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April 2014 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Dear Friends,

As Spring approaches, please mark your calendars for **Thursday, June 5, 2014** when The Interfaith Center of New York hosts its 12th annual James Parks Morton Awards Dinner. Awardees this year are **The Hon. Al Gore** (45th Vice President of the United States & Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2007), **Peter L. Zimroth** (Director, Center on Civil Justice, NYU Law School, and monitor for court-ordered reform of the NYPD's stop-and-frisk practices), **Mrs. Gaetana Enders** (Humanitarian) and a posthumous honor to **His Holiness Sri Swami Satchidananda** (Interfaith Visionary & Founder, Integral Yoga International). Details on the event, including how to purchase tickets, will be coming soon (See below).

This past week, ICNY joins other diverse community groups and people of different faith backgrounds in welcoming the appointment of Philip Eure as New York City's first NYPD Inspector General (See statement below).

With the arrival of April, ICNY looks forward to Passover and Easter as well as a welcome change of season and celebration of the earth on April 22. Close to home, the 3rd annual Debate in the Neighborhood tournament will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 12th, at the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, at the corner of 120th Street in Morningside Heights. Students from the Islamic Leadership School, the Hindu Temple Society of North America, the Muslim American Society, and the Junior Sikh Coalition will debate the line between free speech and hate speech in a diverse society. The public is welcome to attend the championship round of the debate, at **6:00 pm on April 12th**. Come support these diverse young New Yorkers as they make their voices heard on social issues. For more information, contact ICNY's Director of Education Programs at hgoldschmidt@interfaithcenter.org.

Best Wishes,

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

ICNY's Statement on the appointment of Philip Eure as NYC's first NYPD inspector

The Interfaith Center of New York welcomes the historic appointment of Philip Eure as New York City's first NYPD Inspector General, and we gratefully acknowledge his commitment to prioritize "stop-and-frisk issues, Fourth Amendment issues, and other constitutional issues involving policing." ICNY commends the tireless work of community leaders, policy advocates, legal organizations, and City elected officials, all of whom worked together to create and pass the legislation that instituted the Inspector General. As an organization brokering relationships between City agencies and diverse religious and ethnic communities in New York, ICNY looks forward to concrete solutions regarding stop and frisk and Muslim community surveillance.



Tribute to Ratan Barua, (June 30, 1954 - April 1, 2014)



Yesterday, the Bangladeshi Buddhist community of New York lost a beloved leader in Ratan Barua. New Yorkers of all faith traditions will mourn this loss. Ratan Barua had dedicated his life to human rights at home and overseas.

A student leader, a monk, and freedom fighter in Bangladesh, Ratan Barua worked with Hindus, Muslims, and Christians in his home country. His ability to negotiate religious difference did not change with his arrival in the United States. In Queens, Ratan Barua continued to address the needs of those who came to him regardless of religious background.

On any given day, writes Matt Weiner (Director of Religious Life at Princeton and former Program Director of ICNY), Ratan "[is dealing] with human rights abuses in Bangladesh and with immigration problems of other clients [in New York]." He cares for "a woman abused by her husband . . . [and] an orphaned girl whose parents were killed in a car accident."

In 2009, the *New York Times* ran a story about how Ratan Barua worked with other religious communities to get an unidentifiable body released and returned to Bangladesh. The article stated,

The quest to find [the body's] identity was taken up by scores of Bangladeshis, led by Ratan Barua, a storeowner and activist who is routinely sought out by families who need help re-patriating the remains of relatives who die in New York. Mr. Barua, a Buddhist, estimates that he has helped ship more than 200 bodies back to Bangladesh.

"I do as much as I can to help other people, if Muslim or Buddhist or Christian – any faith," he said. "After all, they're human beings."

Mr. Barua sought help from Mr. Weiner of the Interfaith Center. . . Mr. Weiner put Mr. Barua in touch with the [Jewish Community Relations Council](#), which frequently works with the medical examiner's office to secure the rapid release of Jews' remains. Rabbi Elchonon Zohn, a consultant for the council on end-of-life issues, said he called the office "to see whether there was any way to expedite this."

