



INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

March 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

On this Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent for Christians, we mourn the death of Srinivas Kuchibhotla – murdered in Olathe, Kansas, by an individual who thought that he had shot “two Middle Eastern men.” (Srinivas and Alok Madasani who was wounded are both from India). Muslim Advocates and other community and faith groups are [urging an objective and thorough investigation into this killing](#). We also think of those whose loved ones rest in Jewish cemeteries across the country, and children attending Jewish schools and synagogues that received bomb threats. Click to read [ADL](#) and [Episcopal Bishops of Washington and Virginia's Statements](#).

Thanks to the Administration's misguided Executive Orders, diverse Americans have never been more vulnerable. Last week in New York members of the West African Muslim community were afraid to come from Harlem to a rally at One Police Plaza, [Latino residents of Staten Island, were afraid to send their children to school](#) and – hitting closest to home – a long-time ICNY ally and advocate for marginalized New Yorkers for 20 years, [Director of the New Sanctuary Movement Ravi Ragbir is facing the prospect of his OWN deportation](#) when he checks in with ICE on March 9th at 26 Federal Plaza.

Please join us to accompany Ravi Ragbir to his ICE appointment at 26 Federal Plaza on March 9th, at 9am. [Click here for more info](#), and please RSVP to Rhiya at rst314@nyu.edu 347-235-9410. Please spread the word and also consider signing this petition, declaring your support for Ravi: <https://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/we-support-ravi>

In this newsletter, you will find a number of ways to support the civil and human rights of all our communities. Please join us on April 5th for his year's Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat “Hospitality in a Time of Hate” that will feature Donna Leiberman, Exec. Dir. Of the New York Civil Liberties Union; Debbie Almontaser, Muslim Community Network, David J. Kennedy, Assistant US Attorney, Southern District of New York, Dr. Peter Heltzel, New York Theological Seminary & the Micah Table, Sapreet Kaur of the Sikh Coalition, The Rev. Donna Schaper of the Sanctuary Church, Judson Memorial. Learn how to develop new alliances, empower communities against hate crimes, and become places of sanctuary whether you are part of a house of worship or not. [Registration here](#).

Our most recent "Interfaith Matters" podcast conversation with Dr. Diane Steinman discussed [how to provide sanctuary for undocumented immigrants](#).

In addition, this year's [Social Work and Religious Diversity Conference](#), a day of accredited continuing education for social workers and their colleagues, will take place on May 10th at 475 Riverside Drive. Speakers include **Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, LCSW**, Rabbinic Director of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, **Maryum Khwaja, LCSW**, psychotherapist at the Bleuler Psychotherapy Center in Forest Hills, **Anindita Chatterjee Bhaumik, LICSW**, clinician in private practice with Boston Evening Therapy Associates, **Rev. Dr. Willard W. C. Ashley, Sr.** Dean of the Seminary and Associate Professor of Practical Theology at New Brunswick Theological Seminary and staff psychotherapist at the Riverside Church, and **Dr. Henry Goldschmidt**, Director of Programs at the Interfaith Center of New York.

Also, the new Center for Faith & Community Partnerships in the Mayor's office is hosting a weekend of action "**Immigrants are Our Neighbors**" this weekend. SIGN-UP for a toolkit to distribute at your place of worship. Toolkits include information about: • City Services for NYC Immigrants • Know Your Rights Information • Consumer Tips for Immigrants • Emergency Planning Resources for Immigrants • Fact Sheet on Protections for Muslims • IDNYC Information. [Click here and sign-up to receive toolkit.](#)

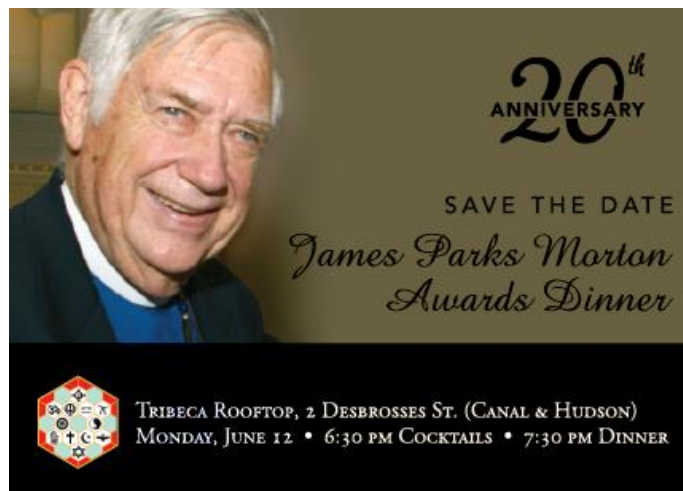
There's a lot going on these days at the Interfaith Center, and in New York's diverse faith communities. To really keep up with the latest, [subscribe to our email list](#) and get news delivered directly to your inbox.

