



## August 2016 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

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### Message from ICNY Executive Director



Dear Friends,

This past month, The Interfaith Center of New York brought 25 public, private, and parochial K-12 teachers from around the country to New York for an immersive three-week seminar called “Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity” (see photo above). This program, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and in partnership with Union Theological Seminary, exposed teachers to scholars of religion, diverse clergy and lay leaders, and houses of worship around NYC. One of many highlights was [this group call-and-response of a Haitian Vodou song](#), led by Houngan Oneza Lafontant. We extend our deepest thanks to all those who participated in the program ... and look forward to next year’s Institute.

This summer, faith community involvement in prisoner reentry and criminal justice reform continues. In this newsletter, you will read Princeton Student Tylor-Maria Johnson's account of an intern-organized ICNY/HCJC panel, "[The Human Repair Business: The Restorative Justice Interfaith Panel](#)." Also, [click here](#) for photos and a blog by Chris Watler, Director of the Harlem Community Justice Center, about last week's graduation for reentering citizens at the Church of the Heavenly Rest. These are men and women who will join a Speaker's Bureau of individuals qualified to speak at universities, community centers, and houses of worship about their first-hand stories of engagement with the criminal justice system. **To invite a "Raise My Voice" Speaker to your congregation, please contact Linda Steele at (347) 424-2395 or [linda@circlesofsupport.org](mailto:linda@circlesofsupport.org).** Also, learn how to sponsor a booth for your house of worship on September 10th at [The Harlem Family Carnival](#) located at 170 E. 121 Street. This event is for formerly incarcerated individuals returning to the community along with their families and friends.

Finally, as Khizr Khan reminded us in [his speech on the final night of the Democratic Convention](#), progress in preventing religious discrimination is still needed. Earlier this month, the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights issued a revised [online complaint form](#) to clarify when OCR can investigate complaints from individuals who believe they have experienced racial, ethnic, or national origin discrimination involving their religion. OCR also [launched](#) a new [webpage](#) that consolidates resources from across the Federal government about religious discrimination.

Best Wishes,



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

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*ICNY's Interfaith Matters Blog*



**The Human Repair Business:  
The Restorative Justice Interfaith Panel**



*by Tylor-Maria Johnson,  
Princeton Undergraduate Student studying Public Policy*

“God did not hire me to judge people, but called me to be a part of the human repair business,” Pastor Benny explained to Harlem Community Justice Center’s Youth Court members at an interfaith panel on restorative justice last Friday [June 22]. The panel, organized by the Harlem Youth Court and Interfaith Center of New York, explored the intersectionality between restorative justice, faith communities, and the larger criminal justice system. The Harlem Youth Court trains 14- to 18-year-olds to become jurors, advocates, and judges for cases involving their peers who are diverted from the family court and criminal court. The goal is to help youth respondents who have committed minor offenses to avoid further justice system involvement. The Youth Court achieve this by helping respondents to accept responsibility for their behaviors and understand how their decisions impact the community, their family and their future. Through a restorative sanction respondent like community service projects planned and delivered by the Youth Court, letters of apology or counselling sessions, youth work to repair the harm and in doing so repair their relationships with their family.

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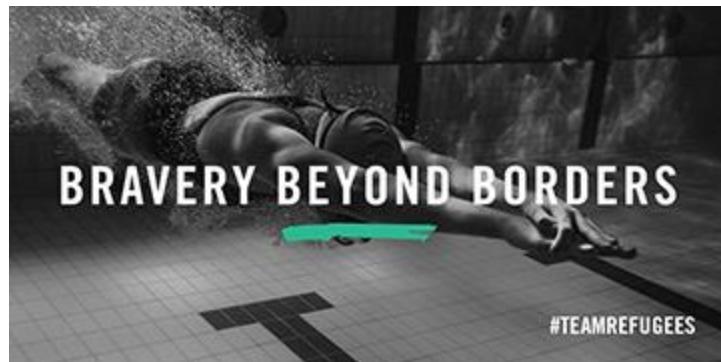
### *Other Events*



