



## *July 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter*

### Message from ICNY Executive Director

Beginning this month, The Interfaith Center of New York is delighted to announce that our long-time partners and friends at the [Micah Institute](#) will be making ICNY their operational home for the next year and a half. We are delighted to welcome **The Rev. Joel Gibson**, former Director of Faith Partnerships at the Federation of Protestant Welfare Association, and new Director for the Micah Institute, who will be based at ICNY's offices beginning this month. In addition to working at a closer operational level with Micah, we are excited by the Micah Faith Table's stated intent of becoming a more religiously diverse voice for justice in New York City and we are looking forward to a closer substantive partnership with this goal in mind. Please join us in welcoming Micah! You can reach Rev. Gibson at [email here](#).

From July 10th to 28th, ICNY will be hosting 25 K-12 teachers from throughout the United States for the fourth meeting of the [Religious Worlds of New York](#) summer institute -- an intensive three-week professional development program, offered in partnership with Union Theological Seminary, and with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Working with leading scholars of religion, diverse local faith leaders, and colleagues from the Pluralism Project, Religious Freedom Center, and Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, ICNY's **Director of Programs Dr. Henry Goldschmidt** will introduce our 25 summer scholars to the rich religious diversity of New York, and help them teach more effectively about the everyday lives of their own religiously diverse neighbors.

Finally, we would like to call your attention to important July events listed in this bulletin including the next Micah Table gathering on July 20th, the Refuse Fascism March on July 15th, and the opportunity to celebrate with **The Very Rev. James Parks Morton** as he receives the "World Peace Through Compassion" Award given by the Gaia Holistic Foundation on the occasion of His Holiness the XIV Dalai Lama's 82nd Birthday on July 6, 2017.

Best Wishes,

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

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## ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events



### ***Birthday Celebration for Dalai Lama & Tibet Fundraiser***



**Date:** Thursday, July 6, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 - 9:30 pm

**Location:** Essex House, [160 Central Park South, New York, NY 10019](#)

The Gaia Holistic Foundation will join with Orphans International Worldwide to celebrate his Holiness The Dalai Lama's 82nd birthday at J.W. Marriott Essex House on Central Park South in New York City. **The Very Rev. James Parks Morton of the Interfaith Center of New York will be honored with the "World Peace through Compassion" Award at this occasion.**

Because Tibet has neither Embassy nor Mission in New York, this elegant at-cost event is a platform for all who respect the Dalai Lama and his efforts towards world peace to gather and pay their respects - and pray for his long life.

Dr. Kazuko Hillyer Tatsumura states, "We all recall our other events at Essex House in celebration of his Holiness' 80th and 81st birthdays - our celebration in honor of H.H. 82nd birthday promises to be even more uplifting!"

VIP package available that features a rooftop champagne reception in a private Essex House penthouse overlooking Central Park. Sponsored by [Plantin' Seeds, Inc.](#), the VIP package funds H.H.'s Private Fund. The \$900 per person VIP tickets include the dinner and a tax-deductible \$720 sponsorship of a child in the Tibetan Manjushree Orphanage in the Himalayas. The dinner will be presented at cost - \$180 per person. *A very limited number of tickets are still available* [Click here to pay by credit card through Paypal.](#)

Sponsors include [Gaia Holistic Foundation](#) (Dr. Kazuko Tatsumura, chair), [The Interfaith Center of New York](#) (Dean James Morton, founder), [The International Campaign for Tibet](#) (Richard Gere, chair), [The Tibet Fund](#) (Mickey Lemle, chair), [Tibet House U.S.](#) (Dr.

Robert Thurman, chair), and [Orphans International Worldwide](#)(Jim Luce, chair).

For more info, call 212-799-9711, or visit:

<http://www.stewardshipreport.com/report-from-the-himalayas-leads-to-dalai-lamas-birthday-celebration/>

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### ***We Are One: Micah Faith Table Lunch***



**Date:** Thursday, July 20, 2017

**Time:** 12 noon – 2 pm

**Location:** Riverside Church, [490 Riverside Drive, NYC 10027](#), Room 9T

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.

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### ***Support New York State's Freedom of Information Law (FOIL)***

CAIR-NY, the Muslim Community Network, the Association of Muslim-American Lawyers, and the New York Coalition Against Islamophobia call on Mayor de Blasio to order the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”) to comply with New York State’s Freedom of Information-Law (“FOIL”) and to stop giving “Glomar responses” to questions about unlawful surveillance. In recent years, the NYPD has increasingly relied on “Glomar responses”—the CIA tactic of neither confirming nor denying information’s existence—when questioned about its unlawful surveillance of the Muslim community and other activists. Talib Abdur-Rashid and Samir Hashmi have been fighting the NYPD’s responses in a case that is now going to New York’s highest court, the Court of Appeals. Activists, journalists, and civil libertarians all depend daily on FOIL to investigate police abuses and to act as citizen watchdogs.

