

THE INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK



Annual Report 2013

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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 faiths, ethnicities, and cultural traditions, and by fostering cooperation among religious communities and civic organizations to solve common social problems.



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Letter from the Founder and Executive Director

What do ICNY's programs have to do with peace? How do we fulfill our mission statement of making New York City "safe" for religious diversity? For more than a decade and a half, ICNY has worked with hundreds of grass roots religious leaders from at least 15 different traditions to address New York's most pressing social problems including hunger, violence, and poverty. This year's Annual Report frames our work in terms of peace and shows why what we do is peace work.

Founder of Harvard's Negotiation Project William Ury wrote the book, *Getting to Yes* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 1992) and created the term "Thirdsider" to describe those individuals and institutions that offered viable alternatives to violence as a way of addressing entrenched conflict. "Thirdsiders" can be insiders or outsiders to a conflict as long as they are committed to helping turn destructive conflict into constructive change.

In the case of the Interfaith Center of New York, we acted as "Thirdsiders" this past year when we forged relationships across lines of conflict between police and participants in the **Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer** retreat on police-community relations. Similarly, we helped strengthen relationships across Muslim and Roman Catholic divisions in our **Catholic and Muslim Social Service Partnership Program**. We acted as "Thirdsiders" when we provided support to the Community Safety Act that addresses the imbalance of power between the police and religious and other minority New Yorkers.

ICNY also carried out its peacemaking mandate in the annual **Debate in the Neighborhood** program, which brings together New York youth of diverse faith to learn the art of debate. This year, we continued working with Queens-based Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim youth and launched the program in the Bronx through partnership with schools and houses of worship. ICNY staff instructed participants on public speaking skills, which they used to negotiate their differences about privacy, surveillance, liberty, and security.

Finally, as a first responder called to share information and help reframe conflict, ICNY distributed information about the attack on Sikh professor Prabhjot Singh after he was beaten in Harlem. We also mourned small business owner and Hindu resident of Queens Sunando Sen after he was killed by a mentally-ill woman citing revenge for the 9/11 attacks.

Beyond New York City, ICNY's peacemaking role was visible as others sought us for help and information. We co-sponsored a briefing with the Burma Task Force and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations on the human rights crisis in that country. We also wrote to the Bangladesh Ambassador about the violence against Buddhist Temples and continued to meet with state department visiting leaders from South and Central Asia.

We have received renewed federal funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities for "**Religious Worlds of New York**," a NEH Summer Institute for teachers that introduces them to the lived religions of New York through panels, sight visits, and lectures. In addition, thanks to the **JC Flowers Foundation** and in partnership with the **Harlem Community Justice Center**, ICNY continues to connect parolees to faith-based volunteers in Harlem through **Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support**. Our core programs will continue to flourish in 2014. Thank you for helping to make them happen.



The Very Rev. James Parks Morton
Founder and Chair Emeritus



The Rev. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director

Our Third Side to Peacemaking: Finding Common Ground, Reframing Conflict



**CATHOLIC-MUSLIM SOCIAL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
REENTRY FAMILY AND FAITH CIRCLES OF SUPPORT
SOCIAL WORK AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY
DEBATE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

The value of our Catholic-Muslim Partnership is that it helps build better connections between people of diverse faiths and makes the common ground between them more salient.

ICNY Director of Community Partnerships

CATHOLIC-MUSLIM SOCIAL SERVICE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM *Bringing Together Diverse Faith Communities*

The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood in Harlem served as the venue for Imam Al-Hajj Talib ‘Abdur-Rashid’s forthright remarks about the sad reality of the impact that drugs and alcohol have on the Harlem community, young people in particular. As he spoke openly to approximately 45 people of various faith backgrounds and neighborhoods that had gathered for the first Interfaith Recovery Event: “Movin’ With the Spirit,” Imam ‘Abdur-Rashid reminded them of the community devastation caused by drugs.



Seated L-R: Deacon Kenneth Radcliffe, ISAAH Project & Central Harlem Vicariate, Sarah Sayeed, Ph.D., Director of Community Partnerships, The Interfaith Center of New York, and Imam Talib ‘Abdur Rashid, The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood. Standing L-R: Br. Abdul Wakil Muhammad, Co-Coordinator, Millati Islami Recovery Group, The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood and Br. Jawad Abdul Wadud, Co-Coordinator, Millati Islami Recovery Group, The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood

“This historic interfaith gathering was born of necessity,” said Imam ‘Abdur-Rashid, a participant in ICNY’s Catholic-Muslim Social Service Partnership Program, and a primary organizer of the recovery event. “As faith leaders contemplating the condition of people in the towns, neighborhoods and cities of America, we could think of no more urgent problem impacting our youth than substance abuse. Alcohol and narcotic addiction is a cross-generational disease that affects people across ethnic, religious, and class lines.”

Islam and Christianity have rich and storied traditions of outreach, social service and community

action. Drawing on these commonalities and funded by the GHR Foundation, the ICNY’s Catholic-Muslim Social Service Partnership Program was established in 2009 to foster partnerships between service providers and social service needs of people in three New York boroughs: Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island.

ICNY and major stakeholders in the initiative aim to determine whether it can serve as a model for how similar programs could be developed in partnership with Catholic Charities in other communities and regions around the country. A key finding in a recent professional evaluation of the partnership was that participants who received interfaith education and training provided a higher level of service that was in better sync with the cultural needs of beneficiary populations.

In 2014, the partnership will address the needs of Muslim youth in the current foster care system.

Events such as “Movin’ With the Spirit,” complement the partnership’s focus on strengthening the interfaith fabric of New York communities. Imam ‘Abdur-Rashid viewed the success of the first interfaith recovery event as further affirmation that the Catholic-Muslim partnership can help the common ground between people of diverse faith become more salient.

“Our houses of worship within the Muslim-Catholic Partnership all house recovery support groups,”

Participants who received interfaith education and training provided a higher level of service that was in better sync with the cultural needs of beneficiary populations.

he said. “Thus, it seemed only natural for us to collaborate in seeking a means of addressing the problem [of addiction in the community] together, guided by the spiritual principles we hold sacred.”

