

November 2016 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

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Ways to Support and Promote ICNY:



Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, a Federal Judge rejected a proposed settlement on police surveillance of Muslim New Yorkers on the grounds that it did not go far enough in protecting free speech and religion. According to Judge Charles Haight, the proposed settlement did "not furnish sufficient protection from potential violations of the constitutional rights of those law-abiding Muslims and believers in Islam who live, move and have their being in this city" (see the New York Times article here). ICNY supports this decision, having worked hard with allies last Spring to garner community input on this settlement. See our own statement on the Handschu/Raza proposed settlement drafted by ICNY's Iman Boukadoum and submitted to the court last Spring.

In addition, ICNY has gathered religious leaders to offer their feedback to the courts about further reforms on the NYPD's "Stop and Frisk" policies made possible in a Joint Remedial Process outlined in the *Floyd*, *Davis*, and *Ligon* cases. For more information about how your community or congregation can weigh in on policing reforms pertaining to "Stop and Frisk" practices, <u>click here</u>. Recognizing that accountability and education are inseparable when it comes to improving police-community relations, ICNY is currently working on a police religious diversity training video "Policing in Today's Multifaith New York" that will be instituted as a regular part of officer training.

While North Dakota is a distance from New York City, ICNY is promoting <u>a call from both Chief Arvol Looking Horse and Episcopal Priest The Rev John Floberg</u> for religious leaders to come to Standing Rock on Nov. 2nd and 3rd to support the

men and women who have so courageously risked arrest and injury to protect their rights and the environment against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

You may have read in the New York Post or Daily News that the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood (MIB) was one of several organizations bilked of huge sums of money by a phony real estate agent. Please consider making a donation to this LaunchGood campaign to help them recover what has been lost.

Finally, on a personal note, I will be embarking on a two-month writing sabbatical from Nov. 18, 2016 until January 31, 2017 to make headway on my doctoral thesis in Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary. The focus of my work will be on Christian Peacemaking, Interfaith Work, and Islamophobia. In my absence from the office, ICNY Program Director, Dr. Henry Goldschmidt will be serving as Interim Director.

Best Wishes,

Rev. Chloe Brever **Executive Director**

The Interfaith Center of New York

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Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute Fall 2016 Conference for Clinicians, Counselors, Clergy and the Curious

"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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Kingsborough Community College Interfaith Forum:





Date: Monday, Nov. 14 Time: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Lighthouse Rotunda at Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental

Boulevard, Brooklyn, NY, 11235

This public forum, featuring nationally recognized scholars and community leaders, will explore the challenges and opportunities presented by religious diversity at America's public universities, and in our civic life. Keynote speakers will include: Jennifer Howe Peace, Associate Professor of Interfaith Studies at Andover Newton Theological School: Imam Khalid Latif and Rabbi Yehuda Sarna, University Chaplains at New York University; and Michael Feldberg, Executive Director of the George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom. ICNY's own Director of Programs, Henry Goldschmidt, will moderate an interfaith dialogue. Click here for more information.

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The Micah Faith Table Immigration Committee in partnership with The Refugee Committee of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun Presents

"Immigrants and Refugees in America and New York: The Political and Moral Landscape Today"



Date: Tuesday, Nov. 15

Time: 6:45 pm

Location: Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, 270 W. 89th Street, (Between Broadway and

West End)

Speakers will analyze the implications of the November 8th elections for the lives of immigrants, refugees and those aspiring to emigrate to the U.S.; reflect on our moral obligation, rooted in Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim teachings, to advocate adoption of immigration/refugee laws and policies that are just and humane; and inform us about NYC programs and initiatives that make our city a refuge for victims of America's broken immigration system.

Program will include:

- ~ Post-election overview by Patrick Young, Esq., CARECEN attorney and Hofstra University immigration law professor, of federal, NYS and NYC immigration/refugee laws and policies and its advocacy implications.
- ~ Reflections by religiously diverse faith leaders on the moral obligation to promote reform of America's immigration and refugee laws, including Debbie Almontaser,

Muslim Community Coalition; Rabbi Marcelo Bronstein, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun; Fr. Mark Hallinan, S.J., Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Benedicta and St. Mary of the Assumption; Daiken Nelson, Sensei, Pamsula Zen Center; and Sunita Viswanath, Sadhana Coalition of Progressive Hindus. Moderator: Rev. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director, Interfaith Center of NY.

~ Laurie Davidson, Organizing Director of Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, will give an overview of programs and initiatives that make NYC a refuge for victims of America's broken immigration/refugee system.

We hope you can join us. RSVP to steinmandiane@gmail.com. A flyer for this event is available here.

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Birth of Baha'u'llah Holy Day Celebration



Date: Tuesday, Nov. 1 Time: 7:30 pm - 11:00 pm

Location: St. Peter's Church, 619 Lexington Ave. at 54th Street

All are welcome to join the Baha'i Community of New York City to celebrate the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í Faith. The program is a community celebration of prayer, music and stories to honor Baha'u'llah's life, and will be followed by a potluck dinner. Please bring a plate of food to share. If you will be contributing to the potluck in any way, please complete the sign-up form to help the organizers best prepare for the event.

The People's Tribunal on the Iraq War

Add Your Faith Community's Testimonies by November 4



On December 1st and 2nd in Washington, D.C., Code Pink is organizing The People's Tribunal on the Iraq War. It is an effort to "unify the global anti-war/peace movements with other justice movements by uplifting testimonies of the costs of this war—and war itself." Testimonies about the lies used to invade Iraq and the cost of the invasion and occupation will be shared with the public and with a demand that President Obama respond and convene a Commission on Truth and Accountability.

In order to facilitate this tribunal, Code Pink has put out the call for testimonies about the effects of the Iraq War and it's lead up. These can be in the form of written reflections, drawings, paintings, poetry or short video and audio recordings.

If this is something you, your faith community or anyone you know would like to participate in, please <u>contact Shailly Barnes</u> and send her your contributions by November 4th.

If these trying times have taught us anything, it is that *every* voice counts. If you feel moved to testify, please do not hesitate.

Click here to read more about the #IraqTribunal.

ARISE NY! Anti-Bullying Interfaith Summit



Date: Sunday, Nov. 6 Time: 12:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Location: The Free Synagogue of Flushing, 41-60 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11355

Turning Point for Women and Families is holding its 5th Annual ARISE NY! Anti-Bullying Interfaith Summit dedicated to the youth (ages 13-20) to help stomp out bullying and hate crimes. Our goal is to heighten awareness about bullying, stereotyping, and hate crimes targeting teenagers and to equip them with the tools

they need to prevent bullying and promote peaceful coexistence between all. For more information, see this Facebook event page.

Disturbing the Deage Dramiers in NVC

Disturbing the Peace Premiere in NYC



Date: Friday, November 11

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Lincoln Plaza Cinemas, 1886 Broadway, New York, NY 10023

DISTURBING THE PEACE follows former enemy combatants - Israeli soldiers and Palestinian fighters - who join together to say: Enough. Combatants for Peace, featured in the award-winning documentary, will be present for Q&A on opening weekend. Click here for more information.

National Donor Sabbath



Date: Friday, Nov. 11 through Sunday, Nov. 13

National Donor Sabbath is observed annually on Friday through Sunday two weekends before Thanksgiving (November 11th - 13th, 2016). During this three-day observance, faith leaders, donor families, transplant recipients, and donation and transplantation professionals join forces to increase awareness of the need for lifesaving organ, tissue, and eye donation.

Show compassion and love to your brothers and sisters by joining the New York State Organ, Tissue, and Eye Registry. You can find out more information about the lifesaving gifts passed to others through organ, tissue, and eye donation by visiting www.alliancefordonation.org.



Photo (detail) from the "Life After Life in Prison" Collection

Date: Monday, Nov. 14

Time: Reception 6:30 pm, Panel Discussion 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: The Church of Gethsemane & Kolot Chayeinu, 1012 8th Avenue, Brooklyn,

NY, 11215

Life After Life in Prison introduces Carol, Evelyn, Keila and Tracy, who spent anywhere from 17 to 35 years in a New York State maximum security prison. They were photographed by Sara Bennett, a former criminal defense attorney, who wanted to give a face to "long termers." Bennett's images offer a glimpse of the women's dignity, patience and perseverance as they rebuild their lives in the face of societal hurdles. While each of their stories is unique, they illuminate many of the problems inherent in today's criminal justice system. For more information, contact Victoria at 718.499.6704, ext. 201.

RIKERS, a new documentary from journalist Bill Moyers





Date: Tuesday, Nov. 15 Time: 10:00 pm

Location: Thirteen/WNET

RIKERS premieres on Thirteen/WNET in the New York metro area on November 15th at 10 pm. It is the first documentary to focus exclusively on people formerly detained in New York City's notorious Rikers Island Jail. These riveting personal stories told direct to camera, describe beatings, stabbings and life in solitary confinement. The result is a collective account of a horrific reality beyond the sight of the everyday public. Click here for more info.

Trainings for Restorative Justice and Values Over Violence



Dates and Times:

Friday, Nov. 18, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Saturday, Nov. 19, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Saturday, Dec. 3, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Maryknoll Sisters Center, 10 Pinesbridge Road, Ossining, NY 10562

This is a participatory and intensive series of workshops on restorative justice - helping all of us to try to move from a punishment model towards a crime or a social offense to healing circles of all involved. This seminar has helped us with issues in families, prisons, churches and schools in North and South America. Cost is \$200 with 2 Saturday hot lunches. For more information, call 914.502.0877.

Marianne Williamson at Marble Collegiate Church



Date: Tuesdays

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 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.

If you have an upcoming event that you think ICNY's audience might like to know about, please notify us by <u>filling out this event form</u>. We will try to include events in future bulletins.

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The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2016 is available here.

NOVEMBER 2016

November Full Month NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.

ALL SAINTS' DAY . Western Christian November 1

Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on

the first Sunday after Pentecost.

November 2 ALL SOULS' DAY . Christian

Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as Dia de los Muertos between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion

to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.

ELECTION DAY November 8

A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.

November 9 KRISTALLNACHT

Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.

November 11 VETERANS' DAY

Honors the U. S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.

November 12 BIRTH OF BAHA'U'LLAH . Baha'i

Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the

Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.

November 14-AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring

every child in the U.S. receives a quality education.

November 14 GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY . Sikh

A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev's was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated

according to the lunar date.

November 16 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE

Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human

welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance,

respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.

November 20 TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

November 24 THANKSGIVING DAY

Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast in the

autumn of 1621.

November 26 DAY OF THE COVENANT . Bahá'í

Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of

His son, Abdu'l-Baha, as His successor.

November 27 ADVENT - Christian

> Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the

season is longer and begins in the middle of November.

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