



INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

October 2016 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

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Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This month, we keep in mind those celebrating a new year and those embarking on new beginnings.

September saw the opening of the General Assembly, lots of gridlock traffic, and UN Conference on Migration in New York. At the same time, I had the chance to visit two contrasting refugee camps in and outside Athens, Greece. At one of the government shelters in the old airport of Athens, families had set up tents inside the old arrival and departure lounges and cooked meals outside on the crumbling cement balcony. Children didn't have transportation or the right vaccines to join Greek schools and international NGOs provided food and basic healthcare.

The government camp struck a sharp contrast with [#CITYPLAZA, a building for refugees in a self-run converted hotel](#) in a bustling part of the city organized by activists who took over an abandoned hotel and worked with about 200 families to manage the day-to-day functioning of the community. Donations of medicine and food from around Europe stocked the shelves and the children attended local schools. The power of a strong civil society was on display and [you can be part of it](#). Finally, I visited the Sikh Gurdwara of Athens Guru Nanak Darbar that offered food and hospitality to Syrian and Afghan refugees escaping from war in their countries. This effort was part of [a wider humanitarian effort of the United Sikhs on behalf of refugees in Europe](#).

Back at home, the Interfaith Center of New York is delighted to introduce three new members of our Board of Directors:

Baba Antonio Mondesire: <http://antoniomondesire.com/>

Jim Venturi: <http://archpaper.com/2016/05/jim-venturi-rethinknyc/>

The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool <https://www.diocesenyc.org/bishop-glasspool/>
(representing The Rt. Rev. Andrew Dietsche, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, see <https://www.diocesenyc.org/the-diocese/our-bishops/bishop-dietsche/>)

The organization is strengthened by their leadership.

Also, faith leaders are welcome to join the NYC Voter Registration weekend of faith. You are invited to [partner with the Mayor's Community Affairs Unit and NYC Votes for the Voter Registration Weekend of Faith, October 7-9](#). Hundreds of faith leaders across New York City will be speaking at their houses of worship about the importance of voting and signing people up after the service.

Finally, ICNY has a new website. It's the same address www.interfaithcenter.org but with a new design that works well on tablets and smart phones. The site provides easier access to news and information on our programs. We hope you'll check it out!



The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) works to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by activating the power of the city's grassroots religious and civic leaders and their communities.

With your help, here's how we make a difference:



Latest News

The Christa Project: Manifesting Divine Bodies
Posted September 26th 2016

E-Newsletters

September 2016 Newsletter: 9/11 Day, Carnival to Support Returning Citizens, and Ganesh Birthday Celebration

[Previous E-Newsletters](#)

Blog

BLOG: Five NYC Faith Leaders Look Back on 9/11, Fifteen Years Later
Posted September 6th 2016

Podcasts

PODCAST: "Gifts of Spirit and Caregiving" – Peter Gudaitis on Faith Leadership and Disaster Response
Posted September 19th 2016

Best Wishes,

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

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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



The Christa Project: Manifesting Divine Bodies



Date: Opening Reception Thursday, October 6, 2016

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Ave. at 112th Street, New York, NY 10025

Join us for the opening of the Cathedral's newest art exhibition, The Christa Project: Manifesting Divine Bodies. The exhibition consists of pieces by 22 contemporary artists and explores the language, symbol, art and ritual associated with the historic concept of the Christ image, and the ways the divine is manifested in every person, across every gender, race, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

The exhibition will also feature a selection of pieces from the James Parks Morton Interfaith Art Collection, as well as selections from the Cathedral's art treasury. [Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#)

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Registration Now Open for

Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute Fall 2016 Conference

“Embracing Diversity and Difference: Empathy as a Bridge to the Other”

CEC's and Student Discounts Available



Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Pamela Cooper-White

Professor of Psychology and Religion at Union Theological Seminary in New York

Date: Saturday, Nov. 12

Time: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Jones Auditorium, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7 W 55th St, New York, NY 10019

How can we allow greater empathy for ourselves and others to emerge in increasingly diverse social contexts? Any form of difference can complicate deeper understanding. Calling on her considerable work in relational psychoanalysis and pastoral psychotherapy, Dr. Pamela Cooper-White will help us confront the clinical challenges of vulnerability and aggression, encouraging us to better know the stranger, both without and within. Social, communal, and spiritual ways of fostering empathy will be explored and imagined in this continuing education

workshop. Tickets range from \$40-\$80. [Click here for more info and to purchase tickets.](#)