Thanks to the assistance of DNA sampling process and the help of the Bangladesh Consulate of New York and foreign ministry officials in Dhaka, relatives of the man had his body returned to them.

Ratan Barua took care of those in need, regardless of background, both in life and after death. His life is an inspiration for us to do the same.

There will be a three day program in honor of Ratan Barua from Friday April 4th to Sunday April 6th. The viewing and interfaith prayers will take place at **Leo F. Kearns Funeral Home** located at **103-33 Lefferts Blvd, Richmond Hill, NY 11416** on **Friday April 4, between 5-8 pm**. The funeral service will take place at the same location on **Saturday between 2-9 pm**. Finally, there will be a prayer service at the **Sri Lankan Buddhist Temple** on **Sunday between 10-4 pm** at **21422 Spencer Ave (Hillside Avenue & 215 Street), Queens Village, NY 11427**.

For further information, please contact Pupel Barua at **(917) 254-2641** or pupel_barua@hotmail.com



By Rev. Chloe Breyer
ICNY Executive Director

Below we list programs offered by The Interfaith Center of New York in April. We

also list additional upcoming events that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. A listing does not imply endorsement.

******* Upcoming Interfaith Center of New York Events*******



James Parks Morton Awards Dinner

Date: Thursday, June 5

Time: 6:30 pm Cocktails, 7:30 pm Dinner

Location: New York Hilton Midtown, 1335 Avenue of the Americas at 53rd Street

Honorees:

The Honorable Al Gore, 45th Vice President of the United States & Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2007

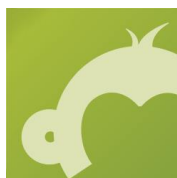
Peter L. Zimroth, Senior Counsel, Arnold & Porter LLP & Director, Center on Civil Justice, NYU Law School

Mrs. Gaetana Enders, Humanitarian

His Holiness Sri Swami Satchidananda (posthumous), Interfaith Visionary & Founder, Integral Yoga International

Tickets: Call (212) 870-3511 or email ellen@interfaithcenter.org.

Interfaith Youth Attitude Survey



ICNY is reaching out to youth to measure their attitudes about interfaith cooperation. The survey primarily targets Christian and Muslim youth and is part of ICNY's Catholic-Muslim social action partnership. However, some questions apply to

youth of all faiths. Please share [this link](#) with youth and encourage them to fill out the survey. Though the survey is geared to youth ages 13-22, we welcome responses from people of all ages. If you have questions about the survey, please contact Dr. Sarah Sayeed at ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org.

******* ICNY Co-Sponsored Events*******

A Call to "Welcome the Stranger" - An Interfaith Convocation on Behalf of Just and Humane Immigration Reform



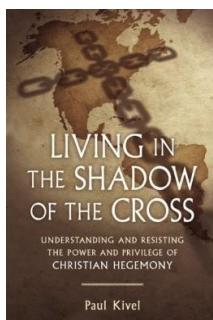
Tuesday, April 8

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: The Community Church of New York, 40 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016

Join religiously diverse New Yorkers as we lift our voices on behalf of immigrants whose lives and families are shattered by our broken immigration system. Say to leaders in the House: The clock is ticking and the paralysis of inaction cannot be tolerated. Passing just and human immigration reform in 2014 is your moral obligation. Speakers will include: The Rev. Chloe Breyer (Interfaith Center of NY); Dreamer Estefania Garcia (Faith in New York); Fast for Families participants S.J. Jung (Minkwon Center) and Rev. Ray Rivera (National Evangelical Immigration Coalition); Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid (The Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood Inc.); Rabbi Michael Feinberg (Greater NY Labor-Religion Coalition) Bishop Orlando Findlayter (CUSH); Fr. Mark C. Hallinan, S.J. (St. Mary of the Assumption, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel) Minister Patricia Malcolm (CUSH, Network Co-Chair); Ramaswamy Mohan (Hindu Temple Society of North America); Rev. Bruce Southworth, Community Church of New York. For more information email Diane Steinman, New York State Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform at steinmandiane@gmail.com. A flyer for this event is [here](#).

