tolerance



Date: September 6
Time: 11:30 am - 5:30 pm

Location: Melba's 125 Harlem State Office Building, 163 125th Street, New York, NY, 10027

As the thirteenth anniversary of September 11, 2001 approaches we seek to honor our loved ones who perished on 9/11 by fostering peaceful communities that embrace alternatives to hatred and violence. This is a conversation that should constantly be at the forefront of our collective efforts. The two major themes to be discussed at this free one-day seminar are preventing gun violence and promoting interfaith tolerance. On hand will be distinguished panelists on each subject to inform and educate as they promote effective community-based initiatives. Please register and RSVP to atlast100@hotmail.com or pianogal.bernstein@gmail.com.

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Religions for the Earth A Multifaith Celebration



Date: Sunday, September 21

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Ave. (at 112th Street), New York, NY

With our future on the line and the whole world watching, we'll take a stand to bend the course of history. We'll take to the streets to demand the world we know is within our reach: a world with an economy that works for people and the planet; a world safe from the ravages of climate change; a world with good jobs, clean air and water, and healthy communities. After the People's Climate March, join people of different faiths for a commission for the planet. The Religions of the Earth Interfaith Service will take place under an art installation of two giant Phoenix birds made in China from recycled materials. Featuring (Significant Speaker, Significant Speaker), saxophonist Paul Winter, and puppets from Ralph Lee's Metawee Theatre Company. For more information click [here](#).

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Other Events



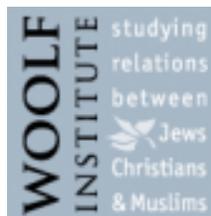
Below we list additional upcoming events that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. Listing for non-ICNY events does not imply endorsement.

Administrative Relief from Deportation for Undocumented Immigrants #ALLin4relief Campaign

#ALLin4Relief

In anticipation of the decision the President will announce at the end of the summer about breadth of administrative relief from deportation he will provide for undocumented immigrants, advocates around the country and in New York have launched an effort to persuade the Administration to alleviate suffering in the immigrant community by making that relief as broad as possible. As part of this effort, New Yorkers for Real Immigration Reform (NYRIR) has launched the "#ALLin4relief" campaign. For a complete breakdown of what this campaign includes, [click here](#). For additional information, kindly log on to www.allin4relief.com to access the campaign tool kit and learn more about the campaign. Contact Diane Steinman of the NYS Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform at steinmandiane@gmail.com whether you and your house of worship will be participating in these actions. Should you require additional assistance kindly email Christina Chang at cchang@thenyic.org.

E-learning course: Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges



Date: Tuesday, August 4 (application deadline)

Location: varies

Applications are Now Open for the e-learning program from the Woolf Institute! Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern

Challenges is a three-part e-learning course. It focuses on the relationships between Jews, Christians and Muslims in modern Europe. The course examines historical trends, religious and cultural interaction, and issues of contemporary citizenship. Within this course, students will be encouraged to address challenging questions, some easier to answer than others, through case studies and set readings. The course commences, with Induction Week, on Monday, September 1, 2014. The application form is available to download [here](#). The course fee is \$350. If you have any questions about the course, email Dr. Emma Harr is, Academic Coordinator at eth22@cam.ac.uk.

Universal Peace Day 30th Anniversary



Date: Tuesday, August 5
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: varies

Join the Universal Peace to Ring Bells around the world at the same of the Hiroshima bombing. Free Event - From 5pm To 7:15pm At Union Square Park In Front Of The Gandhi Statue With Native American Ceremony, Music, Poetry And Dance - Located At 15 Street And Union Square West. Join Bell Ringing Ceremony At 7:15pm (Exact Moment Of Hiroshima Bombing). Followed By A Minute Of Prayers For Peace And The Singing Of John Lennon's "Imagine". At 7:25pm There Will Be A Peace Walk To St John's Lutheran Church 81 Christopher St. The concert for A WORLD WITHOUT WAR will be at St. John's Lutheran Church at 8 pm featuring Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary), David Amram, Guy Davis, the Peaceniks, Spook Handy, The Raging Grannies, Namaya, Bruce Markow, Atsuko Yuma, Hilario Soto, and Russell Daisey. Spook Handy will do a tribute to Pete Seeger, who performed at UPday in 2005 at the Riverside Church. For more info, click [here](#). Tickets to A World Without War concert: \$10 donation. Space is limited! For tickets click [here](#).