Best Wishes,



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

P.S. Last, but definitely not the least: Please save the date for ICNY's 20th Anniversary James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner on Monday, June 12th. More details coming soon!





**[Registration is Open](#) for
*The 33rd Marshall Meyer Retreat for Social Justice***

**[Hospitality in a Time of Hate:
Religious Leadership for an Inclusive City under the Trump Administration](#)**



Date/Time: Wednesday, April 5, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: [The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive](#) (between 119th and 120th Streets), Manhattan, NYC

On April 5th, ICNY will hold a full-day conference for the city's religious and civic leaders, exploring the emerging challenges for religious leadership under the presidency of Donald Trump. How, we will ask, can diverse New Yorkers best respond to the Trump administration's xenophobic rhetoric and policy agenda? What new opportunities for dialogue, collaboration, and community organizing might emerge, as faith leaders mobilize around the rising tides of racism, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism? How can we advance an inclusive vision for the future of the city and country we love, in what may be a period of sustained attacks on our core values and communities?

Our distinguished keynote speaker will be **Donna Lieberman, Esq.**, the Executive Director of the [New York Civil Liberties Union](#). Ms. Lieberman's address will be followed by faith-based responses from **Dr. Debbie Almontaser**, President of the [Muslim Community Network](#), and **Rev. Dr. Peter Heltzel**, Director of the [Micah Institute](#) at New York Theological Seminary. Following this keynote panel, additional sessions will explore:

- the role of religious leaders in supporting New York’s diverse immigrant communities
- new opportunities for interfaith coalition building, including emerging Muslim-Jewish partnerships
- effective responses to the disturbing rise of hate speech and hate crimes since the election

Conference registration is free for all participants, including meals and materials, thanks in part to a generous grant from the [Fellowship in Prayer](#).

Please join us on April 5th by visiting the [Conference Registration page](#).

And [click here to receive email updates](#) on this and other ICNY events.

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***Social Work and Religious Diversity:
Religion, Spirituality, and Family Life***

[Registration Now Open](#) for a Full Day Conference on May 10, 2017
Seven Hours of Continuing Education for New York State LMSWs and LCSWs



*Faith leaders and service providers in conversation
at the 2016 Social Work and Religious Diversity conference*

Date/Time: Wednesday, May 10, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: [The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive](#) (between 119th and 120th Streets), Manhattan, NYC

The Interfaith Center of New York and our partners are delighted to announce a continuing education conference for social workers and their colleagues. Please join us on Wednesday, May 10, to explore the intimate ties between religion, spirituality, and family life. Panel discussions will focus on: traditional and not-so-traditional family systems in diverse local faith communities; the distinctive needs and concerns of interfaith couples and families; and the ways in which faith communities themselves may function as families for many New Yorkers. Speakers will include faith-based service providers, community leaders, and scholars from a wide range of religious traditions

The conference is cosponsored by The Interfaith Center of New York, the Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services, and the Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute. It will help all social service and mental health care providers work more effectively with diverse clients and communities, while offering New York LMSWs and LCSWs seven continuing education credit hours approved to meet state licensing requirements.

Registration is now open, and space is limited. [Click here for detailed information, online registration, and free resources for social workers.](#)

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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



City of Refuge



When: **March 14**

Noon: Rally at 40 Wall St

1 PM: Interfaith Welcome at Trinity Church Wall St.

2-6: Know-your-rights workshops, Cultural Events, Refugee Action

9:30: Vigil

March 15

9:30: Closing and Send-Off from Trinity

10 AM: March to Foley Square via The African Burial Grounds

Where: Trinity Church Wall Street, [Broadway at Wall Street, New York, NY](#)

City of Refuge is a 24-hour mobilization to Stop the Refugee Ban, Save Asylum, and Defend Temporary Protected Status. We are lifting up the stories of refugees and raising up our voices for humanitarian immigration.

