



May 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from ICNY Executive Director

Greetings,

In this month's newsletter, you will find information about today's May Day March for workers and immigrants; the ICNY's upcoming Social Work and Religious Diversity conference; the Annual James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner; a Facing History and Ourselves workshop on overcoming Islamophobia in schools; and the First Lady of New York, Chirlane McCray's ThriveNYC initiative to raise awareness in congregations about mental health issues.

These local interfaith efforts are matched internationally as we follow Pope Francis' visit to Egypt, following in the footsteps of his namesake Saint Francis who visited the Sultan of Demietta in Egypt during the Fifth Crusade. Centuries ago as wars were raging, Saint Francis crossed the battle lines unarmed and was treated with respect and hospitality when he arrived at the residence of Sultan Malik-al-Kamal. Recently, Pope Francis met with the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Al-Tayeb. Both leaders condemned terrorism in the name of religion and the arms trade that supports it. For more information on the Pope's Pilgrimage see:

[Al-Tayeb receives Pope Francis at Al-Azhar headquarters](#)
[Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Participants in the International Peace Conference](#)

Finally, we would like to bring your attention to an Evensong and Talk honoring the legacy of Thurgood Marshall with Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Stephen Breyer; interfaith resources to combat human trafficking; a new highly-acclaimed film, *Sacred*; and a new book on *The Buddhist Swastika and Hitler's Cross*, by our former board member and president of the Buddhist Council of New York, T.K. Nakagaki.

Best Wishes,

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



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



[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!](#)

ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



MAY DAY! Rise Up, NY! For Immigrant and Worker Rights!



Date: Monday, May 1, 2017

Times: 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Foley Square, [111 Worth St, New York, New York 10013](https://www.google.com/maps/place/111+Worth+St,+New+York,+NY+10013)

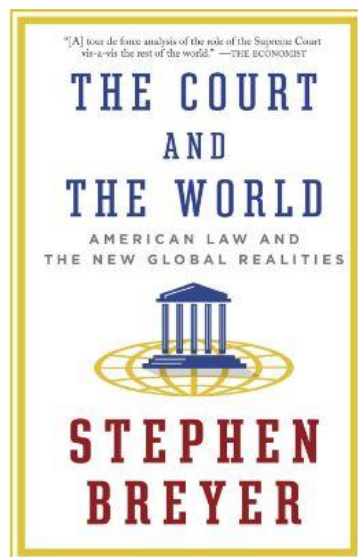
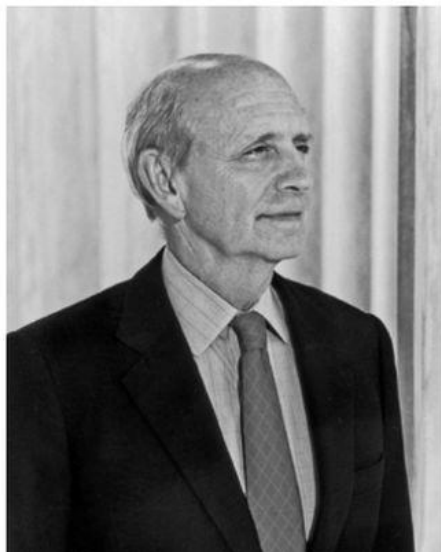
At 5:00 pm New Yorkers from across the city will converge in Manhattan to stand together and resist the policies of the Trump Administration. Join us as we hear from musical performers who represent the diverse communities of New York City and directly from people impacted by Trump's bigoted and anti-worker policies.

Featured Speakers:

- Individuals directly impacted by President Trump's Muslim and refugee ban
- Individuals directly impacted by the Administration's callous and indiscriminate immigration enforcement actions
- DACAmended individuals
- Linda Sarsour, Palestinian American civil rights activist, co-chair of Women's march
- Cecile Richards, President, Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Planned Parenthood Action Fund
- Héctor Figueroa, President, SEIU 32BJ,
- Henry Garrido, Executive Director, DC37
- Edison Severino, Business Manager, LiUNA Local 78
- Leticia James, New York City Public Advocate
- Scott Stringer, New York City Comptroller
- Melissa Mark Viverito, New York City Council Speaker

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1804989066488877/>

Two Events with US Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer



Date: Friday, May 12, 2017

Times: 10:00 am –11:30 am

Location: Sutton Place Synagogue, [225 East 51st Street, New York, NY 10022](#)

The New York Board of Rabbis in cooperation with the Interfaith Center of New York invites you to join us for a special morning with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer on Friday, May 12, 2017, where he will discuss his book, "*The Court and the World*" from 10:00 am –11:30 am. Hosted by Rabbi Rachel Ain and Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 East 51st Street, New York, NY. Due to security, reservations required. Reservation Non-transferable and photo ID will be requested.

