



INTERFAITH
CENTER OF NEW YORK

April 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from ICNY Executive Director



Courtesy of Gothamist

Last month, The Interfaith Center of New York staff joined members of African Communities Together, Trinity Wall Street, and refugee advocates to camp out in the Trinity Churchyard at Broadway and Wall St. for 24 hours of support for refugees. We brought together diverse faith leaders from The Lab Shul, Buddhist Relief, Sadhana, Muslim Communities Together, The Community of St. Egidio, St. Joseph's College, The Buddhist Council of New York, St. Francis Xavier, The Labor Religion Coalition, the Majlis Ashura, Jewish Theological Seminary, and HIAS for prayers and reflections during the **City of Refuge**. Our tents and rafts were planted steps away from the grave of that great economic refugee, Alexander Hamilton. We participated in teach-ins, prayed for migrants who have died, and appealed to our elected officials to increase refugee quotas. Press about the City of Refuge can be found here:

- [Al Jazeera English Live Video on City of Refuge](#)
- [Fox 5 News: Refugees set up camp at Trinity Church to protest Trump](#)
- [The Upstander: Immigrant Groups Launch 24 Hours of Action Against Refugee Ban](#)
- [WNYC News: 24 Hours of Actions to Support Immigrants, Refugees](#)
- [Guerrilla Journalism: Immigrant-activists in 24-hours of New York "City of Refuge" Protests](#)

- [Gothamist: Activists Form Temporary Tent City In The Financial District To Support Global Refugees](#)
- [Metro: City of Refuge: African coalition stages refugee encampment in protest of Trump immigration policies](#)

Today, ICNY is proudly hosting our **33rd Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat** "Hospitality in a Time of Hate" for over 120 diverse New York religious leaders. For further information on speakers and to watch clips of speakers like Donna Lieberman of the NYCLU, Ravi Ragbir of the New Sanctuary Coalition, Sapreet Kaur of the Sikh Coalition, and David Kennedy, Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, [click HERE](#).

Please join ICNY for our annual conference, **Social Work and Religious Diversity** on May 10th. Speakers from the Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services, The Islamic Center at New York University, Bleuler Psychotherapy Center in Forest Hills, and other places specializing in faith, social work, and/or psychology will be addressing family life and spirituality from a diverse faith perspective. To register, please [click HERE](#).

Finally, for the **20th Anniversary of the James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner on June 12th at the Tribeca Rooftop**, we are thrilled to be honoring **Preet Baharara**, former US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, **Ann Rockefeller Roberts**, founder of the Four Directions Foundation, and **The Community of Sant’Egidio**, a Roman Catholic lay order of 60,000 people worldwide, dedicated to prayer, conflict resolution, and humanitarian concerns. To see more details about the event and purchase tickets and tables please [click HERE](#).

Best Wishes,



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

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ICNY *Upcoming Events*



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

[Still Time to Register](#) 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 Social Work and Religious Diversity conference

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

Location: [The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive](#)

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 with faith-based service providers and community leaders will focus on: the religious lives of diverse local families; the distinctive needs of interfaith families; and the ways in which faith communities themselves may function as families for many New Yorkers. ***Don't miss this great opportunity to explore the religious lives of the people you serve!***

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. You don't need to be a social worker to attend, but the conference is designed to meet the needs of New York LMSWs and LCSWs, offering **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.](#)

The Interfaith Center of New York's 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner

 <p data-bbox="657 1564 820 1648">20th ANNIVERSARY</p> <p data-bbox="503 1669 828 1753"><i>James Parks Morton Awards Dinner</i></p>	<p data-bbox="909 1533 1128 1627">TRIBECA ROOFTOP, 2 DESBROSSES ST. (CANAL & HUDSON)</p> <p data-bbox="909 1669 1128 1764">MONDAY, JUNE 12 6:30 PM COCKTAILS 7:30 PM DINNER</p>
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[Join us](#), as we celebrate our 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner on June 12, 2017 at the [Tribeca Rooftop](#)

This Year's Honorees

Preet Bharara served as US Attorney in the Southern District of New York from 2009-2017. In 2012, Mr. Bharara was **featured on the cover of Time magazine** for his office's prosecutions of insider trading and other financial fraud on Wall Street. He took important steps to restore the public trust in US financial systems by prosecuting almost 100 individuals who prioritized personal gain over the public good and broke insider trading laws in doing so. As someone from a Sikh and Hindu background in a family that also embraces Muslim and Jewish heritage, Mr. Bharara exemplifies the promise of an interfaith approach to public service and justice.