The Trump Administration has openly attacked and demonized refugees. The Administration has put forward a freeze on refugee admissions, barred Syrian refugees, and slashed the numbers of refugees admitted for the current year. Trump has ordered a crack down on asylum applications in the US, raising concerns that refugees will be denied due process and returned to countries where they are risk. We are also concerned that the Administration will end Temporary Protected Status programs that protect tens of thousands of immigrants from West Africa, Haiti, Central America, Nepal and other countries experiencing humanitarian crises.

We are calling for an end to the refugee ban, the preservation of asylum and TPS, and truly humanitarian immigration policy. We will organize 24 hours of powerful actions in solidarity with refugees. We are invoking the spirit of the Statue of Liberty and the history of New York as a City of Refuge for immigrants and refugees from around the world.

On Tuesday March 14 at noon, we will rally at 40 Wall Street – The Trump Building. Tuesday at 1 pm, we will march from the Trump Building to the historic Trinity Church, carrying rafts, boats, dinghies, life preservers, and photos and stories of refugees. We will be welcomed to Trinity by Trinity clergy and the interfaith delegation. Throughout the afternoon and evening, Trinity will host teach-ins, cultural events, and action for refugees, as well as an overnight ‘tent city.’ Tuesday night at 10 pm, we will host a "torchlight vigil" where we will raise the Torch of Liberty together. Wednesday morning at 11 am, we will march to the Federal Building, and gather at Foley Plaza for a closing rally at noon.

For more information: African Communities Together, <http://www.africans.us/>
phone: [646-660-1688](tel:646-660-1688).

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Other Events



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.

Sanctuary Training



The New Sanctuary Coalition of NYC is an interfaith network of congregations, organizations, and individuals, standing publicly in solidarity with families and communities resisting detention and deportation in order to stay together. We recognize that unjust global and systemic economic relationships and racism form the basis of the injustices that affect immigrants. We seek reform of United States immigration laws to promote fairness, social and economic justice. We are a branch of the National New Sanctuary Movement. Upcoming trainings:

Beyond the Rights Training

Wednesday, March 1, 6:30pm at [Union City Schools, Union City, NJ](#)

Accompaniment Training

Friday, March 3, 5:30 pm – 7:30pm at NYU Vanderbilt Hall, Room 206, [40 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012](#) For more details on this event, and [RSVP click here](#)

Sanctuary Training

Sunday, March 5, 2:00 – 5:00 pm at [New Rochelle United Methodist Church, New Rochelle, NY 10804](#)

Accompany Ravi Ragbir to ICE appointment

Thursday, March 9, 9:00 am – 11:00 am; 9 am Press conference at [Foley Square](#), 10 am Jericho Walk around 26 Federal Plaza

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1372307882825710/>

For more information: <https://newsanctuarynyc.wordpress.com/>

NY Against Trump Activist Training



Date: Thursday, March 2

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Alfred Lerner Hall Rm 569, Columbia Univ, [2920 Broadway, NY, NY 10027](https://www.columbia.edu/10027)

Grassroots movements have their work cut out for them in the next 4 years. With the incoming administration promising a new nuclear arms race and rollbacks of important progress (like shredding the Iran Deal), we need to build movements prepared to defend what we've won and fight for our future. Global Zero is holding a training for community and student leaders in the NYC area to train on organizing skills, learn how to plug into our and our partners' campaigns, and meet fellow activists. For more info, [click here](#) or contact John Qua at john@globalzero.org. For free tickets, [RSVP here](#).

The Connection between Ifa and the Orisas -Part 2

Interested in finding out who your Orisa is? Call to reserve your spot.
347-938-9335

Healing And Teaching
Temple Of African Faith
Workshops

by Healing And Teaching Temple of
African Faith (HATTAF)

\$10

Date: Saturday, March 4

Time: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Location: Harlem Collective, [1867 Amsterdam Avenue and 152nd Street](https://www.harlemcollective.com/), Ground floor

A beginner's understanding of the relationship between Ifa and Orisas as viewed by the Yoruba people of Nigeria. Admission is \$10. For more information, [click here](#).

Celebrating Excellence Gala Performances



Date: Monday, March 13

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm. Doors open at 7:00 pm

Location: [The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive](#) (between 119th and 120th Streets), Manhattan, NYC

Internationally assembled performing artists gift this evening to honor humanity's capacities towards sustainable development goals and the conferring of the 2017 Ralph J. Bunche International Medals. Complimentary tickets are available [here](#) or for more information, call Wilda at 336-682-8397. Together, let's CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE and EMPOWER HOPE!

Mental Health First Aid Certification for Religious Leaders

Free 1 Day Trainings: Morning Coffee & Lunch Provided



Mental Health First Aid

Certification for Religious Leaders

Offered by **New York Disaster Interfaith Services** and
The Salvation Army from **8:30am-5:00pm**

Date: Wednesday, March 15 (or April 19)

Time: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm

Location: Emblem Health, [55 Water Street, New York, NY 10041](#)

Mental Health First Aid is a groundbreaking public education program which introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments. Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course, which uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess

a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect persons to professional, peer, social, and self-help care. The program also teaches about the risk factors and warning signs of specific illnesses like anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, eating disorders, and addictions. For more information please contact nycmhfa@health.nyc.gov. To Register [click here](#).

Global Refugee Crisis: Time for New Thinking



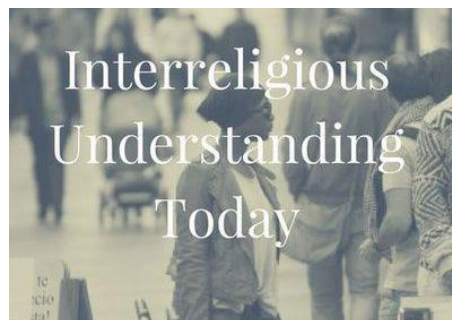
Date: Thursday, March 16

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Jewish Theological Seminary, [3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027](#)

With tens of millions displaced by conflict in the Middle East, Africa, and beyond, the world is facing the most serious refugee crisis since World War II. Join us for a discussion of what the international community can and should do about it, led by President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee and former UK Foreign Secretary David Miliband and moderated by Rebecca Bardach, who has worked with the UNHCR and the government of Israel on refugee status, policies, and procedures and with the Joint Distribution Committee to establish its Center for International Migration and Integration. Admission is free but tickets are required - [click here](#). For [more info](#): Rabbi Burt Visotzky buvisotzky@jtsa.edu.

Online Course on Interreligious Understanding



Date: Course commences: April 3; Application deadline: March 17
Location: <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/e-learning/interreligious-understanding.asp>

The Woolf Institute is delighted to announce the launch of its second new online course for 2017 - Interreligious Understanding Today will provide a forum in which the participants will:

- explore different kinds of interreligious understanding between Abrahamic religions and beyond;
- compare the ways in which such understanding can be achieved in different cultural and political contexts in the world (US, Asia, Europe);
- study the relationship between secularity and interreligious understanding;
- and explore the ways in which the challenges to interreligious understanding posed by religious nationalisms and extremisms can be addressed.

St. Francis Prep Premiere of “The Sultan and the Saint”



Date: Thursday, March 30

Time: 7:00 pm — 9:00 pm

Location: The Bro. Ralph Clifford, OSF Auditorium, St. Francis Preparatory School, [6100 Francis Lewis Boulevard, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365](#)

Please join us for a viewing of this film about the historic meeting between St. Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malik al-Kamil during the Crusades. Their meeting became a great example of mutual respect and understanding. We hope to facilitate discussion after the film as well. (This event was postponed from Feb 9th due to the blizzard). For more info [click here](#).

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ADL Calendar of Observances



The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2017 is available [here](#).

MARCH 2017

March	Full Month	NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH Honors women as significant agents of historical change.
March 1		ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
March 2– March 20		NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set aside time for prayer and meditation.
March 8		INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.
March 12		MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist Also known as <i>Sangha Day</i> , it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 arahants, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.
March 12		PURIM • Jewish The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.
March 13		HOLLA MOHALLA • Sikh An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday.
March 13		HOLI • Hindu Also called <i>Holaka</i> or <i>Phagwa</i> , this festival celebrates spring and commemorates various events in Hindu mythology.
March 17		ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.
March 20		VERNAL EQUINOX The date when night and day are nearly the same length. It marks the first day of the season of spring.
March 21		INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION Call to action to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination worldwide.
March 21		NOWRÚZ • Zoroastrian A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New Year. Also celebrated as New Year's Day in Baha'i tradition (Naw-Ruz).
March 31		CESAR CHAVEZ DAY Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927–1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.

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