

# The Interfaith Center of New York



*Annual Report 2011*



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## Mission Statement

*The Interfaith Center of New York seeks to make New York City and the world safe for religious differences by increasing respect and mutual understanding among people of different faith, ethnic, and cultural traditions and by fostering cooperation among religious communities and civic organizations to solve common social problems.*



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## Letter from Founder & Executive Director

The *Tenth Anniversary of 9/11* passed with remarkable calmness. Interfaith memorial services and events became the way to honor the day in New York City and around the country. We recognized the gift of religious diversity in our communities even as the grief of some was yet unresolved. As the National September 11 Memorial opened its doors, The Interfaith Center of New York, along with our Prepare New York coalition partners, and the Buddhist Council of New York launched floating lanterns on the Hudson and wrote messages of peace on the *Ribbons of Hope* installation in Battery Park.

The respectful tenor of the day resulted from the efforts of many people. In New York, the Interfaith Center was one of six founding members of a three-prong campaign to promote inter-community understanding and religious tolerance in New York City during a time of heightened emotion and memory. With **Auburn Seminary—Center for Multifaith Education, Intersections International, Odyssey Networks, Quest** and the **Tanenbaum-Religion and Diversity Education Program**, we launched the *Prepare New York* website, organized major interfaith services and launched an ambitious schedule of *Coffee Hour Conversations* across the city.

Through a generous grant from **One NYC One Nation**, a collaboration between the **Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs** and the **New York Community Trust**, ICNY is on its way to meeting our goal of holding 250 *Coffee Hour Conversations* with grassroots religious communities and civic leaders, in which New Yorkers come together to engage and share in reflection, education, and discussion. The conversations have been as diverse as the fabric of our city, ranging from short lecture formats about the basics of Muslim or Sikh traditions to actual stories of 9/11 survivors or family members impacted by that tragic day. The venues varied even more, from inside the sanctuaries of churches, temples, and mosques, to the community gardens of the Lower East Side, the parks of Staten Island, and the rooftops of private condominiums in Manhattan. ICNY provided speakers, moderators, and other resources to help sponsoring organizations tailor programs suitable for their target audiences. We continue our commitment through the end of 2011, and are eager to work with you, should you like to host one in your neighborhood.

Also high on ICNY's agenda was the on-going service partnerships between Muslim and Christian service providers in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island supported by the **GHR Foundation** as well as the critical need to tackle the taboo subject of domestic violence in our religious communities. **ML Resources-Social Vision** provided support for ICNY and our partner, **CONNECT**, to recruit religious leaders, train them in domestic violence prevention techniques, and initiate domestic violence programs in their communities. Already the fruits of our labor are being seen in the community with one Roman Catholic Church starting a hotline dedicated to victims/survivors of intimate violence and, in another case, a mosque-based domestic violence training program has been proposed. The Spring 2011 *Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat* too was devoted to this subject and served as an excellent forum for over 80 religious leaders to learn from experts about community-based information and referral resources.

Finally, we have received wonderful news that the **National Endowment for the Humanities** has awarded ICNY and our partner, **Union Theological Seminary**, a grant to sponsor a 2012 Summer Institute for secondary school teachers entitled *Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity*. This innovative program will help public, private, and parochial school educators teach their students more effectively about the rich religious diversity of the United States.



The Very Rev. James Parks Morton  
Founder and Chair Emeritus



The Rev. Chloe Breyer  
Executive Director

# Public Outreach: Promoting Religious Pluralism

ICNY's *Prepare New York* and *The 411 on Faith* programs represent two examples of public outreach programs percolating in and literally transforming New York City neighborhoods.

## Prepare New York Partners

Auburn Seminary-Center for Multifaith Education, The Interfaith Center of New York, Intersections International, Odyssey Networks, Quest, Tanenbaum-Religion and Diversity Education Program

## Prepare New York Advisors

Abraham's Path, September Eleventh Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, 9/11 Community for Common Ground

## Prepare New York Funders

Emigrant Bank, Abraham's Path, The Church of Heavenly Rest, The Collegiate Churches of New York, The Henry Luce Foundation, One NYC One Nation -The New York Community Trust/One Nation Foundation, Odyssey Networks, Open Society Foundations, New York Disaster Interfaith Services, Park Avenue Synagogue, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, United Church of Christ-National Disaster Ministries

## Prepare New York

Six interfaith organizations including **Auburn Seminary-Center for Multifaith Education, The Interfaith Center of New York, Intersections International, Odyssey Networks, Quest** and **Tanenbaum-Religion and Diversity Education Program**, formed *Prepare New York* when discord and dissension was at its highest peak regarding the building of a Muslim Community Center in lower Manhattan. *Prepare New York* aimed to change the conversation from one of fear and mistrust of a particular belief or group, to one that celebrates New York's extraordinary diversity of religious freedom. With generous donations from private and corporate foundations and organizations, our partners produced a robust website ([www.prepareny.com](http://www.prepareny.com)), an inspirational short film, "We the People" that received 60,000 hits on YouTube, an interactive public art project, downloadable educational resources, and dynamic community-based conversations.



