



INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

October 2015 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

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Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

ICNY is pleased to welcome **Iman Boukadoum as Director of Community Partnerships**. Iman comes to us with a legal background having worked at both the ACLU and the Department of Homeland Security's Civil Rights Division. Her family is from Algeria and you are invited to read [an introductory message](#) from her further along in this bulletin. Please introduce yourself to Iman. We are thrilled to have her on board.

As campaign season begins and some politicians exploit religious, ethnic and racial tensions, ICNY has signed onto a letter to the **chairs of the RNC and DNC** asking for a civil discourse between candidates. Please consider sharing widely via social media and with your networks the letter which is [available online here](#).

Pope Francis Interfaith Service at the 9/11 Memorial Museum



Photo credit: The New York Times



*Pictured left to right:
Rabbi Harry Pell, Shaykh T.A. Bashir;
John Vaughn, Linda Sarsour, Fred Williams, The Rev. Chloe Breyer, Peter Guiditis, Mary Fetchet;
Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, Imam Talib Abdur Rashid, Swami Yuktatmananda.*

Pope Francis' visit to the United States was historic in many ways. No visiting Pontiff has presided over as widely diverse interfaith service during their visit. ICNY and other groups worked with the Diocese of Brooklyn to ensure this religious diversity at the **Pope's Interfaith Service at the 9/11 Memorial Museum**. Unfortunately, not every tradition in New York was represented, but as a community, we made good progress.

Additionally, attending members of the Sikh community including Dr. Satpal Singh who said a prayer from the podium, were allowed to attend with all of their articles of faith including **Kirpans** (ceremonial sword), which too often are taken from them for security concerns in government buildings and other public spaces.

Eid al-Adha New York Public School Holiday



*Children at Children's Museum of New York Press Conference
celebrating the first New York Public School Holiday for Eid al-Adha*

ICNY was glad to attend a press conference honoring the **first Eid al-Adha New York Public School Holiday Closing**. This nine year campaign was honored by the Manhattan Borough President and the New York School Chancellor. A mother from the community spoke about her relief not having to decide on whether her children attended school or celebrated the holiday with their family. For more information see <http://eidinnyc.org/>.

Peace Mapping Programme



On September 21st, the Interfaith Center of New York was honored to host the **KAICIID Peace Mapping Programme Civil Society Launch** with distinguished guests including Betty Reardon, Founding Director Emeritus of the International Institute on Peace Education, Sylvie Sun, Board Member of Buddhist Global Relief, and Joyce Dubensky, CEO of Tanenbaum.

The Peace Mapping Programme provides innovative tools to better understand organizations engaged internationally in interreligious dialogue. The Programme aims to show how interreligious dialogue contributes to conflict transformation worldwide, whether in preventive peacemaking or postconflict work. Its [research-based website](#) shows numerous organizations using or promoting interreligious dialogue around the world, many of which can be important partners in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. The Peace Mapping Programme's website also provides a public online tool with detailed information on more than 400 organizations involved in interreligious dialogue activities internationally. Special thanks to the KAICIID research team for their incredibly innovative work.

The Interfaith Center of New York **Co-Chair Kusumita P. Pedersen has recently been elected for a two-year term to the Committee of Religious NGO's at the United Nations**. ICNY – an NGO affiliated with the United Nations – will be looking for ways to expand the network of faith-based organizations active at the UN and to engage the Sustainable Development Goals or Agenda 2030. The Agenda was just adopted by the Summit that began with the Pope's address to the UN.

Our "[Learning Together Interfaith Youth Fellowships](#)" program concluded last June, and the Op-Ed essays that students wrote are starting to appear in publication. The first essay, called "[Parochial Prayer: A Call for Students to Claim Their Power](#)" is by Yardena Gerwin and appears on KidSpirit Online. Later this month an essay on "The Interfaith Living Museum" by Ameenah Drammeh will be featured as our Interfaith Matters blog for October. Ms. Drammeh is the youngest-ever contributor to our blog.

Best Wishes,



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

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An Introductory Message from Iman Boukadoum, ICNY Director of Community Partnerships



I recently joined the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) because ICNY does important advocacy, grassroots interfaith and public education work with diverse houses of worship on social justice challenges including prisoner re-entry and torture accountability, while combatting bigotry and misunderstanding.

