



The Interfaith Center of New York connect educate learn change manage participate tolerate interact

July 2014 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Contents

[Message from ICNY's Executive Director](#)

[Recent Highlights](#)

[ICNY's "Interfaith Matters" Blog](#)

[ICNY Events](#)

[ICNY Co-Sponsored Events](#)

[Other Events](#)

[Upcoming Holidays & Observances](#)

Dear Friends,

This past June, The Interfaith Center of New York co-sponsored a Buddhist-Muslim dialogue with the New York Buddhist Council and the Peace Islands Institute. Dr. Sarah Sayeed participated as a panelist along with Ven. Chang Hwa of the Chan Meditation Center. Read a participant reflection [here](#).

Tonight, ICNY would like to bring your attention to a Community-Wide Memorial Service for Gilad Shaar, Naftali Frenkel, and Eyal Yifrach. The service will take place at the Jewish Center at 131 West 86th st at 7:30pm. Our condolences go out to the families of these three teens killed in the West Bank as well as to the family of Muhammed Doudeen, the 14-year-old Palestinian boy shot recently in the Southern West Bank by Israeli Soldiers. Our hopes are that these tragic losses give urgency to the creation of a just and lasting peace.

As we approach Independence Day, we at The Interfaith Center of New York wish Ramadan Mubarak to all those fasting this month and over the 4th of July. Please see a number of Community iftars that are posted at <http://www.nyciftars.com/>. The Interfaith Center of New York will be partnering with Union Theological Seminary and the Peace Islands Institute to host our own iftar on July 17th. We invite you to be our guest - for more information please see below.

Coinciding with the September 2014 Climate Summit called by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, ICNY and Union Theological Seminary will be holding a "Religions of the Earth" Interfaith Service on Sunday, September 21st at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. This service will conclude a weekend-long religious leaders' summit on climate change and the People's Climate March.

An easy way to show support for ICNY is to click on the "Share" icons located at the end of an article or post in this e-bulletin. The icons look like this   and clicking on one

will post that event or post to your own Facebook or Twitter accounts, to share the information with your friends, family and colleagues.

Best Wishes,



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

Share this:  

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

The 12th Annual James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards Gala



(Pictured left to right: Dr. Dean Ornish, The Honorable Al Gore, The Very Rev. James Parks Morton, Peter L. Zimroth, Tom Enders, and Rev. Chloe Breyer)

The James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards gala on June 5 was a memorable evening of fellowship with colleagues and friends, as well as tributes to heroic people who have demonstrated the power and value of selfless sacrifice. The acceptance speeches of [Dr. Dean Ornish](#) (in memory of Swami Satchidananda), [Peter L. Zimroth](#), [Tom Enders](#) (in memory of his Mother, Mrs. Gaetana Enders), and [The Honorable Al Gore](#) were inspiring and often poignant testimonies from four remarkable people. Click on their names to watch their acceptance speeches. And don't miss this [dramatic reading](#) of James Parks Morton's forthcoming memoir.

Videos of the entire evening are available [here](#).



Share this:  



Theo Harris
Outreach Coordinator,
Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support
theo@interfaithcenter.org
212-870-3515

"Your Past is Your Testimony"

Empowering Transition from Prison to Community

As The Interfaith Center of New York's Outreach Coordinator for reentry in Harlem, my job is to recruit church, mosque, and community volunteers for the rewarding work of helping men and women make the difficult transition from prison to community. This is not a role that should be taken lightly, or viewed as simply a *Good Samaritan* gesture. The service that a *reentry* volunteer provides is that of a *welcoming presence* to our *returning citizens*, who are usually made to pay for their offenses many times over, and long after they have served their prison sentences. That being said, the last thing they need is to come back to a community that basically ostracizes them, or labels them as ex-cons, ex-felons, ex-offenders, or even *formerly* incarcerated. It is bad enough that this information is asked for on job applications, or pre-employment interviews; it certainly does not need to be made available when introductions are made. And, if it *is* revealed, it should be up to him or her to do so. That history is nothing to be ashamed of - to the

contrary - it can be a powerful testimony if delivered at the right time, and in the right place. Which leads me to talk about the new training and leadership initiative, *Raising My Voice*, which has been developed by the Harlem Community Justice Center in collaboration with The Interfaith Center of New York, Network Support Services, and the Reentry Family and Family Circles of Support.

As stated in materials prepared by the Harlem Community Justice Center, "this initiative will offer individuals who have returned from prison and transformed their lives the opportunity to share their personal narrative. Graduates from this program, as well as the communities to which they are returning, will benefit from these speaking opportunities by (1) inspiring communities to mobilize around effective reentry policies and practices; (2) *give back* to communities they have harmed by deterring others from walking in their shoes; and (3) develop critical work and leadership skills. Training will consist of 22 hours of intensive public speaking techniques utilizing 11 sessions, at the end of which graduates will present to faith groups, community organizations, students, and non-traditional audiences such as employers, prosecutors, and law enforcement."

As a *returning citizen* myself, I have often spoken about the difficult transition from prison to community, and how important my family's involvement was in terms of making me feel welcome. Had it not been for their constant encouragement and support I would have more than likely succumbed to the pressure of "life" hitting me in the face, and who knows where that would have led. Being able to articulate my feelings, and tell my story has also been an advantage in terms of a successful transition. So, to our *returning citizens*, I would like to say: WELCOME BACK; to the *Raising My Voice* trainees I would like to say: use your PAST as your TESTIMONY; and to our wonderful cadre of Volunteers, on behalf of our *returning citizens*, ICNY, HCJC, and NETWORK, I would like to say THANK YOU!