There are many facets to being a peacemaker. Our work in terms of leveling the playing field for organizations or people that may

REENTRY FAMILY AND FAITH CIRCLES OF SUPPORT

Providing Transitional Support, Helping to Reduce Recidivism

When people enter the Harlem Reentry Court (located inside the Harlem Community Justice Center) on Thursdays, they may bear witness to what many consider an amazing sight: parolees, parole officers, social workers, case managers and a parole judge engaged in conversation together about topics such as current events, news or even sports.

However, what is taking place inside the courtroom is actually much more involved than it might appear at first glance. Thursday Hospitality, established in September 2012, is central to ICNY's pilot project **Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support**. The weekly, daylong event involves paroled individuals being served refreshments while waiting to meet with parole officers. However, what is taking place is much more complex than food and conversation. The purpose: reducing recidivism.

Thursday Hospitality and Food for Thought (a new program introduced in 2013) serve as backdrops for 30 faith-based volunteers from 14 Harlem congregations and ICNY staff to engage the parolees in unbiased conversation about the triumphs and challenges of re-adapting to their communities. At times, a volunteer may serve as a sounding board for an anxiety-filled parolee-client whose drug use was revealed in a urine test. Another role may be that of a friend lending a supportive ear to a parolee struggling to find employment or reconnect with family.

The Interfaith Center of New York, the Harlem Community Justice Center and Harlem faith communities formed a partnership early in 2012 that

created Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support. The program is funded by J.C. Flowers and acts to reduce recidivism rates among adults ages 18-26. The program links paroled people between from Harlem's "Reentry Corridor" — a seven block area where 1 in 20 men have been incarcerated.

"I do not want to go back to the way I use to be," said one parolee who participates in ICNY's program.

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Harlem Reentry Court holds two graduation ceremonies in 2013 for parolees that successfully complete its nine-month program. During the fall ceremony, a graduate that had also participated in ICNY's Reentry Family stood before the filled room



and spoke openly to them about his experience with the program.

"Everything in the system tells you that you are nothing, and yet, in this program [Thursday Hospitality] they serve you orange juice while you are waiting to see the parole officer and judge. It is just mind blowing."

of public outreach and advocacy is very much about equalizing have less power, and help parties get more equal footing.

ICNY Executive Director

SOCIAL WORK AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

Social Workers Glean Lessons and Inspiration

Elise Feuerstein Karras LMSW, CSW-G, ACSW frequently comes in contact with families of different ethnic and religious beliefs in her work as a New York City gerontological social worker, and has long known that “religion” is often the missing piece in understanding clients’ belief systems.

Karras, long searching for a way to close the gap without crossing the line into giving religious counseling, enrolled in **Social Work and Religious Diversity**, an ICNY course offered free of charge in partnership with UJA Federation of New York and Catholic Charities.

learn that everyone’s reality, is their reality, their truths, their beliefs,” said Mindy Blumenfeld, LCSW, who has a private practice and is a clinical social worker at Tikvah at OHEL, a mental health clinic under the auspices of OHEL. “The course really helped to expand my mind. When I enter my clients’ worlds, I can now better understand their faiths, values, and beliefs.”

ICNY has noted a growing number of requests from teachers and social workers wishing to attend its educational programs, as they primarily work in secular institutions and must play more of a secular role in their jobs. However, in their daily interactions with clients, religion is part of the job.

The course is not designed to resolve conflicts between religious people but in keeping with ICNY’s identity as third side organization, education programs seek to bridge the secular-religious divide. Through experiencing lived religions, teachers and social workers learn how to better engage with the religious diversity of their clients but remain secular at the same time.

“As both a therapist for adolescents and adults as well as a social worker in a high school, I have been able to connect more with clients around complicated issues, after taking the course,” said Rorri Geller, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker with the New York City Department of Education. “I feel that I can now help clients find solutions that work within their spiritual beliefs and guide them in how to recognize and use their beliefs as strength and a method of coping.”

Peter Sullivan, who was one of 85 participants in the course, said that what he learned helps him counsel immigrants and refugees in his role as a job developer and account manager for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

“One of the panelists said ‘Put yourself in the other person’s shoes,’ and I have been doing that ever since whenever I interact with clients,” he said. “I shared this important lesson with my co-workers and I observe us all giving even more to our clients.”

TEACHING THE EVERYDAY OF LIFE OF AMERICAN RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

The Interfaith Center of New York’s courses for teachers and students take a community-based approach to religious diversity education programs, including site visits to local houses of worship and conversations with local religious leaders.

The programs are structured around panel discussions with local religious leaders as well as site visits to communities, giving teachers and students a “lived religion” learning experience. The programs are also built upon the pedagogy of civic engagement – introducing New Yorkers to their diverse neighbors.

ICNY offered *Religious Worlds of New York: Teaching the Everyday of Life of American Religious Diversity*, the first three-week summer institute for teachers in 2012. The course was offered with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and co-sponsored by Union Theological Seminary.

The National Endowment for the Humanities approved a renewal proposal for the program and institute will be offered again in summer 2014.

ICNY’s approach to teaching and learning for teachers, students and social workers encompasses community-based education that includes site visits to houses of worship and religious institutions. The course is built upon pedagogy of civic engagement and involves religiously diverse leaders and professionals exploring diverse faith-based perspectives with participants. Social issues covered include domestic violence, end-of-life care, LGBT, and depression and mental illness.

“The course was great in many ways but one of the most helpful aspects for me as a therapist was to

ICNY has a particular approach to peacemaking and third side sides can use to reframe conflict. Our third side approach

DEBATE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The City is Listening to Future Leaders

Debate in the Neighborhood is a free program for high school students from diverse New York faith communities made possible through a collaboration of ICNY and the **International Debate Education Association (IDEA)** and funding by **Open Society Youth Initiative**. The program brings ethnically and religiously diverse students together to hear from policy experts, learn the art of debate, examine mutual concerns of social justice and civil liberties, and build greater awareness of religious and faith-based diversity.