The Community of Sant'Egidio is a Roman Catholic religious order and worldwide movement of 60,000 lay people, based on prayer, solidarity, ecumenism, and dialogue. The Community was founded in 1968 after Vatican II and is known for its peacemaking and humanitarian service. Living out the Gospels' message of love, peace and friendship with the poor, the Community of Sant'Egidio's track two diplomacy efforts in the 1990s in Mozambique, Algeria and many other sites of conflict have been recognized internationally.

Ann Rockefeller Roberts has devoted a lifetime to the rights and welfare of Native Americans, with a deep understanding of their traditions and worldviews and also of the immense challenges facing Indigenous peoples today. Founder and President of the Fund of the Four Directions, in Indian country she worked for the revitalization of the lifeways and cultures of Native Americans of North America with an emphasis on language restoration and intergenerational collaboration as well as social justice and sovereignty. Ann has strong, enduring ties with traditional Elders and gives focused support to their activities and concerns as well as to the development of grassroots Indigenous communities.

[Please join us at this joyous occasion by purchasing your tickets here!](#)

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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



#LetMyPeopleStay
Seder in Support of Immigrants' Rights

Date: April 11, 2017

Location: Broadway, Between Worth and Duane (in front of 26 Federal Plaza)

Time: Tuesday, April 11, 8:15 a.m

Interfaith Seder for Solidarity With Families Facing Deportation invites you to support people who are facing potential detention and deportation. This interfaith gathering will help send a clear, strong message that New Yorkers stand with families— regardless of their immigration status. Dozens of people each day must check-in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement at 26 Federal Plaza. Ravi Ragbir—our friend and colleague—must check-in again on April 11th, 2017. When individuals enter 26 Federal Plaza to check-in, they don't know if they will be able to see their families again. Now more than ever it is important to show solidarity in the face of policies that threaten our communities.

Join us for an Interfaith Seder on the First Day of Passover, and the day of Ravi's next ICE check-in, to stand with individuals and families facing deportation. This act of solidarity will bring together advocates and supporters to show immigrants that they are not alone. To receive text message updates, please text **ISTANDWITHRAVI** (one word, capital or lower case letters are fine) to 41411

Tweet with **#LetMyPeopleStay**. Share the Facebook Event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1300105246735380/>. Forward this e-mail to your friends, and if they want to sign up for e-mail updates, they can using this form: <http://eepurl.com/bhAGyz>

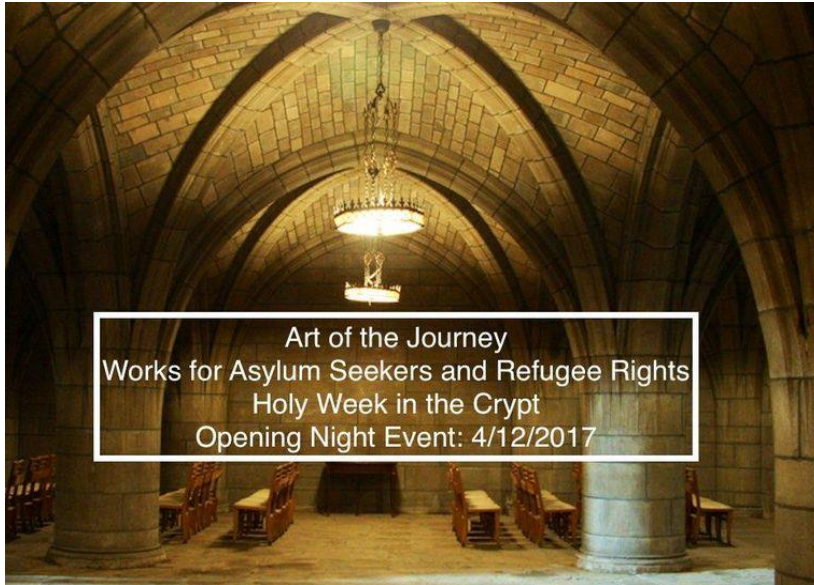
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Other Events



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.

Art of the Journey: Art in support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers



Date: Wednesday, April 12

Time: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Location: Church of the Intercession, [550 West 155th Street, New York, NY](#)

Art done by and in support of refugees and asylum seekers through the [Robert Daniel Jones Refugee Shelter](#). April 12th will be the opening night of exhibition in the Crypt of Church of the Intercession. [Click here for more information](#) or e-mail Alex Barton at abarton@gts.edu

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, 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](#).

We Are One: Micah Faith Table Lunch



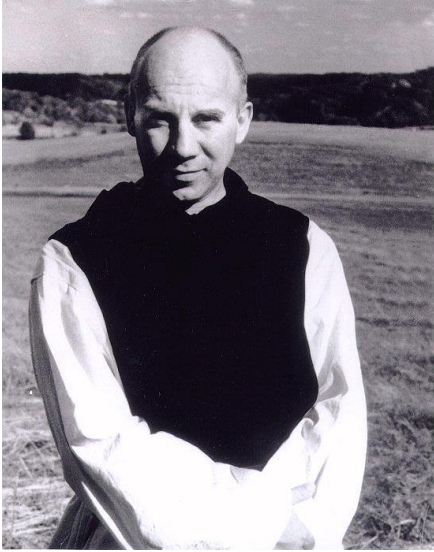
Date: Thursday, April 20, 2017

Times: 12 noon to 2 pm

Location: [Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, NYC 10027](#), Assembly Hall

For more information, please contact Rev. Peter Goodwin Heltzel, Ph.D., cell: 646-279-6690.

Redeeming the Rhinoceros



Date: Saturday, April 22

Time: 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Location: Corpus Christi Church, [529 West 121st Street, NYC](#)

Where is humanity heading in its stampede to privatize what belongs to the common good? Join us for a thoughtful afternoon as Dr. Paul Pearson explores Thomas Merton's journey from cloistered to activist monk who put himself in the stampede's path to deepen his roots in social justice. Dr. Pearson is Director and Archivist of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY, and Chief of Research for the Merton Legacy Trust. Cost: Free for Members & Students; \$20 for non-members.

<http://www.thomasmertonnyc.org/saturday-april-22>

For more info: Teresa Scott, 914-325-9875, info@thomasmertonnyc.org

America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far



Date: Ongoing

Times: Sunday and Tuesday - Friday, 10 am - 5pm, Saturday, 10 am - 7pm

Location: Children's Museum of Manhattan, Tisch Bldg, [212 West 83rd St, NYC 10024](#)

As terrorism fears have mounted and tensions have escalated toward Muslims in the United States in recent years, the [Children's Museum of Manhattan](#) is doing its part to help defuse the rising anxiety. Its exhibition "*America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far*" showcases the history, art and traditions of Muslims, with the belief that education will beat back ignorance and hate every time.

"We want young children to be exposed to as much diversity as possible to better understand other people and themselves, and there's no question that reduces prejudice, violence and misunderstandings. People really want to dig in and get a better understanding from a trusted source about Muslim cultures," said Andrew S. Ackerman, the museum's executive director.

"Biases can form by age 6," noted Lizzy Martin, the show's curator. [Click here for more information.](#)

Mental Health: An Evidence-Based Workshop for Religious Leaders & Educators



CENTER *for* ANXIETY

Treatment that Works

Date: Sunday, May 7

Times: 2:00 pm – 6 :00 pm

Location: [313 W. 83rd Street, New York, NY 10024](#)

This is a workshop for religious leaders and educators on mental health. Attendees will learn about the prevalence, severity and impact of common mental disorders, evidence-based treatments for common mental disorders, the relevance of spirituality/religion to mental disorders, and the important roles that religious leaders and educators can plan in helping individuals with mental disorders.

To register or for more information please [Click Here](#), or contact us at info@centerforanxiety.org or 646-837-5557. Registration Fee: \$100 (\$75 for Students).

ADL Calendar of Observances



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

APRIL 2017

April	Full Month	GENOCIDE AWARENESS MONTH A month that marks important anniversaries for past and contemporary genocides. Throughout the month, individuals, communities and organizations join together to commemorate and honor victims and survivors of mass atrocities.
April 5		RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and seventh incarnation of Vishnu.
April 9		PALM SUNDAY • Christian Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.
April 11–14		THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.
April 11–18		PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish The eight-day “Feast of Unleavened Bread” celebrates Israel’s deliverance from Egyptian bondage.
April 13		HOLY THURSDAY • Christian Also known as <i>Maundy Thursday</i> , it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last time before the Crucifixion.
April 14		GOOD FRIDAY • Christian Known as <i>Holy Friday</i> in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on the Friday before Easter/Pascha.
April 14		VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi) • Sikh The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.
April 16		EASTER • Christian Known as <i>Pascha</i> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
April 16		DAY OF SILENCE Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.
April 21–May 2		FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá’í Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá’u’lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá’í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed His mission as God’s messenger for this age. The first (April 21), ninth (April 29), and twelfth (May 2) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha’is suspend work.
April 23		YOM HASHOAH • Jewish “Holocaust Remembrance Day” memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
April 24		ARMENIAN MARTYRS’ DAY Memorializes the genocide of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.

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