RSVP by Wednesday, May 10th: Rabbi Diana Gerson The New York Board of Rabbis Telephone: 212-983-3521 E-Mail: dgerson@nybr.org. Space limited.

<http://files.constantcontact.com/67c7699b201/8c48411d-8610-4fff-a9d7-f3d341d012d7.pdf>

-- also --

Date: Saturday, May 13, 2017

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: St. Philip's Episcopal Church, [204 West 134th St., NYC](#)

An Evensong Conversation in honor of Justice Thurgood Marshall with The Hon. Stephen G. Breyer Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States Evensong with readings appointed for Justice Marshall's commemoration will begin at 4:00 p.m., after which Justice Breyer will speak. Q&A will follow, and light refreshments will be served. The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, Suffragan Bishop of New York will offer welcome and blessings. RSVP: cbreyer@interfaithcenter.org

Helping Schools Confront Islamophobia



Date: Monday, May 15, 2017

Times: 9:00 am — 4:00 pm

Location: Interchurch Center, [475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115](#)

Misconceptions and a lack of understanding dominate perceptions of Islam in many societies. In this workshop we will examine the impact of stereotypes, bias, discrimination, and hate crimes toward people perceived to be Muslim in both the United States and Europe. Registration Fee: \$10.00

<https://www.facinghistory.org/calendar/w2017ny2-helping-schools-confront-islamophobia>

For more info: renee_harleston@facing.org

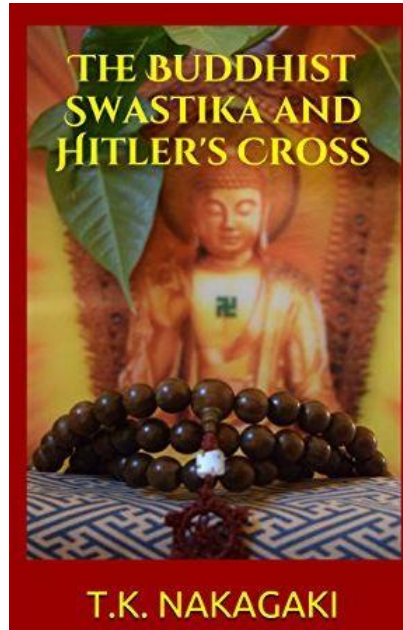
Other Events



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.

The Buddhist Swastika and Hitler's Cross

T.K. Nakagaki, president of the Buddhist Council of New York and former board member of ICNY, has written a new book exploring one of the most highly-valued and commonly misunderstood symbols in human history: the swastika. For over three thousand years, the swastika has been understood by many cultures and religions (including Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism) as the symbol of the sun, good fortune and auspiciousness. In the 20th century, Hitler's misappropriation of this symbol for his own political purpose caused the swastika to be viewed in the west as a symbol of hate. T.K's book strives to open dialogue about the swastika that fully values the tragedy of the Holocaust while also providing paths to tolerance, respect and deeper mutual understanding of diverse religions, cultures and historical experiences. "**The Buddhist Swastika and Hitler's Cross**" is now available on [Kindle](#), and in [paperback](#) and [full-color](#) editions.



UNICEF Interfaith Toolkit to End Trafficking



Faith-based organizations and religious groups are important partners in UNICEF's work to protect children across the globe. Communities of faith are important advocates for the rights and protection of vulnerable groups and key players in preventing and ending the exploitation of children. UNICEF has created an Interfaith Toolkit to End Trafficking—to better equip the communities that are well-positioned and motivated to address child trafficking and its root causes. It will be available after May 5th at:

<https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/new-resource-interfaith-toolkit-end-trafficking/32222#>

SACRED, new interfaith documentary at the Rubin Museum of Art



Dates: May 5-10, 2017

Times: Various - Please see <http://rubinmuseum.org/events/series/sacred>

Location: Rubin Museum of Art, [150 West 17th St., New York, NY 10011](http://rubinmuseum.org)

Directed by Academy Award® winner Thomas Lennon and shot around the globe by 40 filmmaking teams, Sacred is an acclaimed documentary that immerses the viewer in an exploration of spirituality across cultures and religions. Many screenings will be followed by a discussion with a spiritual leader and director Thomas Lennon.