Beyond all of this [months of preparation for the debate], I learned a lot about other cultures and religions, which I believe is a very important part of acceptance and integration within society," said a student participant in the 2013 Debate in the Neighborhood program.

The topics for the 2013 debate teams centered on issues related to privacy, surveillance, liberty and security.

This year the program extended to include students in the Bronx from Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice and the Islamic Leadership School. Returning houses of worship in Queens included the Hindu Temple Society of North America, The Jamaica Muslim Center and The Sikh Cultural Society and Gurdwara.

Debate in the Neighborhood, established in 2012, is gaining recognition and interest from New York City as evidenced by the three individuals attracted to serve as judges of the 2013 debate: David Rohde, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist for Reuters, Fatima Shama, New York City Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs, and Rev. Dr.

Alfonso Wyatt, The Great Allen A.M.E. Cathedral Pastor.

The program engages students over several months and sharpens skills in social justice issues, critical thinking, constructive argumentation and persuasion.

"I wanted to be able to stand in front of anyone and speak without feeling nervous and this [goal] was met," said one student participant. "The conversation on gun control is what I found interesting because it is an issue that affects our country today and is really talked about often."

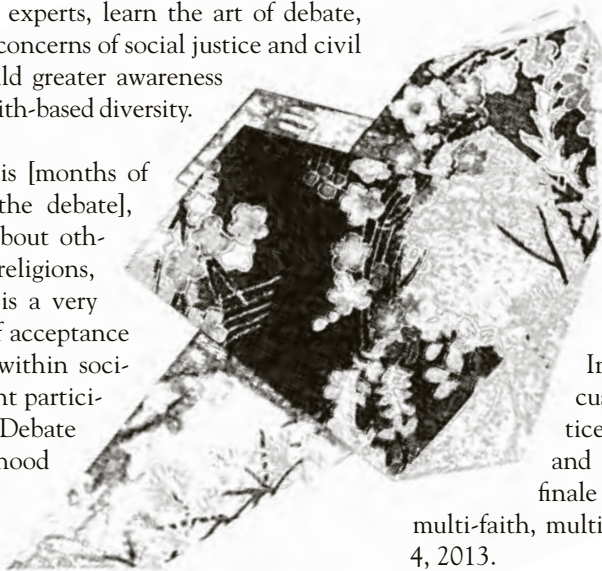
In keeping with the program's focus on topics involving social justice, New York's controversial "Stop and Frisk" law provided an exciting finale for the 2013 debate between two multi-faith, multi-ethnic teams on Saturday, May 4, 2013.

The daylong, prize-winning tournament culminated several months of students' participation in rigorous debate training and preparation. The tournament revealed to the judges students that had become skilled in oral and written communication and debate as they vigorously argued the fine points the "Stop and Frisk" law.

At the conclusion of the debate, judges declared The Negative Team (from Queens) as the first-prize winner.

I learned a lot about other cultures and religions, which I believe is a very important part of acceptance and integration within society.

"The ability to engage ideas and argue a point from a logic model is not easy but they all did a great job," said Rev. Wyatt.



activities in that we try to find common ground that both involves bringing people together.

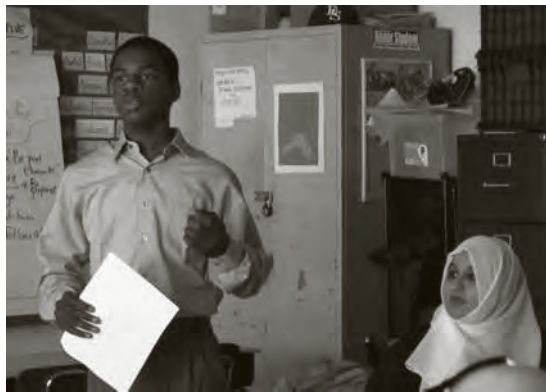
ICNY Director of Educational Programs



To both teams, Rohde said, “You had your debate and you’re all still friends. I think what you showed us today would serve as a great lesson for adults who debate on issues.”

In the broader context of the experience, the young participants learned to engage in pressing social issues, American civic life, interfaith dialogue and that having a different faith or beliefs do not have to separate one person from another.

“It takes courage to stand before a group and debate critical social issues,” said Shama at the conclusion of the debate. “I am really proud of all of you and I know that if you continue on this path, great things are ahead of all of you.”



“Debate in the Neighborhood” proved to be a celebration of the students’ accomplishments and an outstanding example to New York and the world that sharing diversity can help people discover the values and the concerns they all share.



More than 40 students participating in the 2013 program engaged in months of intense training and practice sessions on the topic of privacy and surveillance. Participants learned the art of debate, while examining mutual areas of social justice and civil liberty.



ICNY at a Glance: Program Highlights from 2013

EDUCATION

Religious Diversity Education

Staff: Dr. Henry Goldschmidt, in collaboration with UJA-Federation of New York

An annual course introducing new and seasoned social workers to religious diversity of the communities they serve, as well as faith-based perspectives on social and clinical issues

- Developed and moderated a five-week course for an audience of over 100 social service professionals, including interfaith panel discussions of domestic violence, aging and end-of-life care, depression and mental illness, and other topics.
- Began planning process for post-masters certificate program to be offered in winter 2015.

Religious Worlds of New York

Staff: Dr. Henry Goldschmidt, in collaboration with Union Theological Seminary

Funder: National Endowment for the Humanities

A three-week summer institute for K-12 teachers, using classroom and community-based education to introduce participants to American religious diversity, and offer them pedagogic tools for teaching about contemporary lived religion.



Henry Goldschmidt, Ph.D.,
Director of Education
Programs, leads a discussion
during a course on religious
diversity.

