



INTERFAITH
CENTER OF NEW YORK

June 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from ICNY Executive Director

Most religious tradition have within them a concept of stewardship for the well-being of future generations and for the planet, so if you have not already done so today, please consider calling the White House comment line at [202-456-1414](tel:202-456-1414) or email <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact#page> to encourage the President to keep our country in the Paris climate agreement. If you are in New York City, you can also join today's action --after the President's announcement-- sponsored by 350.org and other environmental advocates in Foley Square at 6pm. <http://mailchi.mp/c3faa0c84d2e/nyc-stands-up-against-trumps-paris-exit?e=77d8ca01be>

In this e-blast, you will see other announcements about a variety of Iftar meals that are open to all. This is a time of particular joy but also vulnerability for Muslim New Yorkers and others around the country who are celebrating Ramadan. ICNY and the NYC Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee are sponsoring an Iftar at Temple Emmanuel on July 15th. Also, a scholarship fund for the 4 children of Rick John Best, a veteran who lost his life standing up for a Muslim girl and her friend in Portland, Oregon this week can be found at gf.me/u/np6gg.

Finally, we are less than two weeks away from the Interfaith Center of New York's 20th Anniversary JPM Award Dinner honoring Preet Bharara, Anne Rockefeller Roberts, and the Community of Sant'Egidio, with Philippe Petit MC'ing at the Tribeca Rooftop on June 12th. If you have not purchased tickets or made a donation, please consider doing so now. We are looking forward to a wonderful evening and we hope you will join us.

Best Wishes,

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

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ICNY Upcoming Events



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



3rd Annual Iftar at a Synagogue
hosted by The NYC Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee



Date: Thursday, June 15, 2017

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: Temple Emanu-El, [1 East 65th Street, New York, NY 10065](#)

Join us to break the Ramadan fast, enjoy a delicious meal and live music, connect with new friends, and learn about one of the toughest challenges our city is facing: hunger. Various NYC organizations will share information and volunteering opportunities. Details about our food drive coming soon! The Iftar is open to all ages, faiths, and communities.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-iftar-in-a-synagogue-tickets-33758575809>

If you would like to attend and cost is an issue we would still love to have you! Please email info@muslimjewishsolidarity.org.

Mayoral Candidates Forum & Interfaith Iftar

Date: Thursday, June 15, 2017

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: First Corinthian Baptist Church, [1912 Adam Clayton Powell Jr Blvd New York, NY 10026](#)

Join us for the Faith Over Fear: Mayoral Candidates Forum & Interfaith Iftar at 6:30pm to learn about our candidates and their vision for our communities.

Our next mayor will shape the direction of our city for the next 4 years.

How will they support real affordable housing in our communities?

Will they push for measures that increase police accountability?

What are their plans for keeping our city a sanctuary city?

After the forum, we will have an Interfaith Iftar to break fast and pray with our Muslim sisters and brothers as we honor Ramadan. Invite fellow congregants, neighbors, friends & family to discuss the importance of why their vote matters with you one on one or in a group setting, and leave them with flyers and have them sign pledge cards!

RSVP at:

http://salsa3.salsalabs.com/o/2115/c/10406/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=95868

or [click here to Sign-up to Volunteer](#).

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.

**Find a community to share Iftar dinners with
during the month of Ramadan**

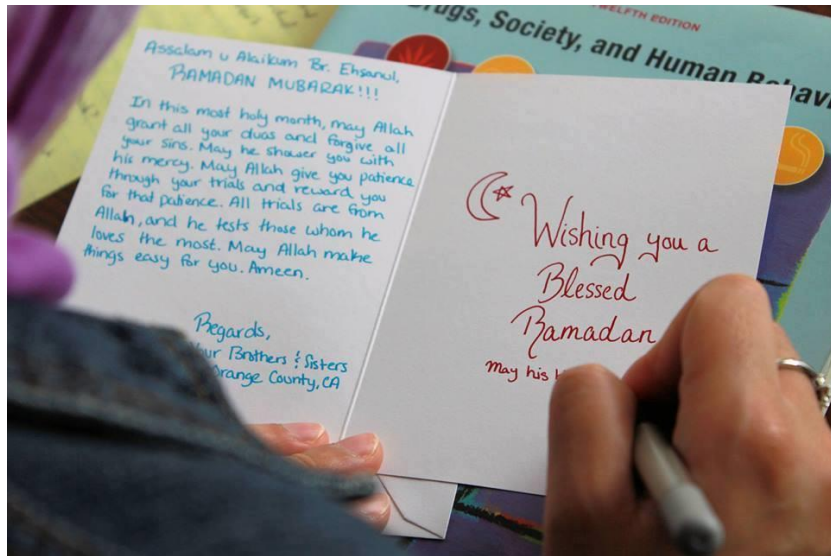
NY IFTARARS

New York City is a large, and often daunting place. Ramadan is an especially important time, but it can be hard to find an Iftar, and join the larger community in breaking fast. NYC Iftars helps people in New York City find a community to share Iftar dinners with during the month of

Ramadan:

<http://nyciftars.com/>

Ramadan Mubarak Behind Walls



Date: Saturday, June 3, 2017

Time: 8 pm - 11 pm

Location: Masjid At Taqwa, [1266 Bedford Ave, Brooklyn, New York 11216](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1266+Bedford+Ave,+Brooklyn,+NY+11216)

Join us in this blessed season to bring joy to our sisters and brothers this Ramadan! We will break fast and send post cards to tell sisters and brothers unjustly imprisoned that we care and that they are not forgotten. Let them know they will always be part of our Community and that they are in our prayers. Send Love and Greetings to Our Brothers and Sisters Unjustly Imprisoned in prisons.