I am a social justice attorney and Algerian-American, Muslim woman. My career began at the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS-CRCL) in Washington D.C. At DHS-CRCL I worked on a host of important policy reforms dealing with immigration and national security issues. I then transitioned to the American Civil Liberties Union's Center for Justice (ACLU). At the ACLU I worked full-time on the militarization of policing investigation which germinated into the [War Comes Home](#) report published right before the 2014 Ferguson, Missouri protests. I went on to work on affirmative and defensive asylum, cancellation of removal and appellate cases of undocumented migrants at the law firm of Youman, Madeo and Fasano.

As the world becomes more interconnected, understanding differences becomes vital. Importantly, ICNY promotes diversity through interfaith dialogue often missing today. I hope we can help fill this void together. Reach me at iman@interfaithcenter.org or 212-870-3515. I look forward to hearing from you.

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SAVE THE DATE

ICNY's 31st Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat

Coming Home: Faith Communities Supporting Successful Re-entry



Date: Wednesday, November 4

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Interchurch Building, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

Join us for the **31st Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat, "Coming Home: Faith Communities Supporting Successful Re-entry."** The Marshall Meyer Retreat is New York City's principal discourse for interfaith dialogue on local social justice issues. This year's retreat, held in partnership with Circles of Support and the J.C. Flowers Foundation, will feature leading experts from the faith, government and community sectors who will share the latest on new and innovative programs geared to support formerly incarcerated individuals on their journey toward re-entry. We hope you can join us! [KINDLY RSVP HERE](#). For more information about this event, please contact info@inspiregrouppllc.com. A flyer for the event can be found [here](#).

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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



PSI's 2015 Fall Conference: The Future of Spiritually Informed Treatment



Date: Saturday, October 17

Time: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Community Center, St. Jean Baptiste Church, 184 East 76th St., NYC

This dynamic day-long conference will examine the effects of spirituality for those we work with, identifying the particular elements of spiritual life that serve as protective factors against mental illness and also promote resilience in individuals, fostering healthier relationships and a stronger sense of self. This PSI conference is suitable for social workers, CASACs, other mental health professionals, activists, clergy of all faiths, pastoral caregivers, and scholars; it is co-sponsored by AAPC Eastern Region and ICNY. Discounted tickets are available to students and groups of 4 or more. For an additional fee, 5 CECs are available for CASACs in NY State; pending NYSED approval, 5 CECs will be offered to LMSWs and LCSWs. To order tickets, [click here](#). For more information email PSI at info@mindspirit.org or visit <http://www.mindspirit.org>.

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**UNITE to Face Addiction & #RecoverOutLoud
on the National Mall in Washington, DC Oct. 4**



UNITE to Face Addiction (www.facingaddiction.org) is a grassroots advocacy effort organizing people, communities and organizations to face addiction, stand up for recovery, and #RecoverOutLoud on the National Mall in Washington, DC on Sunday, October 4th. Take the first step and sign the [Clergy Unite Letter to President Obama](#) urging him to support the unite cause. UNITE organizers will then me in contact with you to help you and any interested congregants join or lead an contingency to be in Washington, DC. Also, help us by forwarding the [Clergy Unite Letter to President Obama](#) link to the to your clergy peers. With the participation of faith leaders from across the tri-state area, the light of recovery stories will clarify the darkness that has allowed addiction to thrive for far too long.

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SAVE THE DATE: Real Living Wage NYC Faith Community Kick Off Event



Date: Thursday, October 8
Time: 6:30 pm

Location: First Corinthian Baptist Church, 1912 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd @ 116th St, New York, NY

Join The Interfaith Center of New York, Micah Faith Table NYC and the multi-faith campaign for economic equity for all New Yorkers! \$20 an hour for a Real Living Wage. For more information, contact Leah Kozak at 917.613.4897 or email at leahkozak@gmail.com.

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Other Events



If you have an upcoming event that you think ICNY's audience might like to know about, please notify us by [filling out this event form](#). We will try to include events in future bulletins.

NYS Certified Psychoanalysis Training



Location: various Manhattan clinical locations

HFI offers a full training program for individuals holding master's degrees and for those licensed in the social work, nursing, physician, and physician assistant professions. Students receive 450 hours of instruction, client-contacts, and personal psychoanalysis. For more information, contact Michael.Connolly@hfi.nyc, 646.479.2573, or visit <http://www.hfi.nyc/>.

KidSpirit at the Parliament!

