



INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

September 2016 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

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Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

To commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11, please join The Interfaith Center of New York and other nonprofits, faith-based organizations, and businesses from around New York to pack half a million meals for the hungry. The "[9/11 Day of Service](#)" will take place in downtown Manhattan. There is also the "[Prayers for World Peace Interfaith Ceremony](#)" which will be held at the International Buddhist Progress Society New York Temple in Flushing.

Fifteen years ago, just two days after the attacks, the Interfaith Center hosted a press conference where dozens of diverse faith leaders expressed their solidarity across religious traditions in the face of terrorism. Four faith leaders who spoke at that press conference, Dr. Uma Mysorekar, Baba Antonio Mondesire, Sister Aisha Al-Adawiya, Rev. TK Nakagaki and Rabbi Joe Potasnik viewed [an archival recording of that press conference](#) recently and weighed in on whether racial, cultural and religious intolerance has changed since 2001 and what actions New Yorkers can take now to build peace. We will publish their reflection as our September blog later this month. Look also for our upcoming podcast episode with Peter Gudaitis, former director of the New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) that helped coordinate the unmet needs round table after 9/11 and disaster response during Hurricane Sandy.

Also in Flushing on 9/11, the Hindu Temple's annual [Ganesh Chaturthi](#) (birthday of Ganesh) celebration culminates with the Grand Ratha Yatra, when the Ganesh deity is paraded around the neighborhood. See ICNY's [short video](#) of this magnificent celebration that is open to the public and a fun experience for children. If you can make it to Queens, it is well worth the visit. Also see [this New York Times article](#) about the annual celebration.

Finally, thanks to your support and others around the city, the GoFundMe campaign organized by the Majlis Ashura for the widows and children of Imam Akonjee and Thara Uddin has raised over \$82,000. Donations are still being accepted at <https://www.gofundme.com/ImamsMaulama-Thara> For coverage and updates on the situation, please check ICNY's website and Facebook page. In addition, see [this article](#) "Over 50 Organizations Demand a Fair Investigation in the Murder of Khalid Jabara" and the corresponding [coalition letter](#); plus [this article](#) "Muslim Advocates Joined By Nearly 40 Groups to Urge Mayor Bill de Blasio to Direct NYPD Hate Crimes Unit to Thoroughly Investigate Queens Murders" and its corresponding [statement](#).

Best Wishes,



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

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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



The Harlem Family Carnival to Support Reentering Citizens and their Families



Date: Saturday, September 10
Time: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Location: 170 E. 121 Street

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

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

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

9/11 Day of Service



Date: Sunday, September 11

Times: 2 hour shifts still available at 7:00 am and 3:00 pm

Location: Pier 36 (Basketball City) 299 South St.

The national nonprofit, 9/11 Day, is working with a coalition of interfaith, service, youth and educational organizations to mark the 15th anniversary of 9/11 by packing more than 500,000 meals at Pier 36, 299 South St. New York on Sunday, September 11th. There are slots left at the 7am shift and the 3pm shift. 9/11 Day is still looking for sponsors who can donate between 1k and 5k. For more info on how to support this day contact david.paine@911day.org. [Click here to register.](#)

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Other Events



Prison Ministry Volunteer Support Network



Date: Saturday, September 10

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Location: Maryknoll Walsh Building, 55 Ryder Road, Ossining, NY 10562

This is a group reviewing 1.) what has our experience(s) in prison ministry done to our souls, and 2.) what exists in the areas of hope - such as restorative justice and new volunteers - that can begin to change the mentality of the beast of the prison system? For more information, email cjumior7@optimum.net or call 718-289-5954.

Prayers for World Peace Interfaith Ceremony



Date: Sunday, September 11, 2016

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Location: [International Buddhist Progress Society](#) New York Temple, 15437 Barclay Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355

On the morning of September 11th, faith leaders from across New York City will join with the community in a spirit of unity to express and celebrate the hope for a peaceful future. For more information, call 917-287-1629.

Sri Ganesh Chaturthi (The Birthday of Ganesh)

Grand Ratha Yatra ("The Chariot's Journey")



Date: Sunday, Sept. 11

Time: 11:45 am

Location: Hindu Temple Society of North America, 45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355

Ganesh Chaturthi is the Hindu festival celebrated in honor of the god Ganesh, the elephant-headed remover of obstacles and the god of beginnings and wisdom. Celebrations take place throughout a 10-day period, but the culmination of all events is the Grand Ratha Yatra, when priests bring the Ganesa deity from the temple and parade it through the streets of the neighborhood on a raised dais, in a colorful and joyous procession with hundreds of Hindu devotees and people from the neighborhood.

