November 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Please join The Interfaith Center of New York, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, The Muslim Community Network, CAIR-NY, New York Disaster Interfaith Services and many other groups tonight at 6 pm in Foley Square for **TONIGHT’S Interfaith Vigil for Peace**. A flyer for the vigil is available here.

The Interfaith Center of New York is proud to present our first cohort of **20 Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy Fellows**: religious leaders and faith-based activists from Reform Jewish; Mormon and other Protestant Christian; Tibetan and Chinese Buddhist; Vodun; African American, South Asian, and Turkish Muslim; and Hindu traditions. On November 8th, we will launch the 8-month bi-monthly workshops with elected leaders, community organizers, and civil rights lawyers from around the city. To see bios of the ICLA Fellows, click here. ICNY is grateful to everyone who applied.

Our upcoming 34th Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat, “**Faith-Based Lending and Economic Empowerment**,” is Dec. 6th with Rachel Schneider, Center for Financial Services Innovation; Rev. Dr. Gary Dorrien, Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University; Ven. Dr. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Buddhist Global Relief; Sarah Ludwig, New Economy Project; Rabbi David Rosenn, Hebrew Free Loan Society; Mo Razvi, Council of Peoples Organization; Rev. Jennifer Reddall, Church of the Epiphany; Carmen de la Rosa, New York State Assembly; Ron Lieber, The New York Times. To register and learn more, go to http://interfaithcenter.org/mmr34registration/

Undocumented men, women, and their often US-citizen children need help. This past month, Trinity Church Wall Street included ICNY, the New Sanctuary Coalition, African Communities Together, and others in their recent program “**Undocumented: What Do Faith Communities Need to Know?**” The program is available on https://www.trinitywallstreet.org/social-justice/undocumented.

Right now, ICNY is asking those of you who subscribe to this e-newsletter and know the amazing work of Ravi Ragbir and the New Sanctuary Coalition to join us in writing letters of support for Ravi. We are asking ICE to extend the stay of his removal expiring in January 2018.

Born in Trinidad, Ravi has lived in the United States since 1991. Following a fraud-related conviction in 2001, he was placed in immigration removal proceedings. He was detained for two years. Upon his release, Ravi immediately began his community...
organizing work and has worked to ensure that immigrants do not have to navigate the immigration system alone, arranging for accompaniment to court hearings and ICE check-ins and running a pro se legal assistance clinic. Ravi was recently awarded the 2017 Immigrant Excellence Award by the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators. He has been diligently fighting his immigration case since 2006.

Please take a moment before the November 8th deadline to write Ravi a letter of support. Please address (but do not send) all letters to Director Thomas Decker, New York Field Office, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 26 Federal Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10278. An example of a letter can be found here.

Please scan and email your completed letters to Brittany Castle at bcc366@nyu.edu or mail them to:

Brittany Castle
NYU School of Law, Immigrant Rights Clinic
245 Sullivan Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10012

We will be submitting all of the collected support letters in a packet together.

Best wishes,

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

ICNY Events
Interfaith Vigil for Peace

Join us as we stand in solidarity against hate and violence, because we are #NYCStrong

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017
6:00PM

Foley Square
111 Worth St. New York, NY 10013

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CAIR-NY
Congregation Beit Simchat Torah
The Interfaith Center
Middle Collegiate Church
Muslim Community Network
NY Disaster Interfaith Services

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE
34th RABBI MARSHALL T. MEYER RETREAT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Faith-Based Lending and Economic Empowerment:
Helping Diverse New Yorkers Build American Dreams

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

12:00 - 5:30 pm at the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive
6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Jewish Theological Seminary, 3080 Broadway

Click here for detailed information and registration

Predatory lending and crippling debt are serious problems for far too many New Yorkers. That’s why the next Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat will explore the important roles of alternative lenders in diverse NYC communities, as well as theological perspectives on wealth and social responsibility, and concrete steps that your community can take to create faith-based lending institutions and advocate for financial justice.