Rev. TK Nakagaki, Floating Lantern Ceremony 9/11/11. Photos by Angela Jimenez

ICNY took responsibility for coordinating 250 *Coffee Hour Conversations* with 240 completed, organizing an *Interfaith Floating Lantern Ceremony* at Pier 40 for 9/11, and reaching out to faith-based communities to participate in writing messages of hope and remembrances on ribbons for the *Ribbons of Hope* interactive public art installation.

The *Coffee Hours* were opportunities for open reflection and honest discussion about ongoing powerful emotions connected with 9/11, including feelings of non-Muslims towards Muslims in New York City, and the complex reactions of many Muslim New Yorkers, who lost family, friends and coworkers, and who experienced the same trauma as many of their neighbors. In venues as diverse as community gardens, college auditoriums, public parks and sacred religious spaces, survivors, first responders, and 9/11 family members offered candid accounts of the tragic day and how they have moved their lives forward. Muslims, Sikhs, and members of other religions shared their experiences as well, such as being singled out by unkind New Yorkers.

On the anniversary itself, the *Towers of Light* projected a backdrop for the *Interfaith Floating Lantern Ceremony* on the Hudson River at Pier 40 on 9/11 organized in partnership with the **Buddhist Council of New York, Prepare New York, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, New York Disaster Interfaith Services, New York Kayak Company, NY de Volunteer, UNITED SIKHS, New York City Downtown Boathouse** and **September 11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows**. A crowd of 1,000 people of varied races, nationalities, and religions gathered to hear leaders of seven different faiths offer expressions of peace in an adaption of the traditional Buddhist ceremony honoring the deceased. Japanese and American musicians performed soulful melodies, and kayakers placed floating lanterns decorated by spirited messages of hope from the public in the Hudson River. It was a serene ending to a poignant and moving day.

The *Ribbons of Hope* project, spearheaded by Intersections International, presented New Yorkers and visitors from around our nation and the globe the



Coffee Hour Conversation: Musicians from different faith traditions perform together on 9/10/11 at De Colores Community Garden, East 8th Street, Manhattan. Pictured (l.to r.): Ibrahim Gonzalez on keyboard (Islam), Sonny Singh on drums (Sikhism), and Marty Ehrlich on Saxophone (Judaism)

opportunity to share statements of hope and healing for the future. Twelve nine-foot tall tapestries were installed at Battery Park during the weekend of 9/11 in which 20,000 ribbons with inscribed sentiments were attached to the tapestries by religious and secular communities and tourists from as close as the Bronx to as far away as Hawaii. The tapestries are currently touring houses of worship. Please contact us should you have an interest in displaying all or a portion of them.

### A Program with the New York Public Library: *The 411 on Faith - Communities in Conversation*

In the winter of 2011, we held a series of public conversations with local religious leaders at neighborhood branches of the **New York Public Library** in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island. These discussions were linked to the NYPL's acclaimed *Three Faiths* exhibit. We hope to continue our collaboration with the Library in the future.

#### Coffee Hour Conversation Examples

- ◆ Community Reflections Ten Years After 9/11/01: Voice, Memory, Advocacy, Artistry - Focus on Sikh and Muslim Stories. The Interchurch Center (5/18/11)
- ◆ Narratives of the Interfaith Movement: How Helpful is the Search for Common Ground? Presbytery of New York City (6/23/11)
- ◆ Panel Discussion: Everyday Life in Muslim New York. Bank Street School for Children (5/19/11)
- ◆ Where is God Ten Years After 9/11? New York Theological Seminary (9/8/11)
- ◆ An Interfaith Discussion with 9/11 Disaster Chaplains: Healing, Hope, Challenge & Resilience. Trinity Wall Street (8/4/11)



# Empowering Communities Through Interfaith Collaboration

## CIVIC CONNECTIONS

ICNY's work to strengthen civic connections through interfaith collaboration is currently on display in two critical grass-roots initiatives: the *Catholic-Muslim Community Development Initiative* and *Domestic Violence Prevention Training for Religious Leaders*.