Please show your support by signing on to the following petition:  
<https://petitions.moveon.org/sign/tell-the-nypd-to-stop-1>

For more info: [omohammedi@otmlaw.com](mailto:omohammedi@otmlaw.com)

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## Other Events



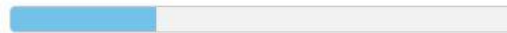
*If you have an upcoming event that you think ICNY's audience might like to know about, please notify us by [filling out this event form](#). We have final discretion about what events are included in the Newsletter.*

### *A survey on discrimination and integration of Muslims in the U.S.*

Do you identify as Muslim American?

Yes

No



Prev

Next

Dr. Pratibha Kumar, Professor of Communication at Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland, has been teaching Islamophobia and media's negative portrayal of Muslims and Arabs in media classes since 2012. Her research interest also focuses on Muslims in America, and she is conducting a study on discrimination and integration of Muslims in the U.S.

For this study, Muslim-American participants are being sought to fill out an anonymous and confidential survey, which won't take more than 15-20 minutes. The importance of a study like this in the current political and social climate cannot be overemphasized.

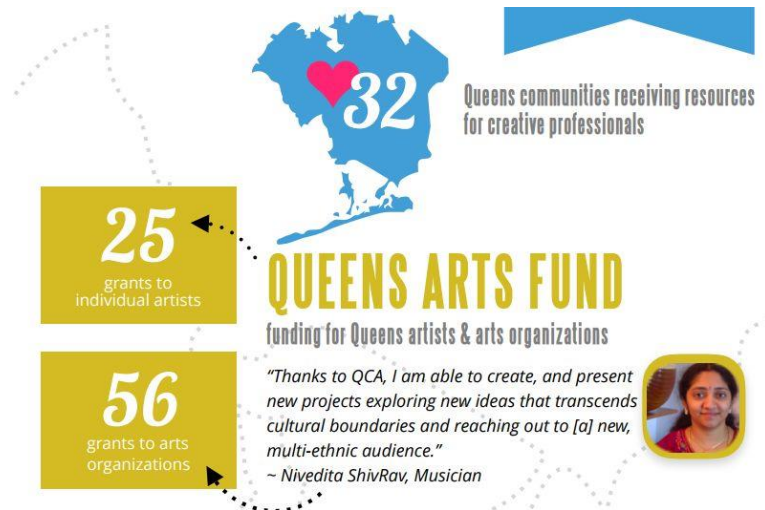
Below is the link to the survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VOICESFROMWITHIN>

For more info: Dr. Pratibha Kumar, 301-447-5174 or [kumar@msmary.edu](mailto:kumar@msmary.edu).

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## Grants from Queens Arts Fund



Queens Arts Fund offers grants \$1,000-\$5,000 to community organizations that offer cultural programming to a Queens audience. Through a competitive application process, that is judged by a peer panel process, nonprofit organizations or community organizations working with a fiscal sponsor are encouraged to apply.

The Queens Art Fund supports Festivals, Street fairs where there is a cultural component, Concerts, Traditional arts presentations, Art exhibitions and Film festivals. The Queens Arts Fund pays for cost related to the program including Arts activities taking place in Queens in 2018, artist fees, direct administration costs, marketing and publicity cost as well as supplies and materials needed for the execution of the project.

Full information regarding guidelines, restrictions and application form is available on the website [www.queenscouncilarts.org/grants](http://www.queenscouncilarts.org/grants)

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## Bastille Day Celebration



**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2017

**Time:** 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm



**Location:** Rennert New York, [211 E 43rd Street, Fl 2, New York, NY](#)

We're hosting a French-themed language and culture event on Wednesday, July 12th at 6:30pm. Take introductory French language classes, sample different French wines and hors d'oeuvres, and celebrate with like-minded language lovers!

For more info: [social@rennert.com](mailto:social@rennert.com)

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### *Trump & Pence Must Go! Protest*



**Date:** Saturday, July 15, 2017

**Time:** 4:00 pm

**Location:** Trump Tower, [725 5th Ave, New York, New York 10022](#)

On July 15th, we are uniting with everyone standing for humanity against the attacks of the Trump/Pence regime, to engage together in nationwide protests: Trump & Pence Must Go! We will rally and march.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/326773681087979/?ti=icl>

<https://refusefascism.org/wp-content/uploads/NO-WEBSITE-2B-1.jpg>

917-407-1286

[info@refusefascism.org](mailto:info@refusefascism.org)

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### *Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges*



**Dates:** Application Deadline August 3, 2017; course begins Sept 4, 2017

Jews, Christians and Muslims in Europe: Modern Challenges is a timely three-part online course which focuses on the relationships between Jews, Christians and Muslims in modern Europe. The course examines historical trends, religious and cultural interaction, and issues of contemporary citizenship from the perspectives of different disciplines (history, sociology, theology, philosophy), and is led and co-taught by Dr Gorazd Andrejč , Dr Sami Everett, and Dr Esther-Miriam Wagner.

For more information on the topics covered, the structure of the course, and the application details, [please see here](#). For more info, e-mail Dr. Emma Harris, Director of Studies, at [eth22@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eth22@cam.ac.uk).