For more info: 212-620-5000

<http://rubinmuseum.org/events/series/sacred>

SHE: A Choreoplay by Jinah Parker



Dates: May 5-21, 2017

Times: 8:30 pm

Location: HERE Arts Center, [145 6th Avenue, New York, NY 10013](http://hereartscenter.com)

Described as The Vagina Monologues meets For Colored Girls . . . , SHE brings empowerment and healing to the problem of sexual violence against women and girls. Through dance, monologues and dialogue between the women, music, and film, SHE showcases truth-telling for all women. \$20 (\$10 for group tickets)

For more info: <http://here.org/shows/detail/1872/>

La Marcha De Mayo - Immigrant & Latinx/Hispanic March



Dates: Saturday, May 6, 2017

Times: 11:00 am (Rally will be followed by the March)

Location: [1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017](#)

La Marcha De Mayo will be a rally & peaceful protest to celebrate immigrants and the Latinx/Hispanic community in the United States and around the world. We'd like to provide a safe space for people to celebrate the beauty in our cultures & a place to express our belief that immigrants make our country stronger and better.

RSVP here (so we can get an idea of crowd number): <https://actionnetwork.org/events/la-marcha-de-mayo>

For more info: lamarchademayo@gmail.com

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



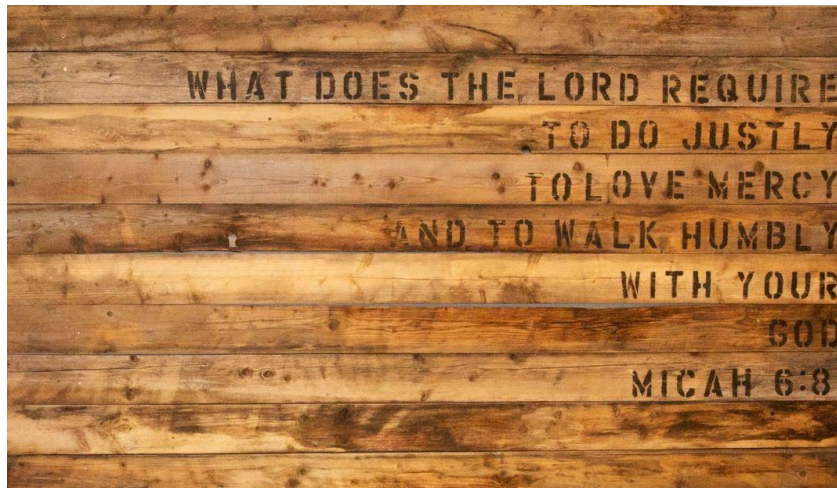
CENTER *for* ANXIETY
Treatment that Works

Date: Sunday, May 7, 2017
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).

We Are One: Micah Faith Table Lunch



Date: Thursday, May 18, 2017
Times: 12 noon – 2 pm
Location: [Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, NYC 10027](#), Assembly Hall

The Micah Faith Table NYC is a coalition of multi-faith leaders for social justice in NYC. For more information, please contact Rev. Peter Goodwin Heltzel, Ph.D., cell: 646-279-6690.

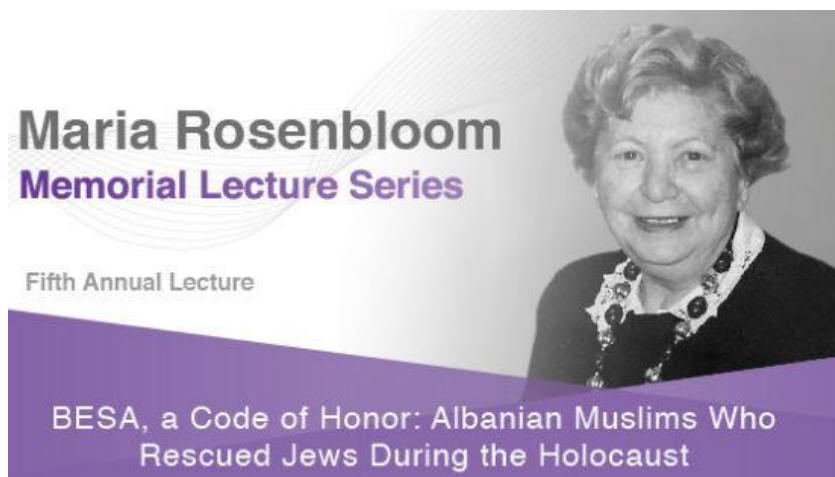
2017 Maria Rosenbloom Memorial Lecture

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2017
Times: 5:30 pm
Location: Silberman School of Social Work, [2180 3rd Ave at 119 St, NYC 10035](#)

The 2017 Maria Rosenbloom Memorial Lecture uncovers the little-known story of Albanian Muslims who, at great risk to themselves, saved Jews during World War II. Their bravery resulted from devotion to BESA, a faith-based Albanian code of honor that means "to keep the promise."