### Catholic-Muslim Community Development Initiative: Moving from Dialogue to Action

Islam and Christianity have rich traditions of social service, community action, and interfaith work, yet, in New York City, there has been no sustained interfaith collaboration among Roman Catholics and Muslims engaged in social services. Post 9/11, Muslim social services are being established to respond to concerns about immigration, discrimination, family and youth issues, and newly emerging organizations could benefit from learning from **Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York**—an organization with decades of experience. In addition, Catholic agencies could benefit in their service delivery by broadening their knowledge of Islam since they serve diverse clients who often include Muslims. Sometimes, these agencies operate in the same geographic regions and serve clients from the same communities without knowledge of one another.



Brother Ayyub Franklin, Father Steven Pavignano, & Brother Jawad Abdul Wadud deliver food to All Saints Church Food Pantry in Harlem.

ICNY, with backing from the **GHR Foundation**, has brought Muslim and Catholic social service provid-

ers together to jointly venture on shared community-based projects. In partnership with Catholic Charities and Muslim service organizations, ICNY has developed borough-specific, mutually engaging projects such as improving food pantry practices in the Bronx, and sprucing up houses of worship in Staten Island. The strong growth in personal trust and structural partnerships have catalyzed additional programs that include the forming of a multi-faith women's group that recently added Jewish women, and the opportunity for **Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services** to widen its reach and make presentations at two mosques serving African immigrants. This pilot phase will culminate in January 2012 with a public presentation to discuss the successes and challenges of this breakthrough initiative and opportunities for replication.

### Domestic Violence Prevention Training for Religious Leaders

Knowledge gained from previous *Marshall T. Meyer Retreats* and *Court Roundtables* supported the premise that all faith communities experience domestic violence and this problem desperately requires attention from religious leaders. With financial backing from **M.L. Resources-Social Visions**, ICNY partnered with **CONNECT** to recruit two cohorts of diverse clergy and lay leaders: Baptists, Sikhs, Muslims, and Jews together received 24-hours of intense training over several weeks. The training, conducted by **CONNECT Faith**, centered on changing fundamental beliefs and practices that support abuse, developing culturally and religiously relevant practices and policies, and accessing information about resources available from secular and government agencies.

At the end of the training, some religious leaders received small grants to pioneer their own domestic violence prevention programs. One Roman Catholic Church is creating *St. Monica's Ministry* (named after St. Augustine's mother who was abused) for victims/survivors of domestic violence and plans to dedicate a rectory phone and train worshippers to respond to calls for assistance. A mosque in Harlem has proposed its own domestic violence training for men and women in its community.

# Building Networks of Civically-Engaged Religious Leaders

Through ICNY's *Court Roundtables* and *The Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice*, religious leaders have the opportunity to network with one another and learn about city-sponsored programs and services from civic leaders. Likewise, the presence of religious leaders in courthouses educates the civic officials about the concerns of their diverse constituencies.

## New York State Unified Court Roundtable

Religious communities often turn to their leaders for compassion, guidance, and assistance in accessing resources in matters of enormous personal concern often involving the police and the courts. ICNY, in conjunction with **New York State Unified Court System**, provides clergy and lay leaders with knowledge from legal experts on germane topics targeted for disenfranchised communities at quarterly meetings in the five boroughs. During this last year, ICNY drew on experts from **LawHelp.org**, **Legal Information for Families Today**, and **CONNECT** to inform religious leaders about free and reliable legal immigration assistance, accessing resources for parents in the process of marital separation or divorce; and responding to domestic violence. For Fall 2011, the New York State Unified Court System asked ICNY to identify houses of worship where a mobile legal team could provide free legal consultation from the nonprofit **New York Legal Assistance Group**. ICNY responded by coordinating sites in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Staten Island.

## The Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice

ICNY's longest-running program, the *Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice* occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of our religious leaders who regularly attend, as well as new leaders introduced to ICNY for the first time. Named in honor of **Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer** who was a leader in advancing interfaith partnerships committed to social justice and a close colleague of our founder, **The Very Reverend Morton**, the Retreat offers faith leaders a respite at the **Stony Point Center** in Rockland County to learn about social justice issues in an interfaith context.

The 25<sup>th</sup> *Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice* held in May revisited the topic of *Creating Safety, Preserving Faith: Religious Leaders Address Domestic Violence*. Recognizing that domestic violence is a reality in all faith communities, the Retreat explored ways in which the 80 religious leaders in attendance could work to end abuse. Building on our experience training groups of religious leaders, the Retreat examined the importance of theological and pastoral responses to domestic violence, and focused on elements in our traditions that emphasize the dignity of women. Experts from the **New York Police Department, Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, CONNECT, The Center for Court Innovation** and others offered instruction and we screened the recent documentary *I Believe You: Faith's Response to Intimate Partner Violence* produced by **Debra Vinik**.

Past Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreats have catalyzed ongoing initiatives on specific policy issues including **Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice** and the **New York State Network for Immigration Reform**.

For Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice, ICNY co-sponsored a *Food, Faith, and Health Disparities Summit*. The Summit convened community members, food advocacy groups, and faith communities to address key food and health disparities our communities are facing. At another meeting, the environmental organization, **We Act for Environmental Justice**, offered tips to religious leaders on how parishioners could identify and remove toxic agents from their homes.

The New York State Network for Immigration Reform focused its attention on passage of *The Dream Act* that creates a path to citizenship for young undocumented immigrants brought to the United States by their parents or guardians. ICNY helped to promote the nationwide *Dreamers Solidarity Project* that asks religious leaders to dedicate a portion of their worship services and sermons to encouraging congregations to sign letters in support of The Dream Act. The Network held a press conference launching the project with key religious leaders and award-winning journalist **Jose Antonio Vargas** publicly disclosing his undocumented status.

# Religious Diversity Education: For Effective Citizenship and Social Services

ICNY's *Social Work and Religious Diversity Course*, and the new July 2012 summer institute, *Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity* educate social workers, teachers, and students about the religious diversity of New York City.

## Social Work and Religious Diversity

Social work students in traditional Master's Degree programs receive little or no training in American religious diversity. But to make a difference, social service providers in New York City must work effectively with clients and colleagues from a wide range of faith traditions. ICNY's 2011 *Social Work and Religious Diversity* course (developed in partnership with **UJA-Federation of New York, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York**, and the **Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services**) introduced almost 100 social workers and graduate social work students to the religious diversity of the city they serve. ICNY facilitated panel discussions among academics, religious leaders, and experienced social workers that introduced the beliefs and practices of six different religious traditions, highlighted the diversity within each of these traditions, and helped social workers to understand the role of religion in the lives of individuals, families, and communities. Enthusiastic alumni of the course have continued these conversations in a monthly book group, discussing scholarly works on New York's religious diversity, and on the role of religion in social work practice. Program alumni and other mental health professionals also attended a symposium sponsored by ICNY, **Prepare New York, the Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service**, and other partners, to examine *Interfaith Perspectives on Communal Trauma and Healing* at the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

## Religious Diversity Training for Educators and Students

This year ICNY, together with **Union Theological Seminary**, is the proud recipient of a major grant from the **National Endowment for the Humanities**. Developing an NEH summer institute for school teachers will allow ICNY to lift our religious diversity training program to a higher level, affording

us a national platform and greater ability to influence secondary school religious studies pedagogy. Beginning in 2011, ICNY will recruit thirty teachers from throughout the country to attend a July 2012 summer institute, *Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity*. These teachers will work with leading scholars in religious studies, and with a wide range of local religious leaders. The institute will introduce participants to six religious traditions that are part of the fabric of American life, and offer them the pedagogic tools they need to teach their students about the religious lives of their neighbors in addition to the conventional world religions curriculum.



The institute grows out of the many programs for teachers and students offered by ICNY throughout the year. Education Program Associate **Dr. Henry Goldschmidt** led discussions of religious diversity at public, private, and parochial schools in the New York area in 2011, including the **Hackley School, Seton Hall Prep, Bank Street School for Children**, and the **Facing History School**. Co-teaching with **Dr. Paul Knitter** of Union Theological Seminary, he led seminary students on a series of four site visits to local religious communities. He also worked with colleagues in **the Archdiocese of New York** to provide professional development workshops for Roman Catholic high school teachers.

Dr. Henry Goldschmidt moderating panel on Christianity for social workers with Tom Dobbins, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York and Rev. Anita Burson, Elpida Community Baptist Church



# EDUCATION



# UNION



From the website [www.religiousworldsnyc.org](http://www.religiousworldsnyc.org) of ICNY's new July 2012 summer institute, *Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity*. Photos by (top to bottom) Ken Stein, Jason Nap, and Bob Jagendorf

# JPM International Visiting Fellows Sister Cities Program

## Glasgow, Scotland September 17-24, 2011

Supported for the last four years by the **Daniel and Joana S. Rose Fund**, ICNY has developed a robust intercultural exchange with religious communities and civic leaders in Barcelona, Spain and Glasgow, Scotland. Together with our partners—**UNESCO-CAT** and the **Scottish Interfaith Council**, ICNY has established an international network of individuals who have been able to share best practices in engaging religious leaders in civic affairs to address problems of immigration, integration, and interfaith affairs.

The Scottish Interfaith Council hosted the Barcelona and New York delegations of diverse religious leaders on the third leg of this program that included visiting many places of worship (**The Hindu Mandir, St. Andrews Kirk, Edinburgh Baha'i Centre, St. Andrews Catholic Cathedral, Newlands South Church, Sikh Gurdwara, Al-Furqan Mosque, Samye Ling Buddhist Centre, and Giffnock Shul**). Meetings were also held with government officials from several agencies (**Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government Equality Unit, and the Strathclyde**

**Police**), and many NGO's (**Edinburgh Interfaith Association, Edinburgh Church of Scotland, Festival of Spirituality and Peace, Social Integration Network at St. Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, Scottish Refugee Council Black and Ethnic Minority, and Council of Christians and Jews**).