Book Talk & Brown Bag Lunch: Living in the Shadow of the Cross: Understanding and Resisting the Power and Privilege of Christian Hegemony



Date: April 9, 2014

Time: Noon

Location: 475 Riverside Drive, 5th Floor (New York Theological Seminary) New York, NY 10115

Author Paul Kivel will talk about his new book *Living in the Shadow of the Cross: Understanding and Resisting the Power and Privilege of Christian Hegemony*. For those of who do Interfaith work and organizing, the author addresses this reality and is an excellent resource for education and conversation. See www.christianhegemony.org. For questions or more info, contact The Rev. Chloe Breyer, (212) 870-3510 or The Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel (646) 279-6690 .

Hineni (Here I am) Dance Performance



Date: Wednesday, April 9 - Saturday, April 12

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: University Settlement, 184 Eldridge Street, between Rivington and Delancey

Hineni (Hebrew for Here I am), a new dance performance by Sasha Soreff Dance Theater, draws its inspiration from ancient stories of divine calling -- Abraham and the command to sacrifice his son, Moses at the burning bush - and invites us to wonder:

What are the defining moments we face in our lives, to heed a call, to claim our space, to take action? How do we respond?

Post-show discussions will be led by:

April 9 - Rabbi Ellen Lippmann, Kolot Chayeinu

April 10 - Rabbi Ayelet Cohen, Director of The Center for Jewish Living, The JCC in Manhattan

April 12 - Dr. Sarah Sayeed, Director of Community Partnerships, Interfaith Center of New York

Event website: www.sashasoreffdance.com. Contact Information for questions or more info: Sasha Soreff, (212) 501-2425, or sasha@sashasoreffdance.com.

******* Additional Events that may be of Interest to You *******

NYC Family Justice Center in Manhattan is Now Open!



Location: The Family Justice Center, 80 Centre Street (at Worth Street), 5th Floor, New York, NY 10013

The New York City Family Justice Center in Manhattan is now officially open. The Manhattan FJC is one of the programs of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence (OCDV) and is co-located with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office Special Victims Bureau, key city agencies and community based service providers. The Center provides comprehensive supportive, social, self-sufficiency and civil legal services for victims of domestic violence, trafficking, and elder abuse. The Center through its on-site training facility, sponsors interdisciplinary programs for practitioners, law enforcement and community stakeholders. Services are available either on a walk-in or appointment basis in the client's primary language regardless of immigration status or income and trained staff can provide childcare. The center is open Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-5:00PM. Visit

www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence to learn more about the Mayor's Office To Combat Domestic Violence, programs and Family Justice Centers in Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens. Plans are already underway for the fifth Center on Staten Island, opening the Spring of 2015. For more information about the Manhattan FJC or to plan outreach regarding FJC services, please contact Sarah Flatto: sarahf@fjcnyc.org or (212) 602-2857.

Every Valley: Dr. King Legacy Symposium



Date: Friday, April 4 (RSVP Deadline Extended)

Time: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Location: The Riverside Church, Assembly Hall, 91 Claremont Avenue & 120th Street, New York, NY 10027

All are invite to participate in Every Valley: Dr. King Legacy Symposium on Community Economic Empowerment to explore strategies to transform financial hopelessness to financial health within the communities that you serve. Every Valley will enable you to connect with faith-based leaders, business development specialists, and small business owners to explore programs that your faith community might participate in to help transform critical economic disparities to new community opportunities. Special Guest Speakers: Rev. Dr. James Forbes, Senior Minister Emeritus, The Riverside Church; and President, Healing of the Nations Foundation. Eugene Cornelius, Deputy Associate Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration. A flyer for this event is [here](#).

Man to Man MENistry



Date: Sunday April 6, 13, 27

Time: 4:30 pm

Location: Union Theological Seminary 3041 Broadway and 121 Street, NY, NY 10027 in the PIT.

Man to Man (M2M) MENistry invites all men who are interested in being a part of this amazing interfaith fellowship of Kings who will not only discuss the realest issues that churches, communities and society fails to address, but learn to face and navigate through them. For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/mantomanMENistry?ref=hl> or contact Pastor Arthur R. Barnes (347) 978-3394 pastorarbarnes@yahoo.com. A flyer for this event is [here](#).