Programs for Students

Staff: Dr. Henry Goldschmidt

Introducing young New Yorkers to the religious diversity of their own communities through site visits to local houses of worship, panel discussions with religious leaders, and other forms of community-based education

- Led discussion of lived religion and site visit to the Hindu Temple Society of North America (Ganesh Temple), for students at Grace Church High School.
- Facilitated discussion of Jewish and Muslim perspectives on hunger and food security – a conversation between faith-based social service providers and students at Regis High School.
- Facilitated discussion of faith-based perspectives on criminal justice and reconciliation, for high school students training to serve on the Harlem Youth Court.
- Facilitated discussion of Muslim community life and Islamic social ethics – a conversation between ICNY’s Dr. Sarah Sayeed and students at Dominican Academy.
- Worked with the Pace Center for Civic Engagement and Office of Religious Life at Princeton University to support the development of a week-long service learning trip for Princeton students to explore the religious diversity of New York City.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Debate in the Neighborhood

Staff: Dr. Henry Goldschmidt and Kevin Childress in collaboration with International Debate Education Association

Funder: Open Society Foundation

Brings the art of debating beyond the conventional school environment directly to the immigrant/under-resourced high school students at houses of worship and youth centers

- Established debate teams at The Hindu Temple Society of North America, Jamaica Muslim Center and Sikh Cultural Society and Gurdwara in Queens. Launched the program in the Bronx with partnership of the Islamic Leadership School, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice and the Bronx Christian Fellowship Church.
- Recruited approximately 45 high school students and held training sessions in basic debate components and practices.



- Students were trained and prepared to debate either side of issues related to “Privacy and Surveillance with New Technologies”
- Held second annual program-ending tournament on New York’s “Stop and Frisk” law

Astoria Conversations

Staff: Annie Rawlings

Funder: The New York Community Trust

A series of interfaith dialogues between new and older immigrants for purposes of bridging differences and creating new pathways for shared civic engagement in Astoria, Queens

- Organized “Astoria, Then & Now,” an evening of thanksgiving through storytelling, film and photography, where community leaders shared their stories and created bridges between each other.

CIVIC CONNECTIONS

Catholic-Muslim Common Action Initiative

Staff: Dr. Sarah Sayeed in collaboration with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York and local Muslim organizations

Funder: GHR Foundation

Fosters relationships between Catholics and Muslims in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island through interfaith dialogue about social justice issues and shared social service projects that impact the two religious groups and the wider community.

- Convened the first interfaith recovery event “Movin’ With the Spirit,” to discuss addiction and recovery in Harlem, particularly among the community’s youth. Faith leaders led a gathering of approximately 50 people to contemplate the condition of a community affected by disease that affects people across ethnic, religious, and class lines.
- The partnership project continued work on the best approaches to collecting a baseline measurement of Catholic-Muslim and Christian-Muslim relationships in project sites across three boroughs.

- Initiated research on foster care services provided by Catholic and Muslim social service providers in New York City.

NY State Court Roundtable

Staff: Anushavan Margaryan

In alliance with the New York State Unified Court System, ICNY brings religious leaders and court officials together to learn about various types of legal assistance available for individuals and families.

- Held roundtables at five borough court houses on tips for finding free and reliable legal assistance for immigrant populations.
- Co-sponsored meeting with Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. to discuss ways for improving crime prevention strategies in faith communities.
- Co-sponsored meeting with Community Mediation Services for Queens’ faith communities to collectively act to prevent bullying, hate crimes, domestic violence, child abuse, damage from guns and gangs and other acts of violence.

The Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice

Staff: Dr. Sarah Sayeed

Funder: The Daniel and Joanna Rose Fund

A retreat for faith and lay leaders to network and discuss major issues impacting their communities and learn from each other’s faith traditions

- Convened retreat for 130 faith and lay leaders in January for “The Challenge of Homelessness: Strategies to Provide Support and Restore Hope.”
- Convened retreat for 80 participants in June for “Widening the Lens on Community-Police Relations: Comparison Across Cities,” which examined and compared police-community relations in New York, Los Angeles, Barcelona, Spain and Glasgow, Scotland.

Participants in the Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat gathered to address police-community relations.





Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support

Staff: Annie Rawlings, Pastor Arthur Barnes, Rev. Darren Ferguson and Theo Harris in collaboration with the Harlem Community Justice Center

Funder: JC Flowers Foundation

Builds network of Harlem faith communities to support young parolees returning to Harlem from prison

- Celebrated the one-year anniversary of the inter-faith “Ministry of Presence,” which has resulted in more than 1,000 encounters with 70 parolee clients through *Thursday Hospitality*.
- Established and introduced *Food for Thought*, a monthly luncheon program bringing together parolees, faith volunteers and parole officers to listen to key speakers. The program aims to deepen connections between faith volunteers and parolees.

Community Awareness, HIV and AIDS, Self Help, Growth and Development, Self Identification, Employability and Health and Wellness.

Domestic Violence Prevention Training for Religious and Lay Leaders: Building Peaceful Families

Staff: Anushavan Margaryan with CONNECT

Funder: Indiegogo.com crowdsourced donors & Barbara Slifka Fund

Provided ordained and lay religious leaders training in the complex dynamics of intimate partner abuse, knowledge of community and faith-based referral sources, and methods for mobilizing faith communities to take action to prevent violent acts.

- ICNY, in partnership with the domestic violence prevention agency CONNECT Faith, provided domestic violence prevention training to nearly 20 Afghan imams and women affiliated with the organization Women for Afghan Women in Queens.
- Separate training sessions for women and imams were conducted in English, Farsi, Pashtu and Urdu covering many topics including warning signs of batterers, impact of the batterer on women and children, tips for stress reduction, and safety planning for families.
- ICNY and CONNECT held tune-up sessions for trained religious leaders on abuse and forgiveness, and marriage and pre-marital counseling.
- Spin off domestic violence prevention projects by graduates of the program took root at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and among a community of Sikh women in Richmond Hill, Queens.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In an environment that ICNY Executive Director Rev. Chloe Breyer calls “radical hospitality,” Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support faith volunteers, parolee clients and Harlem Community Justice Center staff gather together monthly for an hour-long luncheon at the Elmendorf Reformed Church.

Food for Thought was established to deepen connections between volunteers and parolees as part of ICNY’s Reentry Family program. However, the program has evolved into a venue where the hierarchical justice system temporarily gives way to volunteers, parolees, parole officers and often, a judge, sitting down together and conversing over a meal.

Attendance at the lunches is growing as more parolees seek out the benefits of interaction with faith volunteers and inspirational guest speakers that ICNY brings in to address parolees.

Increasingly, parole officers are encouraging their clients to attend Food for Thought as they also recognize the role that positive interactions with ICNY volunteers can have on parolees readjusting to life after incarceration.

- Formed a relationship with NETWORK, a structured peer-support and accountability group to expand the number of NETWORK support circles in Harlem houses of worship from one to three circles and recruit more faith-based volunteers to interact with parolees before and after the meeting.
- Initiated a life skills group at St. Luke’s AME Church in Harlem. The eight-week meetings include topics such as Violence and Anger,





The James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards Gala

The 11th annual James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards Gala honored five exceptional leaders whose courageous actions and contributions help to lead breakthrough changes that created a more fair and just society.

In keeping with the theme “Courage of Conviction,” the 2013 James Parks Morton Interfaith Award recipients are: “Freedom Rider” and revered civil rights leader **Reverend Dr. Cordy Tindell (C. T.) Vivian**; Leadership Conference of Women Religious Immediate Past President **Sister Pat Farrell**, OSF; Foundation for Ethnic Understanding Chairman **Russell Simmons**; and Emmy award-winning broadcast journalists **Bill and Judith Moyers**.



The Reverend Dr. C.T. Vivian’s civil rights and human rights activism span 70 years. Upon accepting the award bestowed by The Very Reverend James Parks Morton, the honoree said, “You can’t keep anyone in the U.S. from voting without hurting the rights of all other citizens.”

Honoree Sister Pat Farrell, whose work has involved increasing respect and mutual understand-

ing among people of different faith, said of her lifelong commitment to diversity and inclusion, “It takes conviction to trust that denomination and exclusion can be overcome when named for what they are.”

When Rabbi Marc Schneier accepted the award on behalf of Russell Simmons, he spoke eloquently on how the honoree understands that people who fight for their own rights must also fight for the rights of all people. Schneier co-founded the Foundation for Ethic Understanding with Simmons.

Husband and wife Judith Davidson Moyers and Bill Moyers were praised as the being the personification of integrity and authenticity by WNET President

Emeritus Dr. William Baker as he introduced the last two honorees of the evening. They have devoted their careers in broadcast to informing and enlightening the world on human rights, religion and faith. In accepting their individual awards, Davidson Moyers spoke about courage to lead change and Moyers encouraged gala guests to remember those for whom democracy is an everyday struggle.

1. L-R: The Very Reverend James Parks Morton, ICNY Founder and Chair Emeritus, The Reverend Chloe Breyer, ICNY Executive Director, Honoree The Reverend Dr. C.T. Vivian, Honoree Sister Pat Farrell, Master of Ceremonies Ray Suarez, Honoree Judith Davidson Moyers, and Honoree Bill Moyers.
 2. Eva Suarez introduced her father PBS NewsHour Senior Correspondent Ray Suarez, who served as Master of Ceremonies.
 Religious leaders who offered blessings, L-R: Michael Manswell, Priest, Orisha Tradition of Trinidad and Tobago (Shango/Yoruba), Sister Chala Marie Hill, Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, Harlem, NY (Catholic), Imam Mohammad Sherzad, Dar-al Taqwa Islamic Center, Flushing, NY (Muslim), Rev. Cheryl Anthony, Judah International Christian Center, (Protestant), Rabbi Joseph Potastnik, Executive Vice President of the NY Board of Rabbis (Jewish), Tejpreet Kaur, Sikh Coalition (Sikh) (missing from picture).

The Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice

Local Focus on Homelessness in New York City

Since 1998, the bi-annual Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice has provided an opportunity for religious leaders to discuss and engage in approaches to addressing local social justice issues having major implications for the people of New York.

In January, “The Challenge of Homelessness: Strategies to Provide Support and Restore Hope,” drew 130 participants representing a diversity of denominations and faith traditions to address pressing issues around ending homelessness.

One participant stated that the topic of the retreat held a personal significance for her: she was homeless for many years and now works with homeless families at her church and in Tompkins Square Park on Saturdays.

Many participants stated in a post-retreat evaluation that the topic directly affected them in their social service work or affected their aspirations to become more active in prevention steps or providing solutions to homelessness.

“The retreat opened my eyes to knowing that I can do something [about homelessness], and if so, I should do it,” said one participant.



Participants in the retreat gathered to address the challenge of police-community relations in NYC.

International Focus on Community-Police Relations

In June, ICNY presented “Widening the Lens on Community-Police Relations: Comparison Across Cities,” the second Marshall Meyer retreat of the year. The two-day event at Stony Point Center attracted approximately 80 faith leaders who participated in presentations and comparisons of community-police relations in New York; Glasgow, Scotland; Barcelona, Spain; and Los Angeles.

The decision to include Scotland’s and Spain’s community-police relations added an international perspective to the issue that participants found to be extremely relevant and valuable.

“People dealing with the issue of police-community relations are part of the spectrum,” said a participant. “On the one side, there is ideology; on the other, there is humanization. If one is too far on the ideological side, then you’re entrenched. The retreat has brought me to the other side, more towards the humanizing aspect.”