ARISE NY! 4th Annual Anti-Bullying Interfaith Summit



Date: Saturday August 9 (RSVP by Aug 1)

Time: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Location: The Park Avenue Christian Church, 1010 Park Avenue (85th St.), New York, NY 10028

Calling all youth 12 to 19 years, participate in interactive activities with other teens to tackle all forms of bullying, stereotyping discrimination and hate crimes at this annual summit! To RSVP and for more information, contact Youth Leader, Maha Akhtar at 718-883-9400 or email makhtar@tpny.org. A flyer for this event is [here](#).

Become a New York State Court Officer

NYCOURTS.GOV

Date: Thursday, August 14th (application deadline)

New York State Court Officers are highly trained law enforcement professionals responsible for the security and protection of judges, court employees and the public in courthouses and court facilities throughout the state. [Applications](#) for the fall 2014 written exam must be filed out online. For more information call 212-428-2988 or click [here](#).

Clemente Course for the Humanities Information Meeting



Date: August 14

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Children's Village Offices in Harlem, 2090 Adam Clayton, Powell Jr. Blvd., 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10027

The Children's Village/Bard College Clemente Course for the Humanities will be holding an information session and interviews for admission. The session will include an overview of the Harlem Clemente Course for the Humanities and an opportunity for you to ask questions about the course. For more information contact Pamela Vizcarra at 914-720-5975 or click [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE: Harlem Community Justice Center Family Reentry Day



Date: Saturday, August 23

Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: 121st Street Between Lexington and 3rd Avenues

Join us as we welcome home the men and women who have returned to our community and embrace their families! Games and Prizes. Free Kids Haircuts. Jewelry Making. Tie-dye Tee Shirts. Balloon Animals. Face Painting. Service Providers & More!! For more information, call Anisah Thompson, 212-360-8747 or email asabur@courts.state.ny.us. A flyer for this event is [here](#).

The Harlem Clemente Course for the Humanities



Date: Sept. 2014 - May 2015 (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: The Children's Village, 2090 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd, 3rd fl., New York, NY 10027

Transform your life by registering for The Harlem Clemente Course for the Humanities - applications are being accepted now. This course including Philosophy, Literature, Writing, History and Art History, taught by top Columbia University professors. Full scholarship basis, including childcare worth \$5,000. Eligible for 6 college credits from Bard College. For more information click [here](#). Questions contact Pamela Vizcarra at 914-720-5975 or Course Director David Kittay at 914-523-9394.

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ADL Calendar of Observances



AUGUST 2014

August 5	Tuesday	TISHA B'AV • Jewish Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.
August 9	Saturday	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES Celebrates the richness of indigenous cultures and recognizes the challenges indigenous peoples face today, ranging from poverty and disease to dispossession, discrimination and denial of basic human rights.
August 10	Sunday	RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu Also called <i>Rakhi</i> , this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.
August 10	Sunday	ULAMBANA • Buddhist Buddhist Ghost Festival. The unsettled spirits of dead ancestors are calmed with chanting and offerings to enable them to pass peacefully into the next world.
August 12	Tuesday	INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY Celebrates young people and the integral role they play in helping to create a world fit for children.
August 15	Friday	OBON • Buddhist Also known as <i>Bon</i> , the Japanese Buddhist festival honors the spirits of past ancestors.
August 17	Sunday	KRISHNA JAYANTI • Hindu Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.
August 23	Saturday	INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION Memorializes the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade, coinciding with the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated its abolition.
August 29	Friday	GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.

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

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