Speakers will include leading policymakers like Rachel Schneider, Senior Vice President of the Center for Financial Services Innovation and co-author of The Financial Diaries, as well as faith-based social justice visionaries like Venerable Dr. Bhikkhu Bodhi, and Reverend Dr. Gary Dorrien.

The conversation will then continue at the Jewish Theological Seminary, with dinner for participants and a panel discussion entitled Breaking the Bank: The High Cost of Low-Income Living. Both the afternoon and evening programs are free and open to religious and civic leaders of all backgrounds. We hope you can join us on Wednesday, December 6th!

Click here to download or print a flyer

Questions? Contact Iman Boukadoum at 212-870-3515 or iman@interfaithcenter.org
Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute Fall Conference
Mindful Listening: Culling and Shifting Client Narratives

Date: Saturday, November 11, 2017
Time: 1:00 - 5:00 pm
Location: Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 7 W. 55th St., New York, NY 10019

In his book *Mind: A Journey to the Heart of Being Human*, Dr Daniel Siegel notes that clients’ recovery was often “directly related to how they made sense of their lives and created a coherent narrative of their life experiences.” Clinicals can help them make sense of their individual lives by encouraging a fuller, deeper understanding of narrative itself.

The keynote speaker of Psychotherapy & Spirituality’s Fall Conference, *Mindful Listening: Culling and Shifting Client Narratives*, will be Gail Noppe-Brandon, LCSW, MPA, MA. Gail has over 25 years of experience in narratology.

Her method has been used by universities, social service organizations, and individuals to bring authenticity, empathy, and clarity to dialogue...with self, and with others. As a result of this conference, participants should be able to:

- Define the concepts of dramaturgy, questionology, and narratology and how to apply them in a clinical setting;
- Articulate the benefits of a narratological frame for creating a non-pathologized view of where their clients are stuck;
• Apply the concept of narrative reconstruction to the desired shifts in a client's self-concept, or core schemas, that will be based on the re-membered and/or re-framed material that emerges in the work.

4.0 CECs available for LCSW/LMSWs, LMFTs, LMHCs
Admission $40 - $80
To register, click here

We Are One: Micah Faith Table Lunch

Guest Speaker: Rev. Heidi Neumark

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017
Time: 12 noon - 2 pm
Location: Riverside Church, Room 10T 490 Riverside Drive, NYC 10027

The Micah Faith Table NYC is a coalition of multi-faith leaders for social justice in New York City. November’s speaker, Rev. Heidi Neumark, received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and completed her Master of Divinity at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. She is the author of the books *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx* and *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets, Memory and, Faith*. For more information, please contact Rev. Joel Gibson, 212-870-3518.

WISE Up: Knowledge Ends Extremism
The Women’s Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE) was established in 2005 as a faith-based grassroots social justice movement. WISE convenes and promotes solidarity among Muslim women leaders so they can collectively pursue social change. WISE provides faith-based knowledge and toolkits to end injustices such as female genital mutilation, child marriage, domestic violence, and violent extremism.

The rise of violent extremism is one of the greatest problems facing our world today, and it affects us all. Unfortunately, the blight of terrorism continues to be linked to Islam, causing severe reputation damage to the world’s second-largest religion and threatening our national unity.

The report of WISE’s community-led campaign, *WISE Up: Knowledge Ends Extremism*, has just been published, in which over 60 Muslim, Christian, Jewish, and other faith and civic experts are working together to counter extremism, hate crimes, Islamophobia, and terrorism committed in the name of Islam showing that Muslims are speaking out against all forms of hate.

For more details or to purchase a copy, visit: [www.wiseupreport.org/book-2](http://www.wiseupreport.org/book-2)

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**Other Events & Resources**

*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.
Pack the Court for #MohamedBah

Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2017
Time: 9:30 am
Location: Federal Court, 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007 (near Foley Square)

At the state and federal level, the criminal justice system has failed to hold any of Mohamed's killers accountable. The civil trial cannot send Mohamed's killers to prison, but it will give his family a chance to hear them answer questions about why they chose to take Mohamed's life. The trial will be incredibly challenging for Mohamed's mother and family as they will be forced to relive the events of Sept. 25, 2012. Mohamed's family needs our support!

