



April 2016 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

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Ways to Support and Promote ICNY:



Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

April brings the launch of "Our Muslim Neighbor Voices," a partnership between ICNY, Religions for Peace USA and Shoulder-to-Shoulder. As a part of the series, Rabbi Amy Eilberg and Rev. Dr. Michael Trice will both be contributing articles on the theme "How is religious bigotry playing into current U.S. American politics?" Each month will feature two new articles by nationally-renown commentators and religious leaders. [Check here](#) for the articles.

While presidential election politics occupy the headlines, local elections with great importance to faith communities in New York are underway as well. In particular, The Interfaith Center of New York, Union Theological Seminary, Grace Congregational, St. Philips, St. Mary's, All Souls, and Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood are hosting a [13th District Congressional Debate](#) for Harlemites, residents of Washington Heights and The Bronx who are seeking to elect their representative to Congress.

April 16th is National Healthcare Decisions Day. This is a day for clergy and religious leaders to address with their congregations the importance of advance care planning. [Learn more about how advance directives can help us](#) ensure that our values are respected and followed in the event of advanced illness. Also, join artists, educators and others for the [L.O.V.E. Rally](#) on April 10th (Postponed from Valentine's Day).

The 5th Annual Brooklyn Folk Arts Day was held March 2 at the Brooklyn Historical Society. This event, titled "Preserving and Demystifying Ritual and Ceremony in Brooklyn" was made possible by Brooklyn Arts Council, in partnership with the Brooklyn Historical Society and ICNY, and featured interactive presentations of ritual practices such as a [Tribute to the Ancestors & Guyanese Healing Ritual of Kumfah](#), a [Ghanaian Asafo Libation ritual](#) and [Aarti, a Hindu Lamp Ceremony](#), while hosting a town-hall discussion about ways to preserve, sustain, and demystify misconceptions surrounding traditional rituals and cultural ceremonies practiced in Brooklyn.

Best Wishes,



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

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***Social Work and Religious Diversity:
Religion and Spirituality as Sources of Strength in Times of Crisis***



Full Day Conference on April 7th

The Interfaith Center of New York and our partners are delighted to announce a continuing education conference for social workers and their colleagues, to explore the religious and spiritual coping resources that provide strength and support for diverse New Yorkers facing personal hardships or communal crises.

The conference is cosponsored by The Interfaith Center of New York, the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, and the Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute. It will help all social service and mental health care providers build their multifaith cultural competence, while offering New York LMSWs and LCSWs seven continuing education credit hours approved to meet state licensing requirements. Registration is currently closed, but [put your name on the waiting list](#) to get advanced notice of future conferences. For detailed information on the conference and free online resources, visit <http://interfaithcenter.org/social-work>.

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L.O.V.E Rally - Radical Love to Combat Radical Hate



Date: Sunday, April 10

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Location: Washington Square Park, 5th Avenue, Waverly Place, West 4th and MacDougal Streets, New York, New York 10011

Join us to rise together and spread mass love. In a world bombarded with hate speech, racism, sexism, homophobia, etc, we must band together to combat radical hatred with radical love. We are all human and in order to recognize the humanity in ourselves, we must recognize the humanity in others. This is a call for action to renew humanity's love for HUMANITY. For more information, click [here](#). A flyer for this event is [here](#). The Rev. Chloe Breyer, ICNY's Executive Director, and Iman Boukadoum, ICNY's Director of Community Partnerships will speak at this event.

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The Faith Communities' 13th District Congressional Debate



Date: Sunday, April 13

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: Grace Congregational Church located at 310 W 139th St.

Please join with faith communities from Harlem, Washington Heights, and the Bronx for an opportunity for civic engagement and a chance to learn about the candidates running for Congress. David Rohde, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist (The New York Times & Reuters) and Elinor Tatum, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of The New York Amsterdam News will be moderating a debate with Adam Clayton Powell, Clyde Williams, Guillermo Linares, Keith Wright, Mike Gallagher & Susan Johnson Cook. Co-sponsors of this event: The Interfaith Center of New York and Union Theological Seminary along with Grace Congregational Church, The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood, The Amsterdam News, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Church of the Intercession, St. Andrews, House of Peace and other Harlem congregations.

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Rye Women's Interfaith Annual Conference & Reception

The Rev. Chloe Breyer Executive Director, Interfaith Center of New York
to speak on Against Islamophobia: Interfaith Activism as Peacemaking



Date: Sunday, April 17

Time: 3:00 pm - Registration, 3:30 pm - Program, Reception to follow

Location: Christ's Church, 2 Rectory Street, Rye, New York

Joining The Interfaith Center of New York in 2007 as Executive Director, Chloe has furthered ICNY's mission to bring together grassroots religious leaders with civic officials to address the city's most pressing concerns. During Rev. Breyer's tenure, ICNY has spearheaded multi-faith advocacy efforts on issues including immigration reform, police profiling, and religious freedom. She serves as Associate Priest at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Harlem. Her publications include [The Close: A Young Woman's First Year at Seminary](#) (Basic Books 2000) and she is currently pursuing her Ph.D in Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary.

Conference & Reception \$15.00 (not refundable)

To RSVP please [fill out this form](#) and send it with your check payable to Rye Women's Interfaith before April 10, 2016.

Questions: Kathy Cusano - (914) 937-5726 - KathyCusano@outlook.com or Janet Meyers - (914) 967-0447 - Janet@SHMeyers.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.