## New York Delegation:

**The Rev. Chloe Breyer**, Executive Director, The Interfaith Center of New York and Assistant Minister at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. **Judy Chen**, Vice President of the Buddhist Council of New York, Vice President of the American Buddhist Council, and Board of Directors of Crosscurrents. **Rabbi Michael Feinberg**, Executive Director, Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition. **Chan Jamoona**, Director and Founder of the United Hindu Cultural Council Senior Center. **Arvind Kohli**, Program Coordinator for United Sikhs. **Robina Niaz**, M.S. MSW, Founder and Executive Director of Turning Point for Women and Families. **Detective Jeff Thompson**, New York Police Department, Bureau of Community Affairs and certified mediator. **Dr. Sarah Sayeed**, Program Associate, The Interfaith Center of New York.

The experiences and relationships that have been cultivated through the *Sister Cities* Program have had uniquely powerful effects, some of which include:

- ◆ NYC delegate **Detective Jeff Thompson** has recommended a number of interfaith initiatives for the **New York Police Department** to adopt, including combining its interfaith outreach with mediation referrals.
- ◆ Inspired by their time in NYC, members of the Barcelona delegation returned to Spain with renewed passion for initiating interfaith activities – most notably, a local Catholic priest organized an interfaith conference in his parish that attracted broad participation from the Barcelona Muslim community.
- ◆ **Mohammed Halhoul**, Secretary of the **Islamic Council of Catalonia**, began including interfaith relations as a required subject on training courses for local Imams with Barcelona delegates serving as interfaith instructors in the training.
- ◆ In Barcelona, NYC delegate **Robina Niaz** appeared on **Catalan Radio and TV** to offer an American Muslim woman's perspective on the anti-immigrant sentiment that was rife in the run-up to Catalan elections.

## More ICNY International Activities

Interested in ICNY's unique approach to interfaith work, visitors from many different countries and disciplines make ICNY a stop on their U.S. tours. Often referred to by **U.S. State Department** and the **New York Foreign Press**, ICNY hosted a total of 25 international visitors from 13 countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, In-

ing a small group of scholars, representatives of the religious NGO community, and UN staff from key agencies engaged with religious organizations in various projects. As a result of this dialogue, policy recommendations are being prepared with the aim of ensuring sustainable forms of partnership for common development-related goals.



Barcelona, Glasgow, and New York Delegations at the Scottish Parliament

onesia, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. Since 2007, 118 visitors from 38 countries have peppered staff with questions about ways that people of different faith, ethnic and cultural traditions in New York City come together to solve common social problems.

ICNY joined with the **United Nations Population Fund** and the **Social Science Research Council** to co-sponsor three sessions on *Religion and the United Nations: Dynamics of Development and Peacebuilding*. These sessions were inspired by the September 2010 issue of *CrossCurrents*, co-edited by former ICNY Program Director **Matt Weiner**, and were attended by a rare constellation of partners includ-



NYPD Detective Jeff Thompson outside Samye Ling Buddhist Centre in Scotland



# The Very Rev. James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner

JPM Interfaith Award Dinner  
Photos by Carolina Kroon

ICNY's annual banquet honoring outstanding individuals for their contributions to peace and interfaith understanding has, over the years, become a festive celebration with an extraordinarily diverse group of guests from New York's cultural, business, legal, and religious sectors. This year was no exception.

Actress and *CBS Sunday Morning* Contributor **Nancy Giles** graciously hosted our Ninth James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner as we paid tribute to internationally acclaimed composer, musician, and **Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis**. As one of the world's top trumpeters, Mr. Marsalis has won nine Grammy Awards for both jazz and classical records and works as a tireless advocate for advancing jazz as a sustainable art form. He continues to expand audiences for jazz through his co-founding of and artistic directing at Jazz at Lincoln Center, his worldwide touring, and educating of young musicians.

Mr. Marsalis receiving the JPM Interfaith Award.