ICNY Internationally

ICNY has primarily a local focus but as events unfold, the organization sometimes becomes involved in global issues through the concerns of partners connected to specific affiliated populations in other countries. ICNY’s roles in international issues and conflict include peacemaker, peace builder, advocater, convener, and equalizer when there is a difference of power between entities. In 2013, the organization served in these roles during several internationally events, including the following:

Violence against Buddhist Temples in Bangladesh, and minority ethnic and religious people (Rohingya Muslims, Chin Christians, and the Kachin) in Burma (Myanmar)

- ICNY sent a letter to Bangladesh Ambassador A.K. Abdul Momen requesting that the Bangladesh government bring those people who committed the heinous acts of violence against Buddhist temples and homes to justice, and also support religious freedom with special attention to the rights of religious minorities.
- ICNY, the Burma Task Force and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations co-sponsored a briefing to inform participants about the worsening human rights crisis and discuss diverse opportunities to end the violence.

Answering requests from The International Visitor Leadership Program of the U.S. Department of State

- ICNY met with a group of elected and appointed women government leaders from nine South and Central Asian countries to discuss how women in leadership positions achieve and sustain success.

Domestic and international colleges and universities seek ICNY’s expertise

- Director of Educational Programs Dr. Henry Goldschmidt held separate discussions with:

North African and Middle East undergraduate students from Georgetown University,

Dutch students from the University of Groningen’s Honors College Program exploring the post-secular city.

Inter-Religious Dialogue

- Director of Community Partnerships Dr. Sarah Sayeed presented “Harnessing the Power of Story: Interfaith Work, Muslim Women and Community Building in New York City” at a conference sponsored by the UNESCO Association for Inter-Religious Dialogue and the U.S. Consulate in Barcelona, Spain.

ICNY in the Public Square

COORDINATING A RAPID RESPONSE TO CRITICAL ISSUES ACROSS FAITH TRADITIONS

Hurricane Sandy. ICNY worked in coalition with networks responding to Hurricane Sandy and publicized information to faith communities about relief efforts occurring that matched donated goods and services with those seeking assistance.

Interfaith Vigil in Jackson Heights. An ICNY staff member spoke at the January 8, 2013 vigil on growing incidents of violence targeting Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim and South Asian communities with representatives from CAIR-NY, City Council Member Danny Dromm and The Hindu Temple Society of North America.

Mourning Sunando Sen. ICNY joined others in New York at an interfaith vigil to mourn the death of Sunando Sen, a small business-owner and Hindu resident of Queens who was struck by a train after being pushed on to the subway tracks by a mentally-ill woman citing revenge for the 9/11 attacks.



The Community Safety Act. ICNY organized and participated in several actions with faith leaders and human rights organizations, which led to the passage of The Community Safety Act by the New York City Council. The legislative package aims to end discriminatory and abusive policing practices and creates an "Inspector General" to monitor the New York City Police Department.

New York City Interfaith Hunger Summit. ICNY and the New York City Interfaith Hunger Summit co-hosted the New York City Coalition Against Hunger where nearly 100 faith leaders, congregants, and concerned New Yorkers came together to identify ways to lessen hunger and poverty.

Immigration reform. An ICNY staff member spoke at a press conference at Judson Memorial Church on April 5, 2013 to promote just and human comprehensive immigration reform. The event was one of several actions organized by the New York State Interfaith Network on Immigration Reform that called on the House of Representatives to pass legislation. Rev. Breyer was among 10 arrested at a New York City immigration reform rally that was organized by the New York Immigration Coalition on 10/29/13. Additionally, ICNY publicized information to faith leaders relating to the avail-

ability of free legal services for those undocumented young adults seeking to qualify under Deferred Action of Childhood Arrival status.

Supporting a Sikh Professor. ICNY joined organizations and individuals lending their voices in support of Dr. Prabhjot Singh, Sikh Professor at Columbia University, who was attacked in Harlem near ICNY's offices.

ICNY and Harlem Community Justice Center. ICNY partnered with the Harlem Community Justice Center to con-

vene an interfaith dialogue on criminal justice issues with young New Yorkers training to serve on the Harlem Youth Court. Youth Court trainees met with religious leaders to explore faith-based perspectives on justice, punishment, and reconciliation.

ICNY and Sikh Coalition united against hate crimes. ICNY joined the Sikh Coalition and 150 other

organizations in calling upon the Senate Judiciary Committee to convene hearings on the increase of hate groups and hate crimes in the United States.

Speaking out against hate. In response to anti-Muslim incidents occurring on Staten Island, ICNY issued a statement that called on public officials, politicians and candidates locally and nationally to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards acts of religiously or ethnically motivated hatred.

ICNY Executive Director (at podium) joined multi-faith leaders' press conference at City Hall urging council members to override Mayor Michael Bloomberg's veto of Community Safety Act (08/21/13).



ICNY in the Headlines



"What Pamela Geller Can Teach Us on Christmas" an article written by Dr. Sarah Sayeed was published in *The Huffington Post* and commented on continued intolerance in the latest round of anti-Muslim MTA ads. (12/24/12)

"They may be legal but they're not moral," said ICNY Executive Director Chloe Breyer, whose comments were published in *The New York Daily News* regarding the anti-Muslim subway ads. (01/08/13)

ICNY held a Twitter event throughout the month of February to recount many of the major "Milestones of Faith" in African-American history in observance of Black History Month. (02/01/13)

"Easing the Passage from Prison," was published in *The New York Times* and highlighted ICNY partner the Harlem Community Justice Center's Parole Court Graduation ceremony. The partners manage the "Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support," program, which supports many of the graduating parolees. (02/15/13)

ICNY was the recipient of CAIR-NY's 2013 Partners in Justice Award, which honors organizations that display a commitment to peace and community building that improves the lives of all New Yorkers. www.cair-ny.org (04/20/13)

Dr. Sarah Sayeed, appeared in a video by Odyssey Networks, during a meeting in Pakistan with a group of courageous young women who are dedicated to peace and justice. The visit was part of the US-Pakistan Interreligious Consortium. (05/09/13)

"Secretary Ray Kelly? Bad for U.S. Muslims," written by Executive Director Chloe Breyer and published in *The New York Daily News*, argued that Commissioner Ray Kelly's practice of surveillance of Muslim houses of worship and his weak record on protecting civil liberties would make him a poor candidate for Secretary of Homeland Security. (07/24/13)

