

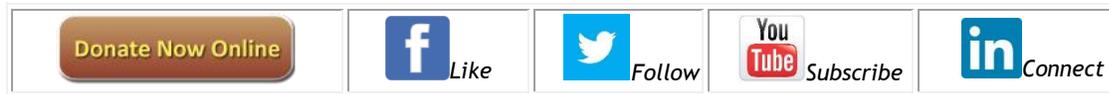


## *December 2014 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements*

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Ways to Support and Promote ICNY:



### Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

At this time of year in particular, we are deeply grateful to our partners – grassroots religious leaders, secular professionals and donors who have worked with us to open minds, strengthen families, deepen mutual understanding, and advance inclusivity and respect.

Looking back on 2014 the **Religious Worlds of New York Summer Institute** opened minds of 25 teachers from 13 states, selected from a pool of over 120 applicants. In partnership with **Union Theological Seminary** and supported by the **National Endowment for the Humanities**, the three-week program introduced these teachers to American religious diversity and gave them tools for teaching more effectively about contemporary religious life. In addition, we hosted and ran **School-based Religious Diversity Programs** and a **Debate in the Neighborhood Program** which trained religiously diverse high school students in the art of debate.

ICNY **strengthened families** by bringing together government agencies, social service providers, and religious groups to broaden outreach to under-resourced communities, to make certain services are culturally competent, and to enhance services through volunteerism. The **Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support** program is a partnership among ICNY, the **Harlem Community Justice Center**, **Network Support Services**, and several **Harlem churches and mosques**. With funding from **JC Flowers Foundation** and **Episcopal Charities**, the program offers interfaith hospitality and a chance to give back to the community through faith-based and civic events to parolees returning to the neighborhood and their families.

Building upon the **29th Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat for Religious Leaders on Child Welfare and Foster Care**, ICNY's **Catholic-Muslim Common Action Initiative** entered a

new phase. We are developing training programs for child welfare and foster care service providers and Muslim community leaders with the aim of offering more culturally sensitive children's services for Muslim families and recruiting more Muslims to serve as foster or adoptive parents.

**Deepening mutual understanding** of our city's diverse religions and customs is key to building trust. Through its Catholic-Muslim Common Action Initiative and **Social Work and Religious Diversity Training**, ICNY has demonstrated that learning about other religions' social teachings, and launching shared social service projects, serve to bond diverse communities.

Finally, ICNY **advanced inclusivity and respect** for racially, ethnically, and religiously diverse groups by joining more than 50 organizations and individuals signing on to an **amicus brief** supporting a federal lower court's decision in *Floyd, et al. v. City of New York et al.* that found the New York City Police Department liable for a pattern and practice of racial profiling in implementing its stop-and-frisk policies. In addition, ICNY joined **New York Disaster Interfaith Services** and other religious and civil rights groups in protesting the **National September 11th Memorial and Museum's** airing of the film "The Rise of Al-Qaeda", which we believed did not adequately distinguish between Al-Qaeda and Islam.

All of this work was possible because of your belief in and support for ICNY. As we approach year end, please read our [Annual Report](#) and consider making a tax-deductible donation to The Interfaith Center of New York.

Your donations make an enormous difference to our work. Checks can be mailed to:

The Interfaith Center of New York  
475 Riverside Drive, Suite 540  
New York, NY 10115

or you can contribute online through [Network for Good](#).

Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support and for your trust in the vision of our city as a place safe for religious diversity.

Best Wishes,



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

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by Kevin Oro-Hahn,  
*ICNY Treasurer*

### Interfaith Center of New York—an Investment in our Future

My training is as an investor in public equities, in the tradition known as value investing. For those unfamiliar, this is “value” in the sense of getting a bargain as opposed to “values” in the sense of following timeless principles. The discipline of investing involves measuring to determine if the price paid for your investment is going to yield greater value in the future.

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) seeks to make NYC and the world safe for religious difference. It’s an ambitious and far reaching goal. But how do you know when you’ve done enough—when your city and your world are sufficiently safe for religious difference?