Ultimate Peace in the Middle East - USA Tour



Date: Wednesday, April 9

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Ansche Chesed, 251 W. 100th Street, New York, NY 10025

Arab, Jewish and Palestinian teens from the Middle East share their experiences and insights as participants and young emerging leaders in the ground breaking program - Ultimate Peace. The evening will include a panel discussion, a TED talk by a Middle Eastern Teen, and audience dialogue moderated by Ultimate Peace CEO, David Barkan. Contact Information for questions or more info: Linda Sidorsky, Ultimate Peace - COO, linda@ultimatepeace.org, (413) 475-4613 or (413) 625-9353. A flyer for this event is [here](#).

A Women's Interfaith Conversation



Date: Thursday, April 10

Time: 6:00 - 9:30 pm

Location: Marble Collegiate Church - "The Marble Loft", 274 Fifth Avenue, btwn 29th and 30th Streets

All women of faith are welcome to join for an evening of discussions on Faith and Love with a beloved community of Jewish, Christian and Muslim women. Special guests are Laila Al-Askari, Tehilah Eisenstadt and Maggie Richter See <http://marblechurch.org/welcome/calendar/events/womens-ministry/597/marble-womens-ministry-a-womens-interfaith-conversation>. Contact Information for questions or more info: Elise Hanley - ehanley@marblechurch.org or (212) 686-2770.

"Faith in Freedom" - CAIR-NY's Annual Awards Banquet



Date: Sunday, April 13

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Grand Prospect Hall, 263 Prospect Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11215

The New York Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-NY) is a chapter of America's largest Muslim civil rights organization and its annual awards banquet is its largest event of the year that draws attendees from across the Tri-State area. The theme of this year's banquet is "Faith in Freedom". The event will feature renowned local and international speakers. CAIR-NY will be honoring individuals and organizations who have been working strenuously to protect and defend the rights of New York Muslims. Through this event, CAIR-NY promotes awareness on major civil rights issues in its community while acknowledging excellence in community service and social justice in the New York State. For more info: <http://www.cair-ny.org/event/banquet2014.html>

Leading Edge Conference 2014: Heal the Soul, Heal the World

The Middle Project

preparing ethical leaders for a just society

Date: Saturday, April 26 - Tuesday, April 29 (cancellation by April 19)

Location: Grand Prospect Hall, 263 Prospect Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11215

The Middle Collegiate Church is thrilled to announce The New York Times bestselling author and theologian Marcus Borg (The Heart of Christianity), frequent Oprah contributor and Omega founder, Elizabeth Lesser, global visionary and

fundraiser Lynne Twist (The Soul of Money), and Moral Courage founder, Irshad Manji as speakers at a conference on internal and external change. MSNBC contributor and founder of Groundswell at Auburn Seminary, Valarie Kaur, and community organizer at PICO, Michael-Ray Mathews are also confirmed speakers who will share insights from grassroots and digital organizing. As we create multiethnic, multicultural congregations for people who view the world through an interreligious lens, these thought leaders will help us address justice, community organize, and change the story. Our theme will focus on how we restore our souls so we may create communities of activism and healing. To register, visit middleproject.org.

******* ADL Calendar of Observances for April 2014 *******

April 8	Tuesday	RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.
April 13	Sunday	PALM SUNDAY • Christian Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.
April 15–21	Tuesday–Monday	PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
April 17	Thursday	HOLY THURSDAY • Christian Also known as <i>Maundy Thursday</i> , it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.
April 18	Friday	GOOD FRIDAY • Christian Known as <i>Holy Friday</i> in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.
April 20	Sunday	EASTER • Christian Known as <i>Pascha</i> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
April 21–May 2	Monday–Friday	FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá'í Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God's messenger for this age. The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'is suspend work.
April 24	Thursday	ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY Memorializes the extermination of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.
April 27	Sunday	YOM HASHOAH • Jewish "Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.

The full ADL Calendar of Observances for 2014 is available [here](#).

EARTH DAY, TUESDAY APRIL 22



Earth Day is an annual event, celebrated on April 22, on which events are held worldwide to demonstrate support for environmental protection. It was first celebrated in 1970, and is now coordinated globally by the [Earth Day Network](#), and celebrated in more than 192 countries each year.

Ways to keep in touch and show support for ICNY:



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