Sacred Music Festival Fall Salon 2016
Featuring Shlomit & Rebbe Soul and Khalil Ismail



Date: Wednesday, Sept. 14

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Auburn Theological Seminary, 475 Riverside Dr, Ste 1800, New York, New York 10027

Shlomit & RebbeSoul is the mesmerizing duo of Shlomit Levi, one of Israel's finest vocalists, and Bruce Burger, a.k.a. RebbeSoul, recording artist from America who created what is now the modern version of Jewish Roots and World Music. RebbeSoul has been featured on CNN International, in was the cover story in Billboard magazine and achieved the #1 position on the CMJ world music charts in the USA and Canada. Khalil Ismail is a lyricist and vocalist from Baltimore, Maryland. He has performed on stage with celebrated artists such as Mos Def, Freeway, Brother Ali, Zain Bhikha, Native Deen, Outlandish, and Dawud Wharnsby. Driven by a passion for social justice and the universality of music, Khalil is known

for his passionate, soulful songs and performances that stir and inspire audiences.
[For more info and tickets, click here.](#)

**"Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War"
Film Screening and Interfaith Discussion**



Date: Tuesday, September 20

In a powerful, true story of interfaith action, [Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War](#) is a film that tells the story of a Unitarian minister, Waitstill Sharp, and his wife, Martha, who in 1939 left the safety and comfort of their home in New England, as well as their two children, to go to Eastern Europe and help refugees and dissidents escape the Nazis. For nearly two years they lived the lives of spies, operating dangerous secret missions that would have resulted in death had they been discovered. The Sharps ended up saving dozens of lives and today there are hundreds of people in America and other parts of the world who have built new lives because of the Sharps' sacrifice. This remarkable true story airs on *September 20 at 9 pm on PBS*. We hope you and your faith community or other centers will screen Ken Burns' newest film and hold a discussion afterwards to discuss how are you carrying on the Sharps' legacy by defying hatred and discrimination today through interfaith work.

**An Artistic Celebration of Peace
around the Official Opening of THE KEY exhibition**



Date: Wednesday, Sept. 21

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Dr, New York, NY 10027

On the UN International Day of Peace, September 21, the US premiere of CARAVAN's "THE KEY" exhibition will officially open with an artistic celebration of peace featuring special guest speakers and performers. THE KEY is a peacebuilding art exhibition/installation featuring 40 premier and emerging Egyptian, Middle Eastern and Western artists using the world's most ancient symbol of harmony, the Egyptian Ankh (Key of Life), as a message of hope for a harmonious, peaceful and tolerant world. Special speakers and performers include:

Ambassador David Saperstein, US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom

Ambassador Ahmed Farouk, Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Ambassador Michelle D. Gavin, Managing Director of The Africa Center with Sufi Music by Amir Vahab & Ensemble

THE KEY was launched on the banks of the Nile in Cairo in March, and was then showcased in London at St. James's Piccadilly this summer. The exhibition will now be showcased at Riverside Church in New York from September 21 through November 6, 2016. FREE OF CHARGE. ALL ARE INVITED! [Click here for more information on event website.](#)

Live Radio Interview with Layli Miller-Muro



Date: Monday, Sept. 26

Time: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: Bahá'í Center of NYC, 53 E 11th St, New York, New York 10003

Interview with Layli Miller-Muro, founder of the Tahirih Justice Center that assists immigrant women and girls who are fleeing from gender-based violence and persecution. Layli will be interviewed live for a Radio Show hosted by Randy Cohen, titled Person, Place Thing. All are welcome. For more info see <http://www.tahirih.org/> or <http://personplacething.org/>

"New York City's Gorgeous Mosaic: A Demographic Portrait Brought to Life"
A program of the Micah Faith Table Immigration Committee



Date: Tuesday, September 27

Time: 6:45 pm

Location: Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 152 W. 71st Street

Influential racially, ethnically, religiously and national origin-diverse NYC leaders, inspired by the moral imperative to treat all New Yorkers with dignity, justice and compassion and to promote just and humane immigration reform, will "bring to life" the demographic portrait of NYC and its diverse communities presented by Dr. Joseph Salvo, Director of the NYC Planning Department's Population Division. Email address for RSVP's: steinmandiane@gmail.com. [Click here for the Facebook event page](#).

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



Dates: Fall 2016 and Spring 2017

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

The Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute is a nonpartisan national initiative focused on educating the American public about the religious liberty principles of the First Amendment. The Religious Freedom Center offers onsite and online classes that prepare religious & civic leaders and educators for effective and principled leadership in a religiously diverse society. Students may enroll in classes for graduate and continuing education credit. They may also receive certificates in Religion and Public Life. [Click here for more information](#).

If you have an upcoming event that you think ICNY's audience might like to know about, please notify us by [filling out this event form](#). We will try to include events in future bulletins.

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ADL Calendar of Observances



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

SEPTEMBER 2016

September 5		LABOR DAY Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.
September 5		GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.
September 8		INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY Call to action for universal literacy.
September 11–14		EID AL-ADHA • Islamic The "Feast of Sacrifice" concludes the Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca), and is a three-day festival recalling Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God.
September 15–October 15	Full Month	NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.
September 17		CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.
September 22		AUTUMNAL EQUINOX The date when night and day are nearly of the same length. It marks the first day of fall.

Smiling Comes Naturally



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