*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.*

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**Team Refugees @ The Rio Olympics**



Starting August 1st (Opening Ceremony on August 5th)

This summer at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, for the first time ever in the history of the Olympics, a team will act as a symbol for all those displaced from their homes by crisis. It is an honor for us to cheer on the Refugee Olympic Team, a group of ten top-tier athletes from countries including Syria, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Ethiopia. See <https://www.olympic.org/news/refugee-olympic-team-to-shine-spotlight-on-worldwide-refugee-crisis>

Before the Opening Ceremony on August 5th, we want you to “join the team” and support these incredible athletes as they make their dreams come true. Post a photo showing your support for the team with the campaign hashtag. Fans from across the globe will be posting selfies (as they do things like hold up signs that say ‘I’m with teamrefugees’) during the week leading up to the Opening Ceremony on August 5th.

FACEBOOK: TeamRefugees

TW/IG/SNAPCHAT: @TeamRefugees

HASHTAG: #TeamRefugees

[www.TeamRefugees.com](http://www.TeamRefugees.com)

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### We Are New York Fellowship



The Center for Community Leadership at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY) is launching We Are All New York, a citywide dynamic Fellowship that combines its Brooklyn, Queens Bronx and Northern Manhattan Fellowships. Over the past decade these efforts have engaged and empowered more than 500 diverse not for profit and faith based leaders in an exciting and powerful nine-month Community Leaders in Diversity Fellowship.

The We Are All New York Fellowship will convene top diverse leaders in a learning process that will not only provide for those chosen enhanced leadership skills they will become part of a family of alumni that will continue to build the present and future of NYC.

Please [use this link](#) to see the information about the Fellowship and how to apply.

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**Religious Freedom Center, Newseum Institute  
Courses for Religious Leaders and Educators**



Dates: Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

Location: 14 week blended learning graduate online courses with 3-day onsite immersion experience at the Newseum in Washington DC.

The Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute is a nonpartisan national initiative focused on educating the American public about the religious liberty principles of the First Amendment. The Religious Freedom Center offers onsite and online classes that prepare religious & civic leaders and educators for effective and principled leadership in a religiously diverse society. Students may enroll in classes for graduate and continuing education credit. They may also receive certificates in Religion and Public Life. For more information, see <http://www.religiousfreedomcenter.org/about/initiatives/leaders/>.

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**23rd Annual Interfaith Peace Gathering,  
commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombings**



Date: Friday, August 5

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: Quaker Religious Society of Friends, 15 Rutherford Pl, New York, NY 10003  
(between 2nd and 3rd Ave. @E. 15th St.) Near Union Square Park

This is a very special year of interfaith commemoration of Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bombings, which marks the first visit by a sitting US President to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park on May 27, 2016. Now is the time to think about peace, war, nuclear weapons and what kind of world we want to create. The event includes reading of messages from the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; a speech by Hiroshima survivor Tomiko Morimoto; keynote address by Susan Southard, the author of “NAGASAKI: Life After Nuclear War” which is the recipient of the 2016 Lukas Book Prize; performances by Shinji Harada, one of Japan's top recording artists; Brooklyn Interdenominational Choir and Japan Choral Harmony “TOMO.” [Click here for more information.](#)

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### Aarti Hindu Lamp Ceremony



Date: Saturday, August 6

Time: 4:00 pm to 7:45 pm

Location: Pebble Beach, Main Street Park in Brooklyn Bridge Park, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
[\(see map here\)](#)

The 'Aarti' Hindu Lamp Ceremony is a tradition performed at dawn and dusk at the banks of a river. In India and Hindu tradition, the river is revered as the Mother that nurtures and provides sustenance. A lit lamp signifies life in Hindu tradition and is used to mark a beginning of a ceremony. The lighting of a lamp also signifies removal of negative tendencies to purify our hearts. Participants make a connection with river, pond or a water body by placing palm leaf lit lamps in the river for peace and harmony. The palm leaf lamps are hand decorated using natural ceremony colors. This ceremony engages the community in collective art making. [Click here for more info.](#)

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### Erasing Borders Festival of Indian Dance Indoor Concert