Following the dinner, Mr. Marsalis wrote to us saying,

*"Your organization's dedication to increase respect and mutual understanding among people of different faiths, ethnicities, and cultural traditions is exactly the same as my ministry through the art of jazz. I was uplifted and encouraged by your recognition of our common interest in this endlessly challenging enterprise. The award itself is beautiful and embodies the Interfaith Center's identity: gritty, sturdy, and elegant. It is eloquently displayed on my dining room table."*



Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel, Imam Shamsi Ali, and Rabbi Michael Feinberg attend the JPM Interfaith Award Dinner



## James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Recipients

- 2011** | Wynton Marsalis
- 2010** | Philip Glass
- 2009** | Thomas Cahill  
The Hon. Judith S. Kaye
- 2008** | Dr. Vartan Gregorian  
Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp  
His Holiness the 17th Gyalwa  
Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje
- 2007** | Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell  
Rev. Kyotaro Deguchi  
Nicholas D. Kristof  
Steven Rockefeller  
Carl Sagan (Posthumous)  
Paul Winter
- 2006** | The Hon. Stephen Breyer  
Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei  
Richard Gere  
Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf & Daisy  
Khan  
Mata Amritanandamayi
- 2005** | No award, but a celebration  
for The Very Rev. James Parks  
Morton's 75th birthday
- 2004** | Santiago and Robertina  
Calatrava  
Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee  
Judge Shirin Ebadi  
Philippe Petit & Kathy  
O'Donnell
- 2003** | Daniel and Nina Libeskind  
Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- 2002** | William J. Clinton  
Alan Slifka  
James Carroll
- 1997** | His Holiness the 14th  
Dalai Lama  
Mary Robinson  
Ravi Shankar

# Notable and Noteworthy

## Public & Ceremonial Events

ICNY hosted the launch of Author James Carroll's book *Jerusalem, Jerusalem: How the Ancient City Ignited Our Modern World* (Houghton Mifflin 2011) at which *Newsweek* Religion Editor Lisa Miller moderated a panel of distinguished religious leaders about *Jerusalem, Violence, Peace and the Religious Imagination*. Participating panelists included Union Theological Seminary Faculty President The Rev. Dr. Serene Jones, Cordoba Initiative Chairman Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, and Jewish Theological Seminary Professor Burton L. Visotzsky. (3/10/11)

**Executive Director The Rev. Chloe Breyer** participated in public engagements including serving on a panel about *Park 51 and The Crisis on Islamophobia* at the Rabbis for Human Rights North American Annual Conference (12/7/10). She also appeared on a panel about *The Role of Faith-Based Organizations and Interfaith Initiatives in Development, Reconciliation, and Peacebuilding* sponsored by the Organization of the Islamic Conference Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations in honor of UN World Interfaith Harmony Week (2/3/11). Breyer spoke at *Today, I am a Muslim Too*, a rally in Times Square to protest Congressional hearings on radicalization within the Muslim community (3/6/11). She presented at the New York Citizen Corp's Fifth Annual Disaster Volunteer Conference on *Enhancing Cross-Cultural Communications* (5/24/11) and offered comments about *Exploring the Intersections between Architecture and Christianity* as part of the Lunch Matters – Art of Faith series at the Rubin Museum of Art (7/20/11). She also served as a Visiting Preacher at The Riverside Church's Space for Grace Service (9/9/11), and moderator of *Ten-Years Later: The Impact of 9/11 on Interfaith Relations—Lessons Learned* at United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (9/13/11).

**Program Associate Sarah Sayeed** was sought after by various organizations making presentations at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (10/11), and speaking on *Islam and the Muslim American Experience* at St. Mark's Church in the Bowery (11/10). She appeared on a panel about *Abraham: An Islamic Perspective* (11/10) and offered remarks at a six-

part series of lectures entitled *O God My Heart is Ready – To Surrender* both sponsored by Trinity Wall Street (10/25/11). Dr. Sayeed served as a panelist at the International Symposium on Civilization and Values, in Istanbul, Turkey (12/10). She also offered her expertise to the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, the New York Foundation, the New York Community Trust, and Rockefeller Brothers Fund in developing a learning tour of *New York's Diverse Muslim Community: Building Civic Engagement and Responsive Social Services* for national and local charitable organizations (9/15/11). Dr. Sayeed presented at the Drisha Institute's Maharat program for Jewish women in leadership training (10/27/11). She also spoke on *Being Muslim in America: A Personal Journey and A Community's Story* at the Annual Nikki Chapin Lecture, Chapin School (11/8/11).

**Director of Outreach & Program Administration Annie Rawlings** was a featured speaker at the Council Foundation's 2011 Fall Conference for Community Foundations in San Francisco at which she spoke about the *Impact of the Prepare New York Campaign on New Yorkers* (9/20/11). She also coordinated and helped to organize over 200 *Coffee Hour Conversations* as part of Prepare New York.