[~Read More~](#)

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Rev. Dr. T.K. Nakagaki (who goes by Rev. TK because, as he says, it's just easier), became involved in the Interfaith Center from its earliest days, soon after he moved to New York. Bawa Jain, of the World Council of Religious Leaders, reached out to T.K. in an effort to diversify the religions being represented by the Interfaith Center early on, and he's been an active member in its programs ever since, now serving as one of the Vice-Chairs of its board.

For Rev. TK, interfaith work is essential for maintaining harmony between religious groups in New York City. He finds the work being done by the Interfaith Center essential in not only increasing understanding among religious groups, but also of religious groups, and hopes personally that the Interfaith Center's work is helping to increase understanding and respect of the Eastern religions represented in New York.

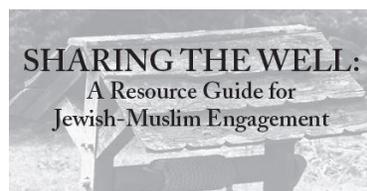
This maintenance of harmony is similarly his goal in his role as president of the Buddhist Council of New York. Calling himself a "freelance priest," Rev. TK finds that not being affiliated with any specific temple allows him to serve on the Buddhist Council from an unbiased position, which can be helpful when attempting to manage internal issues in the Buddhist community, as well as when the Buddhist community is attempting to interface with the wider New York community. Not being affiliated also allows him to participate in interfaith events, such as panel discussions and dialogues, through the Interfaith Center and other interfaith and multifaith organizations across the City as a representative of a broader "Eastern" religious voice.

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## Sharing the Well: A Resource Guide for Jewish-Muslim Engagement



Dr. Sarah Sayeed, ICNY's Director of Community Partnerships, contributed two articles about Giving and Social Action to "Sharing the Well: A Resource Guide for Jewish Muslim Engagement," a new collaborative publication of Jewish Theological Seminary, Islamic Society of North America, and Hartford Seminary. The book offers strategies to deepen Jewish-Muslim interactions at the community level, including a guide to dialogue, articles by Jewish and Muslim leaders on topics such as caring for others, family and heritage, and religious life; questions for discussion; a sampling of 24 successful Jewish-Muslim engagement programs from across America; and a glossary of Jewish and Muslim terms. The book is available in [hard copy](#) and as a [free PDF](#).

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## Other Events



### Become a Reading Partner



Date: Monday - Friday (Ongoing Opportunities)

Time: Various

Location: Participating [Schools](#)

Reading Partners connects passionate volunteers with struggling readers to help students strengthen their literacy skills, build confidence, and discover a passion for reading. Reading Partners will provide ongoing support and a structured curriculum to help you become an effective tutor. For more information, contact Jasmin Rosario, Community Engagement Manager at [jasmin.rosario@readingpartners.org](mailto:jasmin.rosario@readingpartners.org), or call 646-402-6284. To volunteer visit <http://info.readingpartners.org/volunteer-in-new-york>

### Call for Submissions - 2015 Garfinkel Essay Scholarship



Date: Monday, December 1 through Wednesday, April 1, 2015

The Historical Society of the New York Courts Garfinkel Essay Scholarship is an opportunity for CUNY and SUNY community college students to receive cash prizes, improve their research/writing skills and highlight an academic achievement on their resumes.

Awards:

- \$1,500 - NYS Community College Grand Prize awarded to a student from either educational system
- \$1,000 - CUNY Community College Prize
- \$1,000 - SUNY Community College Prize

Essay Topic: LGBT: THE ROAD TO EQUALITY. How have the New York Courts addressed equal human rights for the LGBT Community? For essay submission guidelines and research resources, visit the website of the Historical Society of the New York Courts at <http://www.nycourts.gov/history/academic-center/garfinkel-essay-scholarship.html>. For more information, contact New York State Unified Court System, Office of Public Affairs at 212-428-2116.