Date: Saturday, August 13

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Schimmel Center at Pace University, 3 Spruce St., New York, NY 10038 - Located between Park Row and Gold Street (near Brooklyn Bridge and City Hall); 2/3 to Park Place/Broadway; R/W to City Hall; J/M/Z to Fulton Street; 4/5/6 to Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall

The mission of the Erasing Borders: Festival of Indian Dance is to present Indian dance through its multiplicity of forms and expressions, while engaging artists and audiences in exploring a range of aesthetics, issues and perspectives; also to celebrate the rich tradition of Indian dance and nurture exciting new dimensions developing in Indian, American and global contexts. The festival brings together dancers sharing movement, heritage and inspiration from the Indian subcontinent. It features artists from India and the South Asian Diaspora and the presentations range from traditional classical repertoire to contemporary, modern and post-modern works that are inspired by India or an Indian dance vocabulary. [Order tickets here.](#)

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### Organize a Day of Seva (Selfless Public Service) Event in Your Community



Dates: August 13-14

As the fourth anniversary of the tragic Oak Creek, WI shooting nears, sangat members across the nation are coming together to join in National Day of Seva. **On August 13-14, we will be holding our fourth annual National Day of Seva (selfless community service).** For resources on how to organize your own event, [click here](#). The Sikh Coalition is honored to host National Day of Seva on the weekend of August 13-14, 2016 so communities across the nation can show their solidarity with all those impacted by hate crimes. Community leaders in [Bakersfield](#), [Los Angeles](#), Sacramento, New York, Orlando, Detroit, and Charlotte are organizing seva events in their cities. Can we count on you to organize one in yours? If you have any questions about organizing a National Day of Seva event in your city, please email our Community Development Manager, Harjit Kaur, at [harjit@sikhcoalition.org](mailto:harjit@sikhcoalition.org).

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### The Harlem Family Carnival



Date: Saturday, September 10

Time: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: 170 E. 121 Street

The Harlem Community Justice Center and partnering local non-profits, community members, faith based organizations, businesses, and social service providers will come together to host a community event outside of our courthouse, located at 170 E. 121 Street. *The Harlem Family Carnival* will offer a message of inclusion and support to formerly incarcerated individuals returning to our community as well as provide the community a day filled with free family activities.

Located in an old magistrate's courthouse in the heart of East Harlem, the Harlem Community Justice Center ("The Justice Center") is a community-based court and resource center that works to solve neighborhood problems in East and Central Harlem, including juvenile delinquency, deteriorating housing, substance abuse and the challenges presented by ex-offenders returning from incarceration. Working with individuals returning from prison, our work helps individuals stay out of jail and prison, positively impacting families, our community and public safety.

We hope you will join us by partnering on this event; partnering options range from sponsoring a booth with your organization's name to a modest donation. Your donation will be recognized on the day of carnival. For more information, contact Thomas Edwards, Community Engagement Specialist, Harlem Community Justice Center at [tedwards@nycourts.gov](mailto:tedwards@nycourts.gov) or 917.645.7236.

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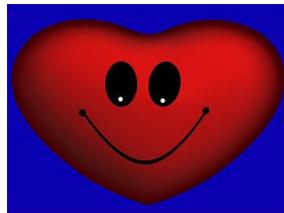
## AUGUST 2016

August 9	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES</b> 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 12	<b>INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY</b> Celebrates young people and the integral role they play in helping to create a world fit for children.
August 14	<b>TISHA B'AV • Jewish</b> Mourning of the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE.
August 15	<b>OBON • Buddhist</b> Also known as Bon, the Japanese Buddhist festival honors the spirits of past ancestors.
August 17	<b>ULAMBANA • Buddhist</b> 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 18	<b>RAKSHA BANDHAN • Hindu</b> Also called Rakhi, this festival celebrates the protective relationship between brothers and their sisters.
August 23	<b>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF THE SLAVE TRADE AND ITS ABOLITION</b> Memorizes 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 25	<b>KRISHNA JAYANTI • Hindu</b> Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.

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

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