Share this:  

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

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

2014 NEH Summer Institute for School Teachers



This month, 25 teachers from public, private, and faith-based schools around the USA are gathering in New York City for the three-week summer institute “Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity.” 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. This year, teachers are joining us from Illinois, Virginia, Missouri, Arkansas, California, Tennessee, Colorado and more, to work with leading scholars of religion, meet with diverse religious leaders, visit local houses of worship, and conduct original field research. We’ll be traveling the city’s religious worlds, visiting houses of worship such as the Ganesh Temple in Flushing Queens, the Chogyesa Zen Temple on the Upper West Side, and Harlem’s historic Convent Avenue Baptist Church. This is an exciting opportunity for teachers to explore the religious diversity of New York City while contributing to the pressing debate over the study of religion in American public schools. For more information on the institute, see www.religiousworldsnyc.org.

Share this:  

SAVE THE DATE: 2014 Reentry Benefit Gospel Concert



Date: Friday, August 22
Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Location: TBD

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.

Share this:  

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

2014 Ramadan Iftar Dinner

2014 RAMADAN
IFTAR DINNER

Date: Thursday, July 17

Time: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm (Sunset at 8:25 pm)

Location: The Refectory, Union Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway, New York, NY, 10027

The dinner is co-sponsored by The Interfaith Center of New York, Union Theological Seminary, and Peace Islands Institute. Limited seating. RSVP required by July 15; to reserve your seat, please send an email to rsvp@peaceislands.org or call 212-510-8644.

Share this:  

**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.

Share this:  

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

Reporting a Natural Gas Leak



The City of New York has begun a public awareness campaign to urge residents to call 911 and not just their utility if they smell gas. Previously, residents who smelled gas were often told to call their gas utility or dial 311, the city's information hotline. Now, any calls to 311 reporting gas will be transferred to the 911 emergency line, automatically triggering a fire department response. If you suspect a natural gas leak, click [here](#) to find out what to do.

Community-Wide Memorial Service for the Three Israeli Teens



Date: Tuesday, July 1

Time: Doors open 7:00 pm, Program begins 7:30 pm

Location: The Jewish Center, 131 West 86th Street, (Between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues), New York City

Join us for a community-wide memorial service for the three Israeli teens who were heinously kidnapped and brutally murdered. Please show your support for the victims and their families.

Speakers will include (list in formation):

Consul General of Israel Ido Aharoni

Congressman Jerrold Nadler

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney

Co-Sponsors (list in formation):

Jewish Community Relations Council of New York

UJA-Federation of New York
New York Board of Rabbis
Council of Young Jewish Presidents

For more information or to add your organization as a sponsor please contact CohenD@jrcny.org.

American Muslim Women's Association Iftar/Dinner



Date: Wednesday, July 9th

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Westchester Muslim Center, 22 Brookfield Rd., Mount Vernon, NY 10552

By sharing a meal with our friends and neighbors, we hope to bring together people of all backgrounds in the spirit of the holy month of Ramadan. Together we can promote understanding in our society and make our community a better place. For more information click [here](#). Questions contact Omaima Aboul-Soud at 914-260-4087 or Shahida Qadir at 914-747-6845.

Footsteps of Mandela



Date: Friday, July 18th

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: The Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027

The Footsteps of Mandela (FOM) is an all-star concert event, the cornerstone of the United Nations' celebration of International Mandela Day, and the epicenter of a new global awakening for world peace and social justice. FOM will be raising money for the Nelson Mandela Foundation as well as the Simon Estes Foundation/United Nations Foundation to provide mosquito nets for the children of Africa. For more information click [here](#). Questions contact Joel A. Martin, producer at 914-837-8001 or email footstepsofmandela@gmail.com.

Basketball Classic Fun & Food Day



Date: Thursday, July 24, 2014

Time: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: Morningside Park, West 123 St. entrance, New York, NY 10026

Perfect Peace Ministry Youth Outreach, Inc. in conjunction with the NYPD and several other organizations will be hosting Basketball Classic Fun & Food Day. Perfect Peace Ministry Youth Outreach, Inc. along with NYPD decided to come together and give the children of the community a day of fun. Our goal is to promote neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships in the fight for a safer Harlem. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Vernon B. Williams at 917-545-4613. 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](#).

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.

***** ADL Calendar of Observances for July 2014 *****

JULY 2014

July 4	Friday	INDEPENDENCE DAY Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.
July 9	Wednesday	MARTYRDOM OF THE BĀB • Bahá'í Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabriz, Persia, of the 30-year-old Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad, the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith.
July 13	Sunday	DHARMA DAY • Buddhist Also known as <i>Asala Puja</i> , it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.
July 24	Thursday	LAILA AL-QADR • Islamic "The Night of Power" marks the night in which God first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. Often fixed as the 27th day of the Islamic month of Ramadan, Sunnis may also observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th. Shi'ites observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd of Ramadan.
July 26	Saturday	ADA (AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT) DAY Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.
July 28	Monday	EID AL-FITR • Islamic The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.

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

Ways to keep in touch and show support for ICNY:



Make a donation.



Follow us on LinkedIn.



Like us on Facebook.



Follow us on Twitter.



Subscribe to us on YouTube.