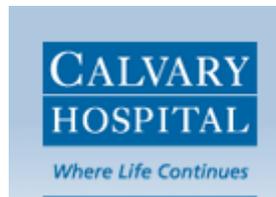


Date: Monday, October 19
Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Parliament of the World's Religions, Salt Palace Convention Center, 100 West Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Is the next generation actually interested in spirituality and religion? Yes, they are! Come ensure the future of Interfaith at KidSpirit's panel at the Parliament of the World's Religions. KidSpirit - the only international, spiritual magazine by and for youth. Teen editors will lead a conversation about their spiritual journeys and visions for the future. Learn how to bring the KidSpirit model to your community and connect with youth about authentic spiritual engagement. For more information, [visit this webpage](#) or email elizabeth@kidspiritonline.com.

Calvary Hospital Spiritual Care Day



Date: Thursday, Oct. 22 (registration deadline is Oct 15)

Time: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: 630 Second Conference Center (Second Avenue at 34th Street), New York, NY 10016

Calvary Hospital is hosting its Annual Spiritual Care Day on Oct. 22. The theme this year will be: Multicultural Competencies and Spirituality in End-of-Life Care Towards a Culturally Inclusive Model of Care. Doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains/pastoral care providers in all settings, and other health care professionals are welcome. Attendees will earn four Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits from ACPE, NACC, NAJC, and CPSP. There is no fee to attend. Breakfast and lunch will be provided; kosher meals are available upon request.

Keynote speaker will be Christina Puchalski, MD, MS, FACP, FAAHPM, and director of the George Washington University Institute for Spirituality and Health. For more information, contact Lynne Pappalardi at 718.518.2173 or lpappalardi@calvaryhospital.org. A flyer for this event is [here](#).

Muslim & Jewish Women Leadership Conference



Date: December 6 ([Registration is now open](#) with an early bird discount.)

Location: Princeton University

Several hundred women will gather at Princeton University on December 6 for the 2015 Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom Leadership Conference!

At the conference, participants will be able to:

- Meet other Muslim and Jewish women from throughout the United States
- Learn from the Muslim and Jewish women who are changing the dynamics between Muslims and Jews
- Share best practices on Muslim-Jewish dialogue and relationship development
- Participate in workshops facilitated by the leaders in interfaith dialogue
- Learn how to become an advocate of building relationships between Muslims and Jews and how to fight together to stop anti-Muslim and anti-Jewish sentiment

The 2015 conference will be co-sponsored by the Princeton University Bobst Center for Peace and Justice, the Center for Jewish Life, the Muslim Life Program and the Foundation of Ethnic Understanding (FFEU) Women's Weekend of Twinning. [REGISTER TODAY.](#)

T'ruah's Human Rights Shabbat 2015



Human Rights Shabbat is a T'ruah initiative to educate Jewish communities about the intersection of Jewish values and universal human rights. T'ruah's Human Rights Shabbat celebrates International Human Rights Day, December 10. In 2015, T'ruah's Human Rights Shabbat is December 11-12, with the alternate date of December 4-5 or whatever date is best for your community. [Sign up now](#), then figure out what you'll do to celebrate in the fall. Please contact Rabbi Lev Meirowitz Nelson, lmnelson@truah.org, with any questions. Current and past Human Rights Shabbat materials are available [here](#).

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ADL Calendar of Observances



OCTOBER 2015

October	Full Month	LGBT HISTORY MONTH Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.
October	Full Month	NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.
October 5		SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish "The Eighth (Day) of Assembly" is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.
October 6		SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish "Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.
October 11		COMING OUT DAY Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.
October 12		INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY (Native American Day) Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture. [The second Monday of October is also marked as a U.S. federal holiday, Columbus Day. Many people are opposed to the celebration of a man who led and committed atrocities against Indigenous people. Some states and cities in the U.S. have officially changed the day to Indigenous People's Day. Similarly, it is celebrated as <i>Día de la Raza</i> , "Day of the Race", in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.]
October 13–21		NAVARATRI • Hindu Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.
October 14		MUHARRAM • Islamic The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. The first day of the month, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. It also marks the beginning of the ten-day Shi'ite Remembrance of Muharram, a period of intense grief and mourning of the martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad.
October 17		INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.
October 20		BIRTH OF THE BĀB • Bahá'í Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Báb," the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, in Shíráz, Persia.
October 20		GUR-GADDI GURU GRANTH SAHIB • Sikh Since 1708, Sikhs have accepted Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru that holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs. They consider Guru Granth Sahib to be a spiritual guide not only for Sikhs but for all of mankind; it plays a central role in guiding the Sikhs' way of life.
October 22		DASSERA • Hindu Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as <i>Durga Puja</i> , which celebrates the goddess Durga.

The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2015 is available [here](#).

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