The event will include presentations by Imam Tahir Kukaj of the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center of Staten Island; Hebrew Union College Museum Curator Laura Kruger; and a panel with a representative of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York City, a descendant of an Albanian Muslim family that saved Jews, and a member of the Consulate General of Kosovo. This year's event also features an exhibition of photographs by Norman Gershman that depict descendants of Albanian Muslims who protected their Jewish neighbors and provided sanctuary to Jewish refugees during the war.

Details & RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/2017Rosenbloom>
or call 1-212-396-7609



Volunteer for the 2017 Wall Street Run & Heart Walk



Healthy For Good™
Heart Walk®



Date: Thursday, May 18, 2017

Time: Festival: 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Brookfield Place, [230 Vesey St, New York, New York 10281](https://www.google.com/maps/place/230+Vesey+St,+New+York,+NY+10281)

Join the American Heart Association as Volunteer at the Wall Street Run & Heart Walk on May 18th! The iconic 5K walk/run will be held in Battery Park City along the scenic harbor. The day will bring together almost 12,000 participants to spread lifesaving heart health awareness in New

York City. With your support, we can save lives and build healthier communities! Volunteers play an important role in creating a fun environment, giving out water and refreshments, cheering and raising heart health awareness!

Details & Registration: https://aha.formstack.com/forms/wallst_heartwalk

Weekend of Faith



WEEKEND OF FAITH

Date: May 19-21, 2017

Thrive NYC's Mental Health Weekend of Faith is fast approaching. Houses of Worship and organizations throughout the five boroughs will engage in a conversation about mental health on the weekend of May 19th-21st at their convenience.

More info and RSVP at <http://our.cityofnewyork.us/page/s/thrivenyc-mental-health-weekend-of-faith>

or e-mail communityaffairs@cityhall.nyc.gov

Together We Heal



Date: Saturday, May 20, 2017

Times: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: CONNECT - [127 West 127th Street, Room 432, Harlem, NY 10027](#)

ILERA Counseling & Education Services is offering an introductory educational workshop on sexual abuse specifically for priests and practitioners of Orisa religious traditions. The cost is \$15 per person.

To register or for more information please [Click Here](#), phone 914-559-2930 or e-mail info@ilera.com.

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

MAY 2017

May	Full Month	ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Recognizes the contributions and celebrates the culture of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.
May	Full Month	JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH Recognizes the history of Jewish contributions to American culture, acknowledging the diverse achievement of American Jews.
May 1		INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S DAY Also known as <i>May Day</i> , it celebrates the social and economic achievements of workers worldwide. The day commemorates the Haymarket Riot of 1886 in Chicago, in which police and protesters clashed following a workers' strike for an eight-hour work day.
May 3		WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY Serves as an occasion to inform the public of violations of the right to freedom of expression and as a reminder that many journalists brave death or jail to bring people their daily news.
May 5		CINCO DE MAYO In 1862 Mexican forces defeated French occupational forces in the Battle of Puebla.
May 10		BUDDHA DAY • Buddhist Also known as <i>Vesak</i> or <i>Visakha Puja</i> , it marks the occasion of the birth, spiritual awakening and death of the historical Buddha.
May 14		LAG B'OMER • Jewish Celebrates the end of a divine-sent plague and/or Roman occupation during Rabbi Akiva's lifetime (died c. 135 CE).
May 14		MOTHER'S DAY Children of all ages show appreciation for their mothers.
May 21		WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT Recognizes cultural diversity as a source of innovation, exchange and creativity, as well as the obligation to create a more peaceful and equitable society based on mutual respect.
May 23		DECLARATION OF THE BAB • Bahá'í Commemoration of May 23, 1844, when the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith, announced in Shiráz, Persia, that he was the herald of a new messenger of God.
May 25		ASCENSION DAY • Christian Celebrated 40 days after Easter/Pascha, it commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.
May 27–June 25		RAMADAN • Islamic A month of strict fasting from dawn until dusk in honor of the first revelations of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.
May 29		ASCENSION OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í Observance of the anniversary of the death in exile of Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith.
May 29		MEMORIAL DAY Initiated originally to honor the dead of the Civil War, this observance now pays homage to the dead of all U.S. wars.