### Separation of Church and State: Fact vs. Fiction



Date: Thursday, December 4

Time: 5:30pm - 7:00 pm (reception 5:30; public forum 6:00)

Location: Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College, 47-49 East 65th Street, New York, NY

How has the phrase "separation of church and state" influenced education policy and practice? Join a conversation with constitutional scholar Philip Hamburger, and teacher Matt Yellin, (a participant in ICNY's 2012 Religious Worlds of New York summer institute) on the history of "separation" and the ways in which the first amendment affects education in the classroom today. Moderated by Ashley Berner, Deputy Director, CUNY Institute for Education Policy. For more information, and to register, click [here](#).

### Voting and Civil Rights: Secular, Labor and Religious Panel Discussion



Date: Thursday, December 11

Time 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm (reception 5:15 pm)

Location: Union Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway @ W.121st Street, New York, NY 10027

Join a dynamic dialogue between secular and religious sectors of African-American and Latino communities. Seats cannot be guaranteed in the main room once the doors close at 6 pm. There will be an overflow room with monitors for those guests that arrive late. Panelists: Rev. Dr. William Barber, Chair of the Political Action Committee of the National NAACP Board and President of the NC NAACP, Craig Becker, General Counsel to the American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). Juan Cartagena, Constitutional and civil rights attorney and President & General Counsel of Latino Justice PRLDEF, Jerry H. Goldfeder, Special Counsel at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP, Ana Oliveira, President & CEO of The New York Women's Foundation, and The Rev. Gabriel Salguero, President of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition. For more information and to RSVP, click [here](#).

### A Rainbow Christmas



Date: Friday, December 12

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: St. Philip's Church in Harlem, 204 West 134th Street, New York NY

Integrity Harlem, a LGBT Ministry at historic African American St Philips hosts its third LGBT event this year. Integrity Harlem with Harlem United, an AIDS Service provider who started in the '90's their outreach under St Philips roof will aid clients of Ali Forney Homeless LGBT In Center and Episcopal Social Services Foster Care. A two hour concert and reception will feature child and youth performers, DJ Soul Selector, Jazz singer Keith Dames and St Philips education partner in Harlem, Democracy Prep Charter School. Suggested Door Admission is an unwrapped toy, book or new clothing for children and teens, 5-18 or Gift Cards from official vendors of Ali Forney in denominations of \$10; McDonald's, iTunes or Old Navy. For more information, call 212-862-4940 or email [stphilipsintegrity@yahoo.com](mailto:stphilipsintegrity@yahoo.com).

**Roots & Branches: Programs for Spiritual Growth**

**AN INTERFAITH STUDY PROGRAM TO INDONESIA  
JUNE 15-23, 2015**



Spirituality and Giving in Ramadan is designed to deepen the understanding of Muslim societies through firsthand experiences with the culture, faith, and daily activities of the people. During the program, you will interact with professors, students, locals, politicians and religious leaders of various faith traditions, as well as visit rich historic sites and have time to relax and experience the beauty, food and hospitality of the Indonesian culture and its diverse society. This program is ideal for Christian and Jewish clergy who are involved in interfaith relations and programs with the Muslim communities throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe. For more information and registration for this program, please contact: Civilizations Exchange & Cooperation Foundation (CECF) 410-944-6077 or [cecf1@aol.com](mailto:cecf1@aol.com), or see [this flyer](#).

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## DECEMBER 2014

December 1	<b>WORLD AIDS DAY</b> International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
December 3	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS</b> Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
December 8	<b>BODHI DAY • Buddhist</b> Also known as <i>Rohatsu</i> , it observes the spiritual awakening (bodhi) of founder Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, ca. 596 BCE. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
December 10	<b>HUMAN RIGHTS DAY</b> On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
December 12	<b>OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian</b> Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.
December 15	<b>BILL OF RIGHTS DAY</b> Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.
December 17–24	<b>CHANUKAH • Jewish</b> Eight-day "Festival of Lights", celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.
December 21	<b>WINTER SOLSTICE</b> In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of winter.
December 25	<b>CHRISTMAS • Western Christian</b> Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
December 26–January 1, 2015	<b>KWANZAA</b> A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" means "first fruits (of the harvest)" in Swahili.
December 29	<b>WOUNDED KNEE DAY</b> On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.

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

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