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Other Events

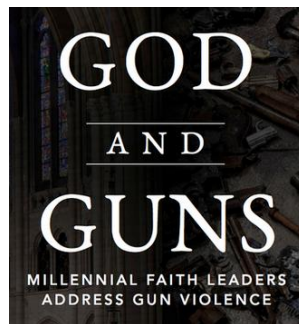


#IamMuslimNYC Ad Campaign



The NYC Commission on Human Rights launched an ad campaign to support Muslim New Yorkers and inform them of their protections under the City Human Rights law. Visit our website to see the ads. You can help us by sharing the ads via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. [Click here for more information.](#)

God and Guns Faith Leaders Address Gun Violence



Dates & Times: October 6-7 [Click here for schedule](#)

Location: The Riverside Church in the City of New York, 490 Riverside Dr, New York, NY 10027

The Riverside Church in the City of New York, along with a growing list of partners, will host an intensive training on gun violence for faith leaders of all traditions

beginning the evening of October 6 through the evening of October 7. Designed for millennial faith leaders, a demographic with the capacity to shift our culture, the training is also open to ministry teams of any age that include a millennial attendee. Those who attend do not have to agree on the solutions to the epidemic of gun violence, only that something must be done. Attendees will gain concrete tools to educate, engage, and mobilize your congregations to enact change in your community. Each God and Guns 2016 participant will commit to taking concrete action in their circles of influence. Space is limited. [Click here for more information.](#)

Voter Registration Weekend of Faith



Dates: October 7-9

Registering to vote is a cornerstone of civic engagement and the first step in participating in our democracy. On October 7-9, faith leaders across New York City will be speaking at their houses of worship about the importance of voting and registering people after the service. NYC Community Affairs and NYC Votes We will be distributing voter registration forms in 16 languages and offering trainings to members of your house of worship who would like to participate. We hope you will join us in this important initiative to make sure that every voice is heard in our great democracy. [Click here to register.](#)

Indigenous Peoples Celebration



Sunday, October 9 - Evening campout with music and song - tents welcome

Monday, October 10 - Sunrise Ceremony, 7:00 am

Monday, October 10 - Celebration from 7:00 to 4:00 pm

Location: Wards Meadow Field, Randall's Island, New York City

Music, song, spoken word, artists and guest speakers. Free event. All visitors welcome. Bring lawn chairs. [Click here for more information.](#)

Marianne Williamson at Marble Collegiate Church



Date: Tuesdays, beginning October 11

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Marble Collegiate Church, 5th Avenue at 29th Street (1 W 29th St, New York, NY 10001)

The number one New York Times best-selling spiritual author and lecturer Marianne Williamson begins weekly lectures every Tuesday night at 7:30 PM at Manhattan's Marble Collegiate Church. \$20 suggested donation. (No one turned away who cannot pay). Also livestreamed. See marianne.com for further details.

2016 NYC CROP Hunger Walk



Date: Sunday, October 16

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church, 552 West End Avenue

On-site registration for the walk will begin at 1 pm at St. Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church, 552 West End Avenue. The Walk will begin at 2 pm and proceed up Riverside Drive to The Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, where a post-walk reception will be held for the walkers. For additional information or preregistration go to www.crophungerwalk.org/newyorkny/ or nyccropwalk.org. Join family, friends and neighbors walking to end hunger. All are welcome.

Infinite Compassion: Avalokiteshvara in Asian Art EXHIBITION OPENING



Date: Saturday, October 22

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor, 1000 Richmond Terrace (Building A), Staten Island, NY 10301

A collaboration with Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art, Infinite Compassion introduces visitors to Buddhist art, culture and belief across Asia. After the Buddha, Avalokiteshvara, is the most ubiquitous deity in Mahayana Buddhism. This revered Bodhisattva promotes compassion. The exhibit will interpret this aspect of Buddhist art with sculptures, ritual objects, and paintings (thangkas) from India, Tibet, China, Nepal and Japan, as well as contemporary Asian art. [Click here for more info.](#)

Celebration of Deepavali - the Hindu "Festival of Lights"



Date: Sunday, October 23

Location: Queens Museum, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, New York City Building, Meridian Rd, Queens, NY 11368

Art Workshop, Diya (lamps) Painting at 1:00 PM - Children of all ages are invited to participate in a free hands-on art/coloring workshop inspired by Deepāvāli - and take home with them! All art materials will be provided. This will be followed by Cultural Entertainment Program & Candle Lighting Ceremony (by lighting 3000 Candles) at 2:00 PM. All Are Invited! [Here is a flyer for more information.](#)

"Changing Times: Today's Challenges and Your Values"

Save The Date for the Sikh Art & Film Foundation's
Sixth Annual Leadership Summit



Date: Friday, October 28

Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Frank Bennack Theatre - Paley Center for Media, 25 West 52nd Street, NYC

Speaker details and Agenda to follow shortly.... Registration Opens Soon! [Check here for more information.](#)

Voices of the Sacred: Makhelat HaShachar



Date: Sunday, October 30

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Brotherhood Synagogue, 28 Gramercy Park South

This third installment of Brotherhood's popular Voices of the Sacred interfaith concert series features a rare opportunity to see one of the world's best "Jewish" choirs, the Makhelat HaShachar (Shinonome Choir) of Japan. The centerpiece of the Beit Shalom religious movement in Japan, aka The Japan Christian Friends of Israel, the all-volunteer choir draws its members from all across Japan. Members of Beit Shalom believe that Jews are God's chosen people and they pray daily for the Jewish people, peace in Jerusalem and for the coming of messiah. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

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](#).

OCTOBER 2016

October	Full Month	LGBT HISTORY MONTH Marks and celebrates the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people in the United States.
October	Full Month	NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH Recognizes the contributions of workers with disabilities.
October 1–10		NAVARATRI • Hindu Nine-day festival celebrating the triumph of good over evil. It worships God in the form of the universal mother commonly referred to as Durga, Devi or Shakti, and marks the start of fall.
October 2		MUHARRAM • Islamic The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. The first day of the month, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. It also marks the beginning of the ten-day Shi'ite Remembrance of Muharram, a period of intense grief and mourning of the martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad.
October 3–4		ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.
October 10		INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY (Native American Day) Celebrates and honors Native American history and culture. [The second Monday of October is also marked as a U.S. federal holiday, Columbus Day. Many people are opposed to the celebration of a man who led and committed atrocities against Indigenous people. Some states and cities in the U.S. have officially changed the day to Indigenous People's Day. Similarly, it is celebrated as Día de la Raza, "Day of the Race", in Spanish-speaking countries and communities.]
October 11		ASHURA • Islamic A day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala in 680 CE.
October 11		COMING OUT DAY Encourages honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Commemorates October 11, 1987, when 500,000 people marched on Washington, DC, for gay and lesbian equality.
October 12		YOM KIPPUR • Jewish The "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.
October 14		DASSERA • Hindu Anniversary of the day when Rama killed the evil demon Ravana. Also known as <i>Durga Puja</i> , which celebrates the goddess Durga.
October 17		INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY Call to action for the eradication of poverty and destitution worldwide.

October 17–23	SUKKOT • Jewish The week-long "Feast of Booths" commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.
October 20	BIRTH OF THE BAB • Bahá'í Bahá'í observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1819 of Siyyid, "the Báb," the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, in Shiráz, Persia.
October 20	GUR-GADDI GURU GRANTH SAHIB • Sikh Since 1708, Sikhs have accepted Sri Guru Granth Sahib as their eternal Guru that holds the spirit of all Ten Gurus of the Sikhs. They consider Guru Granth Sahib to be a spiritual guide not only for Sikhs but for all of mankind; it plays a central role in guiding the Sikhs' way of life.
October 24	SHEMINI ATZERET • Jewish "The Eighth (Day) of Assembly" is observed on the day immediately following Sukkot.
October 24	UNITED NATIONS DAY Commemorates the founding of the world organization in 1945.
October 25	SIMCHAT TORAH • Jewish "Rejoicing in the Torah" celebrates the conclusion of the public reading of the Pentateuch and its beginning anew.
October 30	DIWALI • Hindu Also called <i>Deepavali</i> , "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
October 30	BANDI-CHHOR DIWAS • Sikh A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.
October 31	REFORMATION DAY • Christian Commemorates the beginning of the Protestant Reformation in 1517.
October 31	HALLOWEEN The eve of All Saints' Day.

Smiling Comes Naturally



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