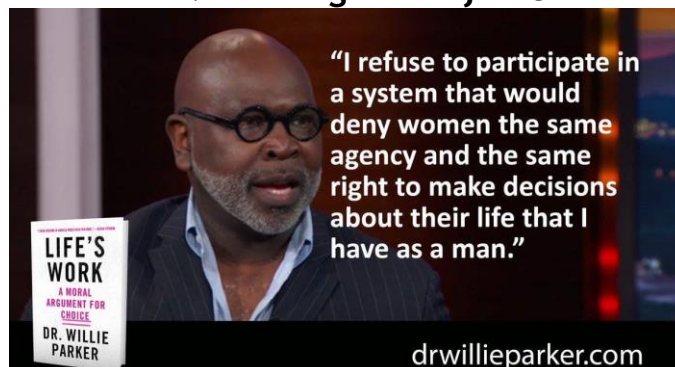
Gathering on Saturday info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/831568963660245/>

Making cards yourselves info:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1654742414831096/>

Contact us to receive addresses of prisoners and instruction to send letters to prisoners:
justiceforshifa@gmail.com

Dr. Willie Parker, abortion doctor in the south, with his new memoir "Life's Work: A Moral Argument for Choice"



Date: Sunday, June 4, 2017

Time: 4-6 pm

Location: Revolution Books, [437 Malcolm X Blvd. at 132nd, New York, NY](#)

One of the few doctors daring to perform abortions in the south, Dr. Willie Parker grew up poor, Black and Christian in Alabama. At a moment when abortion rights are under attack like no time since the passage of Roe v. Wade, Dr. Parker's powerful memoir debunks the myths around abortion with scientific clarity and moral conviction. In conversation with Sunsara Taylor. Donation suggested, \$5-10, to support the bookstore 212-691-3345.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/412081739170545/>

***Learning Collaborative on the Use of Faith Based Property
for Mission Driven Development of Affordable Housing***

Date: Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Time: Registration: 8:30 am - Event: 9 am to noon

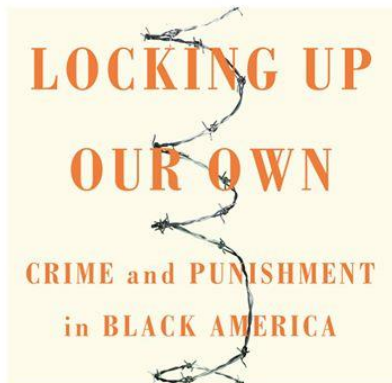
Location: Marble Collegiate Church, [1 West 29th Street \(just West of 5th Avenue\), NYC](#) --
Labyrinth Room

Mission-Driven Development on Faith-Based Property “What does it take?” The first steps in moving towards Mission Driven Development - An opportunity for faith community leaders to share ideas, successes, and concerns on visioning, early stage planning, and organizational self-assessments, prior to embarking on an effort to develop affordable housing on its property. This peer-led discussion will help inform the type of technical assistance and resources needed to support faith-based communities as they explore the development of affordable housing

View the [Event Flyer here](#).

RSVP to ltatum@collegiatechurch.org. For more information contact Marc Greenberg at 917-913-0098 or at Marc@iah.org

***Evening with James Forman Jr., author "Locking Up Our Own:
Crime and Punishment in Black America"***



Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Time: 7-9 pm

Location: Revolution Books, [437 Malcolm X Blvd. at 132nd, New York, NY](#)

James Forman Jr. teaches at Yale Law School, is a former public defender, and has written a new book about why in many US courtrooms the judge, prosecutor, bailiff, arresting cop, are all Black, and a huge percentage of those being locked up are Black. How did this happen? The book is a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. Expect an invigorating evening at Revolution Books in Harlem. Donation suggested, \$5-10, to support the bookstore 212-691-3345

<https://www.facebook.com/events/412081739170545/>

We Are One: Micah Faith Table Lunch



Date: Thursday, June 15, 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.