"Meet 5 People Inspiring Peace," in *The Huffington Post* featured Director of Community Partnerships Dr. Sarah Sayeed, who was honored as a person of peace. (09/10/13)

On the eleventh anniversary of 9/11, ICNY invited the public to follow @ICNY on Twitter to reflect on The Golden Rule — a belief that all human beings should treat each other with care — and share thoughts on how this tenet can be better exercised in daily lives. (09/11/13)

"Interfaith Forum Will Focus on Value of Preserving Hope," in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* described the inter-religious panel discussion co-presented by ICNY and The Kane Street Synagogue on 10/29/13 to explore spiritual outlooks and religious practices. (10/09/13)

ICNY Staff Notable & Noteworthy

PARTICIPATING AT GOVERNMENT, NONPROFIT & FAITH-BASED EVENTS

The Rev. Chloe Breyer

- Was a featured storyteller/peace builder at The National Peace Academy, in partnership with Pasos Peace Museum, which hosted a special evening event in conjunction with the exhibit, "A Peace of My Mind." (03/15/13)
- Accepted the "Partner in Justice Award" behalf of ICNY from the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR-NY). ICNY was recognized for its efforts to organize coalitions opposing anti-Muslim hate ads and promoting an inclusive environment for American Muslims. (04/20/13)
- Presented the paper "The Falling of St. Paul's Pluralism: The Peace Building Role of the Jerusalem Collection and its Implication for Aid Assistance Across Religions," during a public lecture at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. (05/07/13)
- Attended the first Shinnyo Lantern Floating for Peace in Central Park, organized by Shinnyo-en, an international Buddhist Community to honor people who have dedicated their lives to the cause of peace. (09/22/13)

Dr. Henry Goldschmidt

- Held a webinar for Episcopal school administrators and teachers on an interfaith framework for teaching world religions.
- Oversaw the final tournament second annual "Debate in the Neighborhood," involving multifaith teams of students debating the topic of Privacy and the Use of Surveillance Technologies. (05/04/13).

Dr. Sarah Sayeed

- Participated in a panel discussion on the Occasion of the World Interfaith Harmony Week entitled: "The Role of Interfaith Dialogue in Peace Building and Women's Empowerment." (02/12/13)
- Served as a panelist for the Interfaith Women's Initiative, "Women of Faith in the Modern World," at The Church of the Atonement in Tenafly to discuss women's role in religion. (04/18/13)
- Traveled to Pakistan with a delegation of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish religious leaders in the U.S.-Pakistan Interreligious Consortium. The delegation met with various sectors in civil society to build relationships, alter stereotypes, and develop an action agenda to promote mutual respect and understanding between both countries. (04/22/13)

- Attended Archbishop of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan's first visit to a New York City mosque. Cardinal Dolan met with Muslim and other faith leaders at the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center in Staten Island. The cardinal asked questions about the Muslim faith and emphasized how much the Muslim faith and the Roman Catholic faith have in common. A gift of engraved shoe horns were presented to the Albanian Islamic Center for hosting members of the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel in connection with the historic visit. (06/19/13)

- Was honored by 26th Borough President of Manhattan Scott M. Stringer at the Sixth Annual Iftar during the Blessed Month of Ramadan. (07/31/13)

- Participated in a panel discussion on "The Civil Society and the Education on Human Rights as a tool for promoting religious tolerance" co-chaired by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Italy, H.E. Mr. Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata, and of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, H.E. (09/27/12)

Annie Rawlings

- As a Ruling Elder of the Presbytery of New York City, Annie helped to organize a consultation of Presbyterian leaders across the nation committed to prison reform that is aimed at developing a proposal to create a network for education and advocacy ministries for the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- Co-planned and coordinated the "Restorative Justice Consultation," a conference for faith-based and community leaders, elected officials, academics, nonprofit advocacy and service organizations and former offenders that focused on innovative approaches for changing the American criminal justice system.
- Co-led a consultation for the national Presbyterian Church (USA) on its Interreligious Stance, which guides Presbyterians in interfaith engagement, and interprets the Presbyterian Church's understanding of interfaith relationships to the broader world.



Our Lady of Good Counsel Church gifted customized shoe horns to the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center for hosting members of the church's parish for lunch in connection with Cardinal Timothy's Dolan's historic visit to a NYC mosque.

Financial Report

The audited results for Fiscal Year 2013 ending June 30, 2013 set forth below comply with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard 117 "Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations."

The Statement of Activities, also known as the income statement or the profit and loss statement, reports the revenue, expenses, gains and losses of ICNY for Fiscal Year 2013. Revenue and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013 increased by 13 percent and 11 percent respectively leaving ICNY in a positive position with a change in net assets of \$12,735. The growth was mainly due to booking in advance multi-year and contract grants and incurring more expenses related to grants. Revenue and expenses associated with special events including the gala fell by 25 percent and 16 percent respectively. A breakdown of expenses reveals that 70 percent was categorized as program services, followed by general and administrative at 16 percent, and fundraising at 14 percent.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	2013 Total	2012 Total
Revenue & Support				
Contributions and grants	\$ 356,167	\$ 465,400	\$ 821,567	\$ 659,519
Contract revenue	103,083	-	103,083	70,679
In-kind contributions	25,665	-	25,665	25,415
Special events, net of direct costs of \$61,640 & \$65,146	154,802	-	154,802	206,388
Program fees	265	-	265	7,758
Interest income	2,619	-	2,619	6,185
Other income	3,662	-	3,662	12,000
Realized & unrealized gain (loss) on investments	1,436	-	1,436	(1,449)
Net assets released from restrictions	314,727	(314,727)	-	-
Total Revenue & Support	962,426	150,673	1,113,099	986,495
Expenses				
Program services	765,091	-	765,091	674,876
General & Administrative	176,538	-	176,538	126,539
Fundraising	158,735	-	158,735	188,740
Total Expenses	1,100,364	-	1,100,364	990,155
Change in Net Assets	(137,938)	150,673	12,735	(3,660)
NET ASSETS				
Beginning of year	488,880	186,822	675,702	679,362
End of year	350,942	337,495	688,437	675,702



The Statement of Financial Position, also known as the balance sheet, serves as a snapshot of the organization's financial health on June 30, 2013. ICNY's balance sheet reflects a decrease in unrestricted net assets due to its loss for the year, but remains, in total, relatively comparable to last year.