**Education Program Associate Henry Goldschmidt** appeared as a panelist at the *Ethics, Religion, and Civil Discourse Conference* held at California State University, Fresno and presented highlights of his paper on *World Religions and Lived Religion in Secondary School Religious Studies Curricula* (10/13/11). Dr. Sayeed served as a panelist, with Education Program Associate Henry Goldschmidt moderating *Interfaith Perspectives on Jesus of Nazareth: Teaching a Christ-Centered Curriculum in a Multi-Religious World* at the Archdiocese of New York High School Religion Teacher Conference in New Rochelle (11/4/11). Dr. Goldschmidt spoke on *The Lubavitch Hasidim and American Multiculturalism: Defining the Boundaries of Jewishness in a Diverse Society*, a lecture in the Jewish Culture series at Wagner College, co-sponsored by Wagner College and the JCC of Staten Island (11/11/11).



## Published Articles and Media Appearances

Prepare New York received much media attention. Bobby Cuza of *NY1* wrote about Prepare New York's launch in "9/11 A Decade Later: Interfaith Coalition to Encourage Religious Tolerance on September 11th" (7/11/11). *The Associated Baptist Press* ran Norman Jameson's story, "Churches, City Prepare to Make 10th Anniversary of 9/11 a Time of Healing" (8/4/11). Jane Morse posted "Group Fosters 9/11 Dialogue" in *Embassies and Consulates Directory* (8/11/11).

The Rev. Chloe Breyer and Annie Rawlings were guests on *WAMC Radio* Host Joe Donahue's program, "9/11 Community Conversation – Interfaith Aspects" (9/8/11). Breyer and ICNY were featured in the French magazine *Pelerin*. The article discussed the tenth anniversary of September 11 and ICNY's role in facilitating interfaith participation in New York City (9/8/11).

ICNY's *Floating Lantern Ceremony*, organized by Board Member Rev. TK Nakagaki, was featured in Nick Paumgarten's column in *The New Yorker's* "The Talk of the Town" (9/12/11), and by Stephanie Simon of *NY1* in "Floating 9/11 Tribute Brings Faithful to River" (9/12/11). *Ribbons of Hope* was the subject of "Ribbons Called Symbolic and Emotional," an article by Maria Alvarez of *Newsday* (9/12/11).

*The Huffington Post* published several pieces by ICNY Program Associate Sarah Sayeed, including "Supporting Nonviolence in Islam" (4/12/11), "An American Muslim Visits the World Trade Center Memorial" (8/12/11), "NYPD and New York Muslims" (8/31/11) and "After 9/11 and War, Building Paths for Co-Existence" (10/13/11). Sayeed was also featured in "Islamic Art as Cultural Diplomacy," a video by the *BBC*, about the new Islamic Art exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (10/30/11).

Education Program Associate Henry Goldschmidt's article "Re-framing the Racial and Religious Narratives in Crown Heights" was published in *The Huffington Post* (8/19/11).



# Treasurer's Report

Fiscal 2011 turned out to be a much better year than anticipated when we originally created the year's budget. Net income (technically referred to in the financial statements for non-profit entities as "Change in Net Assets") increased almost 10-fold over budget, from \$15,811 to \$147,166, and almost 25-fold from Fiscal 2010 net income. Cash on hand at fiscal year-end was \$539,608, an increase of 11.5% over the prior year-end. Pursuant to Board of Directors instruction, the organization placed a significant amount of funds not immediately needed for operational expenses into higher-yielding, but liquid, securities; all three accounts (operating, money market and brokerage) are kept with one institution, thus insuring greater oversight and ease of management.

The increase in net income is largely due to increased restricted grant funds. Contributions from loyal and long-time individual donors remained at a significant level of support. The increase in restricted grants is attributable to an intensified development effort led by the Development Director with assistance of various Program staff. Donated professional services, principally by the law firm of **Covington & Burling LLP** were much appreciated.

## Statement of Activities

	2011	2010
<b>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</b>		
Contributions and grants	\$838,643	\$598,492
In-kind contributions	30,287	91,354
Special events, net of direct costs of \$58,608 and \$59,558	187,429	140,329
Program fees	4,250	4,212
Dividends and interest income	8,854	2,343
Other income	3,682	146
Realized and unrealized gain on investments	382	1,132
Net assets released from restrictions	-	
<b>Total Revenue and Support</b>	<b>1,073,527</b>	<b>838,008</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program services	517,553	443,560
General and administrative	176,846	195,336
Fundraising	231,963	192,512
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>926,362</b>	<b>831,408</b>
Change in Net Assets	147,166	6,600
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Beginning of year	532,197	525,597
<b>End of year</b>	<b>\$679,362</b>	<b>\$532,197</b>

One measure of a non-profit entity's efforts is the sum spent on the organization's activities directly related to its mission -- its program activities. Such expenses for this organization increased from \$443,560 in Fiscal 2010 to \$517,553 in Fiscal 2011.