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### ***Become an ESL teacher!***



**Date:** Friday, August 4, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

**Location:** [211 East 43rd St, 2nd Floor, New York, NY](#)

Have you ever wanted to teach English as a second language in New York or abroad? This rewarding career can help you travel the world, meet people from different cultures and provide you with the opportunity to give back to the community. Whether you are finishing up college, changing careers or looking for volunteering opportunities, a TESOL Certificate will give you the qualification you need to enter the English Language Teaching Industry.

For more info, visit [www.rennert.com/tesol/index.htm](http://www.rennert.com/tesol/index.htm)  
or e-mail [languages@rennert.com](mailto:languages@rennert.com)

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## ***Aarti Hindu Lamp Ceremony***



**Date:** Saturday, August 5, 2017

**Time:** 4:00 – 7:45 pm

**Location:** [Main Street Park \(Pebble Beach in Brooklyn Bridge Park\), Brooklyn, NY 11201](#)

The Aarti ceremony is traditionally presented each morning and evening in order to convey gratitude and protection from mother river.

Please join us, children and adults, help us decorate palm leaf lamps and set them afloat along the East River. Audience members are also invited to join traditional percussion ensemble led by Paulomm to accompany the ceremony. Guest performing artist will also present their work at this event. Come and celebrate with us on Saturday, August 5, 2017 from 4 pm along Pebble Beach at the Brooklyn Bridge Park. Here is a short video: <https://vimeo.com/140341478>

<http://aeilushi.wix.com/aeilushi#!aarti-hindu-lamp-ceremony/zrwof>

This program is presented by Indian dance arts educator Aeilushi Mistry, and cosponsored by Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy, Bamblu and BAC.

*Volunteer Opportunity:* Aarti Hindu Lamp ceremony is a community based event. We are seeking volunteers to help out at the information table, lamp decoration table and assist audience in lamp making, lamp lighting, lamp placement in the East River and finally assist with breakdown.

Please contact : Aeilushi at [aeilushi@gmail.com](mailto:aeilushi@gmail.com)

<http://aeilushi.wix.com/aeilushi>

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***Islam in America Before Columbus***



**Date:** August 14 - 29, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 – 9:00 pm (one Saturday 9am-4pm)

**Location:** Riverside Church, [490 Riverside Dr, New York, NY 10027](#)

This 2-Week Intensive Course at New York Theological Seminary course will uncover the African and Arab journeys into the "New World": South and North America, Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Caribbean, etc.

For further information and registration, please contact Ms. Lillian Rodriguez at 212-870-1225. [www.NYTS.edu](http://www.NYTS.edu)

Dr. TA Bashir, [tabcib@aol.com](mailto:tabcib@aol.com), 914-309-4414

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### ***Meditation Day in NYC***



**Date:** Sunday, August 20, 2017

**Time:** 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

**Location:** Times Square

Alfredo Munoz, a Spanish architect living in NYC for a decade, and an active meditator, is organizing a meditation day in NYC on August 20th, 2017. Everyone, from any religion, language, race or background will be welcomed to join in calm silence through any type of meditation, and experience the connection with oneself and others. The meditation day offers a shared common ground to express connection and calmness even at one of the most busy and detached locations that humans inhabit.

Alfredo is reaching out to many different meditation organizations and meditation centers in the city to join forces to make this event successful. For more info, e-mail [am@alfredomunoz.com](mailto:am@alfredomunoz.com)

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## African American Islamic Program

# NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

...continuing The Biblical Seminary in New York

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 500, New York, NY 10115

Phone: 212.870.1211

Email: [info@nyts.edu](mailto:info@nyts.edu)



**Dates:** Two-year Certificate Program; begins in September 2017

**Location:** Riverside Church, [490 Riverside Dr, New York, NY 10027](#)

Two-year Accredited Certificate Program in the contributions of African Americans, Latinos, women, and establishment of Islam in America. For registration and more information, please contact Dr. Lucy Cano @ 212-870-1236 [www.NYTS.edu](http://www.NYTS.edu)  
Dr. TA Bashir, [tabcib@aol.com](mailto:tabcib@aol.com), 914-309-4414

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

### JULY 2017

July 4	<b>INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> Anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence in 1776.
July 9	<b>MARTYRDOM OF THE BĀB • Bahá'í</b> Observance of the anniversary of the execution by a firing squad in Tabríz, Persia, of the 30-year-old Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad, the Báb, the prophet-herald of the Bahá'í Faith.
July 13	<b>ULAMBANA • Buddhist</b> Buddhist Ghost Festival. The unsettled spirits of dead ancestors are calmed with chanting and offerings to enable them to pass peacefully into the next world.
July 15	<b>DHARMA DAY • Buddhist</b> Also known as <i>Asala Puja</i> , it commemorates the historical Buddha's first discourse following his spiritual awakening.
July 13–15	<b>OBON • Buddhist</b> Also known as <i>Bon</i> , the Japanese Buddhist festival honors the spirits of past ancestors.
July 26	<b>ADA (AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT) DAY</b> Commemorates the 1990 signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which guarantees equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

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