ICNY is addressing these shifts in revenue and expenses by reducing staff size, instituting a programmatic budget which more closely tracks personnel and expenses, adding new board members, and planning an economical but joyous signature fundraising event. By making these corrections, we hope ICNY will have a more prosperous year.

Barbara Slifka
ICNY Board Co-Chair

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 354,662	\$ 469,141
Pledges and other receivables	278,501	174,717
Property and equipment, net	-	899
Investment	93,428	138,647
Prepaid Expenses	10,044	25,878
	\$ 736,635	\$ 809,282
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 48,198	\$ 51,442
Contract advance	-	82,138
Total Liabilities	48,198	133,580
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	350,942	488,880
Temporarily restricted	337,495	186,822
Total Net Assets	688,437	675,702
	\$ 736,635	\$ 809,282

The 2012 and 2013 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 AT ICNY

Transition at ICNY occurred among its Board Directors as well as staff. **Barbara Slifka** was elected to serve as co-chair of the board. After five years, **Stephen Guittard** stepped down from treasurer but continues to remain a loyal board member. We look forward to announcing his replacement in the first quarter of 2014. Vice Chair **Annabelle K. Garrett** resigned from the board after many of dedicated years of service. **Martin Tandler** has also resigned from the board, but will carry on as an honorary board member.

Theo Harris joined the staff in September and holds a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Syracuse University, an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Buffalo, and a Master of Professional Studies degree from New York Theological Seminary, each of which was earned at various stages of incarceration. He also works for the Hudson River Presbytery in Scarborough, New York, as a prison partnership associate. Theo replaced **Rev. Darren Ferguson** as Outreach Coordinator, Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support when he joined the staff at the Osborne Association in July to work as a family services specialist on The Fatherhood Initiative, a special project of the Osborne Association in coordination with the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

Seventh-Day Adventist Pastor **Arthur Barnes** served as Volunteer Coordinator, Reentry Family and Faith Circles of Support, and arranged for volunteers to participate in all aspects of the program, but was unable to continue due to changes in the direction of the program.

Elly Mason-Murray took the place of **Brigitte Harris** as Office/IT Manager. Elly has over 18 years of experience supporting office environments. Ms. Harris departed ICNY to accept placement as one of the few females in the Carpenter Union's Apprenticeship Program.

Anushavan Margaryan, Program Associate for Civic Affairs, accepted the position of interfaith coordinator for the New York City office of Habitat for Humanity, leaving ICNY after almost a decade.

Remembering Annie Rawlings: Interfaith Justice Seeker, Beloved Friend

The Rev. Chloe Breyer, The Huffington Post

Interfaith work is community organizing work.

While there is a place for finely worded doctrinal agreement about God, the real fruits of Interfaith work are measured in soup kitchens that honor multiple types of dietary constraints or City Hall marches that call on God in many names. Interfaith work involves phone calls, emails, tireless amounts of networking, and lots of ethnic food. Its promise is revealed in joint efforts by people of different religions to address common concerns.



1957 - 2013

Annie Rawlings, my friend and colleague at the Interfaith Center of New York knew all this very well. She was a Presbyterian who could locate the neighborhood Sikh Gurdwara and enjoyed their Lungar meals.

Annie was a big-hearted champion of the poor and disenfranchised. She recognized that if progress was to be made confronting problems like immigration reform and prison re-entry, America's communities would require a diversified front-line comprised of Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and non-believers. Annie died suddenly at the age of 56 on Saturday November 2nd after snorkeling in Cancun, Mexico. Her loss is the loss of all those engaged in interfaith organizing work.

As the child of liberal Christian activists--her father Charles Rawlings is a Presbyterian Minister and faith-rooted labor leader--Annie joked about her siblings' childhood games reenacting organizing meetings. A graduate of Union Seminary, she founded the Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty at Fordham University before becoming Executive Director of A Partnership of Faith in New York City.

Later, in the office of Social Witness at the Presbytery of New York City from 2004 through 2010, Annie involved the presbytery in prison re-entry, police-community relations, immigration, international witness, Jewish/Christian relations, and the Middle East. Most recently, she joined the Interfaith Center of New York as its Director of Public Outreach and Program Administration and continued to work on many of the issues she was passionate about from an interfaith perspective.

The cutting edge of interfaith activism is not always glamorous. I have a memory of Annie speaking at an August press conference, wearing a "We are all Sikhs" t-shirt, perspiring in the heat and seeking to make sure that other faith leaders around the podium got equal airtime. The importance of finding diverse faith voices to speak out against hate crimes directed at people of a different tradition was critically important in the summer of 2011 and Annie did her part in New York--balancing the breadth of religiously diversity with the media's desire for brevity.

I also recollect her offering tray of Danishes to a hallway full of formerly incarcerated individuals who were waiting to check in with their parole officers at the Harlem Community Justice Center in East Harlem. Unlike most other parolees, these men were being welcomed back into the community by Christian and Muslim religious leaders who offered a ministry of hospitality--along with breakfast. Thursday mornings' radical hospitality turned the Justice Center into a place where Parole officers, court officials, parolees, and even the judge were on equal footing. Annie's passion for prison reform expressed itself in a pastoral way each week, even as she recruited mosques and church leaders to do their own part in bringing down the too-high rate of recidivism in Harlem.

The ecumenical concordats of our time have their important place in a world rife with religious animosity and strife. But the particular type of interfaith work that Annie Rawlings practiced arose from the grassroots and was based more on common action than common word. While it is too much for a single individual to represent a whole movement, Annie Rawlings' work exemplified a kind of "interfaith in the rough" that arises from the compassionate teachings of all the world's great religious traditions.