Evening with Cheryl Wall on the Women of the Harlem Renaissance



JUN
21 Evening with Cheryl Wall on the Women of
the Harlem Renaissance

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2017

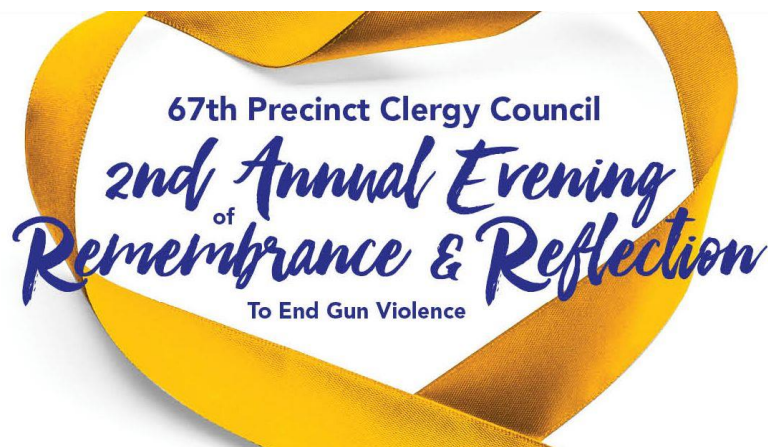
Time: 7-9 pm

Location: Revolution Books, [437 Malcolm X Blvd. at 132nd, New York, NY](#)

Rutgers Professor Cheryl Wall will discuss the lives and work of Zora Neale Hurston, Jessie Redmon Fauset, Nella Larsen and other literary women in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 30s who sought to depict the lives of Black people honestly and artfully. Donation suggested, \$5-10, to support the bookstore 212-691-3345.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1777293622582990/>

2nd Annual Evening of Remembrance & Reflection to End Gun Violence



Date: Monday, June 26, 2017

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

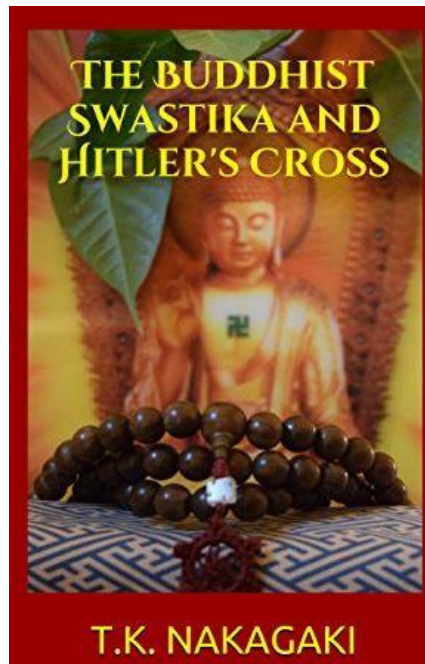
Location: TOP Civic Center, [1098 Utica Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11203](#)

This evening is in support of families who have lost children to gun violence and to continue our mission to reduce gun violence in Central Brooklyn and create a community that is safe for all. Proceeds will be dedicated to help us launch our new NYPD partnered pilot program with our clergy council (the first of its kind in NYC). Tickets can be purchased at thegodsquad.eventbrite.com

More info: www.67clergycouncil.org

67thclergycouncil@gmail.com

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 is available at:

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

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

JUNE 2017

June	Full Month	LGBT PRIDE MONTH Commemorates the anniversary of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall riot in New York City, the incident that initiated the modern gay rights movement in the United States. <i>LGBT</i> (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) <i>Pride Day</i> is the last Sunday in June.
June 4		PENTECOST • Christian Also known as <i>Whitsunday</i> , the seventh Sunday after Easter/Pascha commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and women followers of Jesus. Marks the birth of the Christian Church.
June 11		ALL SAINTS DAY • Eastern Christian In Orthodox churches observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost, it commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints.
June 11		RACE UNITY DAY • Bahá'í Observance promoting racial harmony and understanding and the essential unity of humanity.
June 12		ANNE FRANK DAY Birthday of young Jewish girl whose diary describes her family's experiences hiding from the Nazis through assistance of gentile friends.
June 12		LOVING DAY Observes the anniversary of the 1967 United States Supreme Court decision <i>Loving v. Virginia</i> which struck down the miscegenation laws remaining in 16 states barring interracial marriage.
June 14		FLAG DAY Anniversary of the adoption of the United States flag by Congress in 1777.
June 18		FATHER'S DAY Children of all ages show appreciation for their fathers.
June 19		JUNETEENTH Originally commemorating the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas in 1865, it is now celebrated throughout the U.S. to honor African-American freedom and achievement.
June 20		WORLD REFUGEE DAY Raises awareness about the plight of refugees and displaced persons.
June 21		SUMMER SOLSTICE In the northern hemisphere, the longest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of summer.
June 21		LAILA AL-QADR • Islamic "The Night of Power" marks the night in which God first revealed the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. Often fixed as the 27th day of the Islamic month of Ramadan, Sunnis may also observe it on the 21st, 23rd, 25th or 29th. Shi'ites observe it on the 19th, 21st or 23rd of Ramadan.
June 26–28		EID AL-FITR • Islamic The "Feast of the Breaking of the Fast" marks the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk.