



January 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

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Please Support and Promote ICNY's Work:



Message from ICNY Interim Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Happy new year to one and all! Or at least happy new year by the historically Christian Gregorian calendar. Many New Yorkers are still looking ahead to the Asian lunar new year on January 28, to the Persian new year on March 21, to the Hindu new year (or rather, one of them) on March 28, or to the Jewish and Islamic new years, which both fall on September 21 this time around. But I digress . . . on behalf of ICNY's entire staff and board, I'd like to wish all of our friends and colleagues a happy, healthy, peaceful year in 2017.

I'm afraid, however, that it's going to be a tough year for New Yorkers and others who care about religious diversity and inclusion. Here at ICNY, we will do our best to protect the city we love from Donald Trump's xenophobic policy agenda. I hope you'll save the date of **Wednesday, April 5th**, for the 33rd meeting of the Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice, which will bring together religious and civic leaders to explore the theme of *Hospitality in a Time of Hate: Religious Leadership for an Inclusive City under the Trump Administration*. More details about this important conversation coming soon.

While we are obliged to respond to our political moment, we remain committed to ICNY's long-running programs, and to our ongoing work with local religious and civic leaders. In the short run, for example, ICNY is working with Imam Souleimane Konaté and members of the Micah Institute to support the family of Mohamed Bah, who was killed by NYPD officers in 2012. For more information about this case and our efforts, please contact ICNY's Director of Community Partnerships, Iman Boukadoum, at iman@interfaithcenter.org. And on a brighter note, ICNY is delighted to co-sponsor what I'm sure will be a rich conversation about *Rumi's Secret*, a new biography of

the renowned thirteenth century Persian poet and Sufi mystic, at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine on **Tuesday, January 31st**. See below for details - we hope to see you there!

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, we invite K-12 teachers in New York and elsewhere to apply for the **July 2017 Religious Worlds of New York** summer institute - a three week program, with a generous stipend, that will help them teach about religious diversity. See below or [click here](#) for details. And we hope New York's social service and mental health care providers will save the date of **Wednesday, May 10th**, for the next **Social Work and Religious Diversity** conference, which will explore the complex ties between religion, spirituality, and family life. More details and registration coming soon.

With your support, ICNY will continue our work with local religious and civic leaders, social workers, teachers, and others. Together we will build a more inclusive city in 2017 and far beyond - regardless of how the political winds (or bigoted hot air) may blow. This is our promise to you, and to all New Yorkers. Our new year's resolution, this year and every year.

Best Wishes,



Dr. Henry Goldschmidt
Interim Executive Director
Director of Programs
The Interfaith Center of New York

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ICNY Upcoming Events



Religious Worlds of New York
K-12 Teachers Welcome to Apply for ICNY's next Summer Institute

Religious Worlds of New York
Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity
Teacher Applications Accepted Now!



Applications due by March 1st, 2017.

K-12 teachers are now invited to apply for the next **Religious Worlds of New York** summer institute - a three week program, with a generous stipend, that will help them teach about religious diversity. In today's climate of religious bigotry and extremism, public, private, and faith-based school teachers can play an important role in promoting interfaith understanding. The **July 2017 Religious Worlds** institute will give them the tools they need to help build a more inclusive society. Past participants have described the institute as "my best professional development experience ever" and "one of the best learning experiences of my life" ([click here for many more evaluations](#)). Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity to explore the religious worlds of New York.

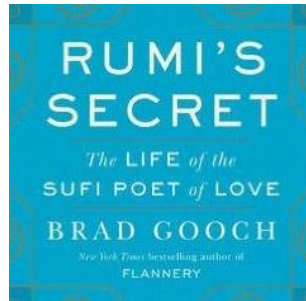
The institute is sponsored by ICNY and Union Theological Seminary, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. It will meet from **July 10th to 28th, 2017** on the UTS campus, in the Manhattan neighborhood of Morningside Heights. All NEH summer scholars will receive a **\$2,700 stipend** to help pay travel, housing, and living expenses for the duration of the institute. Applications from teachers are due by March 1st. For detailed information and application instructions, please visit www.religiousworldsnyc.org.

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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



Rumi's Secret
At the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine



Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, 1047 Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street

ICNY, the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, and our partners are delighted to welcome bestselling author **Brad Gooch** and leading imam **Feisal Abdul Rauf** to discuss Gooch's moving new biography of **Rumī**, the renowned thirteenth century Persian poet and Sufi mystic. In addition to a conversation about Rumi's life and legacy, the evening will include performances of Sufi music and dance by celebrated New York composer **Amir Alan Vahab** and Persian dance master **Rana Gorgani**.

Rumi famously wrote: *“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing / and rightdoing there is a field. / I'll meet you there. / When the soul lies down in that grass / the world is too full to talk about.”* All New Yorkers are invited to come talk about it anyway, on Wednesday, January 31, at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. In addition to the Cathedral and ICNY, the program is co-sponsored by Alwan for the Arts, Cordoba House, Auburn Seminary, and the Open Center. A \$10 contribution is suggested.

Faith Leader Survey from the
NYC Department of Youth & Community Development



The New York City Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) is seeking input from New York's religious leaders, to help them serve diverse local communities. DYCD's essential mission is to invest in a network of community-based organizations and programs that alleviate the effects of poverty, and provide opportunities for all New Yorkers to flourish. If you are a New York City clergy member or community leader, we hope you will [click here to take a brief survey](#). Please take a moment and tell DYCD about the programs and services your faith community needs, as well as the programs and services your congregation or organization provides. Thanks for helping DYCD help all New Yorkers! And please [click here for more information](#) about DYCD's important work.

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Other Events



We Thirst for Justice- Multi-Faith Celebration



Date: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 16

Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: The Bates House in Frank Melville Park, 1 Bates Rd. Setauket NY 11733

Bringing together people of different faiths and backgrounds to celebrate our vision for a socially just future. Event will include creating a collaborative piece of art, live music and culturally diverse food. Call 631-240-3471 for additional information or [click here](#).

New online course from the Woolf Institute, Cambridge: Religion Is...



Application closes January 16th, 2017

This 12-week course will provide participants with an introduction to the Abrahamic religions. It will provide an understanding of the beliefs that underpin these religions. The course will allow anyone who has a thirst for knowledge to discover narratives and stories and to reflect on key events and historical moments. It will help participants understand how each religion has changed over time and in different places. The course will also show how religion contributes to, and is influenced by, society in the 21st century. The closing date for applications is January 16th, 2017.

The course begins on February 6th, 2017. The course fee is £275 (approx. \$330). A limited number of scholarships are available. [Click here for more info and to apply.](#)

Russell Berrie Fellowship in Interreligious Studies 2017-2018 - Info Webinar



JOHN PAUL II CENTER
— for —
INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Dates/Times: Tuesday, January 17 at 11:00 am CET (Central European Time) and Thursday, February 2 at 4:00 pm CET (Central European Time)

The Russell Berrie Fellowship Program is a timely initiative at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum). Along with the establishment of an Annual Lecture Series on Interreligious Studies, the goal of the Fellowship Program is to build bridges between Christian, Jewish, and other religious traditions by providing the next generation of religious leaders with a comprehensive understanding of and dedication to interfaith issues. Russell Berrie Fellows are expected to complete the program and return home to their parishes and communities to lead others in efforts to promote interfaith understanding.

The Fellowship targets clergy, religious, and members of the laity for the purpose of studying at the Angelicum to obtain a Licence Degree or a Diploma in Interreligious Studies. Applicants of all faiths and backgrounds from around the world- including students currently enrolled at the Angelicum- who have a demonstrated interest in Interreligious Studies are encouraged to apply.

[Click here to register](#) for one of the two remaining open webinars to learn more about the Fellowship Program, the application requirements, and to ask your questions if you have any.

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 2017 is available [here](#).

JANUARY 2017

January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.
January 1	TEMPLE DAY • Buddhist Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.
January 5	GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh Guru Gobind Singh was the Tenth Guru of the Sikhs who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and is known as the Father of the Khalsa.
January 6	EPIPHANY • Christian Known as <i>Theophany</i> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.
January 6	CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.
January 7	CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.
January 12–15	MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.
January 14	MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.
January 15	WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.
January 16	DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.
January 16–20	NO NAME-CALLING WEEK Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.
January 27	UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.
January 28	LUNAR NEW YEAR On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.

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