"Palasnas"

Art Exhibit Opening Ceremony at the Jain Center of America



Date: Sunday, April 3

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Jain Center of America, 43-11 Ithaca Street, Elmhurst, NY 11373

The Jain Center of America Art Gallery invites everyone to an absolutely unique Art Exhibition on "Miraculous Samavsharan," created by Jain Center members of all ages. This exhibit, titled "Palasnas" (a holy cloth to tie holy scriptures), reflects different unique lands of Samavsharan (place of enlightenment). It is a marvelous work put together in a variety of embroideries, quilting, stitching and crochet. The ceremony will take place on the 2nd floor to honor the participants and view a documentary film "Miraculous Samavsharan." The art exhibit, located in the Cellar, will continue to be on display for several months. For more information contact Shefali Ajmera, 516-857-7528 or Shefali@aurav-arts.com.

Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute 2016 Springtime Speaker Series

"Can We Find Peace in a Fractured World?"



Date: Wednesday, April 6

Time: 10:15 am - 12:00 pm

Location: OneSpirit Learning Alliance, 247 West 36th Street 6th Floor, New York, NY 10018

This free continuing education series for clinicians and clergy seeks to address and explore the impact of trauma that is both collectively and individually experienced. PSI will host three presentations (dates below) by licensed clinical professionals who will share how they integrate these complex themes when working to heal the mind, body and spirit in the aftermath of trauma. In the first presentation on April 6, Dr. Kimball Jones will present "Taming the Terrorist Within: C. G. Jung's

Theory of Shadow-Projection and Its Relevance to the Chaos and Abuse in Today's Fractured World.”

Wednesday, April 6, 10:15 am - 12 pm

Wednesday, May 4, 10:15 am - 12 pm

Wednesday, June 1, 10:15 am - 12 pm

2 Continuing Education credits for LCSW/LMSWs will be offered at a cost of \$65 per presentation, or 6 Continuing Education credits at a cost of \$150 for the series. Discount available for AAPC affiliates. Tickets may be reserved, and CE credits may be purchased, separately or in combination [by clicking here](#).

Multifaith Anti-Drone Conference



Date: Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9

Location: Stony Point Center in Rockland County, 17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, NY 10980

All people of faith and conscience are invited to attend a Multifaith Anti-Drone Conference focused on shaping regional faith-rooted responses to drone warfare. Keynote speakers include Medea Benjamin of Code Pink and Arun Kundnani, author of *The Muslims Are Coming!* Early bird registration rate: \$169 - including program, housing, meals and entertainment. Special rates available for students and commuters. Sponsored by: Peace Action Education Fund, Interfaith Drone Network, KnowDrones.com, Community of Living Traditions. [Click here for more information](#).

National Healthcare Decisions Day

**Health Care Decision
Day: A Multi-faith
Message for Spiritual
Leaders and
Communities**

Date: Wednesday, April 16

April 16th is National Healthcare Decisions Day, a day which exists to inspire, educate and empower the public about the importance of advance care planning. We hope many of you will speak to your congregants that weekend about how advance

directives can help all of us ensure that our beliefs, customs and values are respected and followed in the event of advanced illness. An Interfaith sermon on National Healthcare Decisions Day, written by the Rev. Eric J. Hall, the president and CEO of HealthCare Chaplaincy Network and a member of the New York Academy of Medicine's Age-friendly NYC Commission, can be found, along with other National Healthcare Decisions Day resources, on the Academy's website, here: <http://www.nyam.org/news/article/health-care-decision-day-multi-faith-message-spiritual-leaders-and-communities/>

**On Common Ground Forum:
Promoting Religious Pluralism and Inclusive Citizenship**



Date: Monday, April 18

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY 11235, Lighthouse Rotunda (M240)

Today's US population is comprised of 318 million people from around the globe. As in earlier days in our nation's history, who can become or exercise full rights as an American citizen is entangled with issues of race, language, national origins, religion, economic equality, gender, and ethnicity. Kingsborough was chosen for its outstanding diversity as one of seven community college partners for this project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The KCC on Common Ground Public Forum and related spring programming will focus on religious pluralism and inclusive citizenship.

Keynote Speaker Prof. Stephen Prothero starts at 10:20 with a talk on "How to Speak About Religion in Public: Respecting Differences in a Pluralistic World." Other scholars discuss the history of religious pluralism in the US. A flyer for this event [is available here](#). For more information [click here](#).

Harlem Clemente Open House



Date: Monday, April 21

Time: 6:00 pm

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

Bard College Harlem Clemente Course in the Humanities at The Children's Village engages adult students in challenging economic circumstances who have not had access to higher education with the humanities. The course has two major goals: 1) to enrich the lives of its students, thereby preparing them for fuller participation in the economic and political life of our society 2) to reintroduce adult students to education in a supportive, seminar-based environment, thereby serving as a bridge to enrollment in all forms of higher education for low-income residents of poor communities for whom higher education would not normally be an option.

Harlem Clemente Course of the Humanities is now accepting applications. Please come to the Open House to find out more or see www.harlemclemente.org.

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ADL Calendar of Observances



APRIL 2016

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| April 14 | VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi) • Sikh
The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa. |
| April 15 | RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu
Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu. |
| April 15 | DAY OF SILENCE
Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment. |
| April 21–May 2 | FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá'í
Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'is suspend work. |
| April 22–23 | THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist
In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April. |
| April 23–30 | PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish
The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage. |
| April 24 | ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY
Memorializes the genocide of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey. |

The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2016 is available [here](#).

Smiling Comes Naturally



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