During the last quarter of Fiscal 2011 (April through June 2011), the Interfaith Center engaged the services of professional firms to handle the functions of human relations, information technology and accounting/finance. This outsourcing of functions is intended to free up the time and effort of staff primarily for program and development/fundraising. Increased requirements mandated by regulatory and fiscal authorities, as well as the necessity of increased technical capabilities, have led the organization to seek the assistance of professional firms with adequate expertise, resources and personnel. The organization continues to strive for the best practices level for these functions.



Stephen Guittard, Treasurer

### Statement of Financial Position

	2011	2010
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents		
Investments	\$155,750	\$262,206
Prepaid expenses	383,857	221,786
Pledges and other receivables	12,835	3,127
Property and equipment, net	170,654	79,573
	2,236	3,920
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$725,332</b>	<b>\$570,612</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$45,970	\$38,415
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Temporarily restricted	277,613	226,290
	401,749	305,907
Total Net Assets	679,362	532,197
	<b>\$725,332</b>	<b>\$570,612</b>

The 2011 and 2010 financial amounts are audited. Financial statements of The Interfaith Center of New York, Inc. will be available by writing to The Interfaith Center of New York, Inc., 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 540, New York, NY 10115 or to the Department of State Office of Charities Registration, Albany, NY 12231.



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## Changes to ICNY Staff

After 14-years of invaluable service, **Dr. Matt Weiner** (photo on right) bade ICNY a fond farewell to become Associate Dean of Religious Life at Princeton University. Matt's innovative methodology for interfaith serves as the underpinning of many of ICNY's most successful programs. We wish Matt the best of luck in his new endeavors. When Program Associate **Anushavan Margarayan** took a leave of absence this fall to serve as Associate Dean at the Armenian College of Rome, **Kevin Childress** stepped in as *Interim Program Associate for Civic Connections*. Kevin retired in 2001 from a professional career in financial news reporting, where he worked extensively in editing, information technology, and management. In 2002-2004, he functioned in the U.S. Peace Corps as a Small Enterprise Development Consultant in the country of Armenia. He has since divided his time between serving humanitarian organizations and studying Comparative Religion. Our new Communications Assistant **Brianna Maury** came to ICNY from the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church and The Anglican Observer's Office at the United Nations. She is raising ICNY's profile through social media—blogging, tweeting, and updating our website on a regular basis. She also assists The Very Rev. James Parks Morton preparing his forthcoming autobiography—a position held previously by **Anthony Puca, Jr** who is pursuing ordination in the Episcopal Church and currently attending The General Theological Seminary. On a final note, ICNY could not have done its work this year without the extraordinary group of interns listed on page 18.



We also welcome **Annie Rawlings, M.Div.** (photo on left) who was initially hired by ICNY as Director of Education for Prepare New York, but is now moving into a newly created position, Director of Outreach & Program Administration. Annie's vast years of experience as an ecumenical/interfaith network builder and organizer proved priceless in coordinating over 240 *Coffee Hour Conversations* promoting religious pluralism and other related topics at houses of worship and secular organizations. She previously worked as Interim Associate Executive Presbyterian for Social

Witness providing direction and resources to 97 Presbyterian churches in New York City for social service and social justice engagement. Annie was also the Founding Director of The Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty at Fordham University bringing together faith leaders, nonprofits, academics and grassroots anti-poverty organizations to develop multi-faith U.S. poverty awareness initiative. As Executive Director of A Partnership of Faith in New York City, she created interfaith programming linking nonprofits and multi-faith religious organizations.

## In Memoriam: Abbot Myoji Sunim



Myoji Sunim, the Abbot of the Korean Buddhist Chogyesa Zen Temple of New York, and a disciple of the late Zen Master, Seung Sahn, passed away November 4, 2011. For us at the Interfaith Center of New York, she was one of our most precious partners. She attended many of our early programs, such as **Religions of New York, Social Work and Religious Diversity**, and the **Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice**. In those years, her presence helped shape the programs themselves. And as anyone who met her through ICNY will attest, Myoji Sunim's compassionate and bright energy would infuse any gathering, proving that one's heart and smile could be as powerful as any words. We remember Myoji Sunim working tirelessly at Ground Zero in the days after 9/11, and attending our prayer services that year and the years that followed. Finally, for us Myoji Sunim was also a savior: in 2006 ICNY was housed in her temple, at no cost, for a year. We will never forget her kindness, both to us, and to everyone she met. We will always remember the vibrancy with which she lived in every moment.



Religious Leaders at 25<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice: Creating Safety, Preserving Faith: Religious Leaders Address Domestic Violence (Stony Point Center, 5/26/11)



A final note on religious diversity in New York:



BLESS THOSE LEFT BEHIND



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