Please join us at Federal Court, 500 Pearl Street near Foley Square (J/Z to Chambers; 4/5/6 to Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall, R to City Hall) to pack the court on Nov. 1 and come any day afterwards as well until the trial has concluded (projected end date is 11/14).

Court begins at 10 am and supporters should arrive by 9:30 am to go through security. Please note: you will be asked for an ID, and phones and other electronics must be checked while you are in the building.
Towards a More Perfect Union: Making Your Voice Heard

**Date(s):** 7 Thursdays, October 5 through November 16 (inclusive)
**Time:** 6:00 - 7:30 pm
**Location:** Forest Hills Branch Library, 108-19 71st Avenue, Queens, NY 11375

Come and join a free series of workshops where you can learn everything from the basics of the Constitution to how you can make an impact. All sponsoring organizations are non-profit and non-partisan, including IWWA, a grassroots group dedicated to making public education about government more affordable and accessible, and the Taft Institute for Government at Queens College, founded in 1961 to expand and improve political participation.

You may take the following subways: E, M, F, or R to Forest Hills-Continental Ave. Station. Queens residents can take the following buses: Q23, Q60, or Q64.


*Attend any or all of the remaining 3 free classes on how government works!*
For more information, call the library reference desk at 718-268-7934.

Thomas Merton Society All-day Retreat
“I hope you and I together will secretly travel our own road to joy,” Merton wrote to thank his young friend, Grace Sisson, for a drawing she had sent him. She had entitled it “The Road to Joy.” Merton’s life and writings illuminate the road to joy, identifying signposts along the way and inviting us to live together in joy.

Drawing on Merton’s life and writings, we will explore and reflect on 3 aspects of joy: the joy of being human, the joy of friendship, and the joy of unity.


Pre-registration required: $20 members, $35 non-Members, $10 students. Includes lunch. [Click here for more information, and to register.]

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Interfaith Story of Inspiration and Rescue
Date: Wednesday, November 8, 2017
Time: 7:15 pm
Location: Saint Peter’s Lutheran Church, 619 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022

Also on

Date: Sunday, November 12, 2017
Time: 11:30 am
Location: St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 225 West 99th St., New York, NY 10025

This event is a storytelling presentation by San Francisco Bay Area author Marty Brounstein about a true interfaith story of courage, compassion, and rescue out of the Netherlands during World War II, one with a meaningful personal connection for Marty as well. Both events are free and open to the community.

www.MartyABrounstein.com
Marty Brounstein mabruns@earthlink.net 650-341-8001

Accompaniment 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. www.newsanctuarynyc.org

The New Sanctuary Coalition’s Accompaniment Program recruits and trains volunteers to accompany people facing deportation to their immigration hearings and required ICE check-ins. This provides moral support for the person facing deportation and a way to hold immigration authorities accountable. NSC accompanies hundreds of people a year, the majority of whom have no legal representation.

To sign up for the November 9th training, which is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of St. Boniface in collaboration with Congregation Beth Elohim, please click here.

Compassionate Conversations: Inter-Active Listening Skills Workshop

Inter-Active Listening Skills is the first workshop in the NYC Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee's new Compassionate Conversations program. Conflicts often erupt and drag on due to incomplete, incorrect conversations or other miscommunication. This workshop highlights key skills needed to become an inter-active listener. We will focus on a combination of theory and practice, psychology and body-language, to improve our listening skills and create deeper and clearer connections with others.
The workshop will be led by Kira Nurieli, a NY certified mediator with an MA in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University Teachers College. She offers a variety of conflict management, social psychology, and group dynamics services, based on both mediation training and cross-cultural/social psychology research. She also offers coaching in “all matters relating to conflict,” for more information, visit her website at: www.harmonystrategies.com

For more information: nyc.muslimjewishsolidarity.org or info@muslimjewishsolidarity.org
Register at interactivelistening.eventbrite.com

Shifting Ground: Refugees. Immigration. DACA

Date: Thursday, November 9, 2017
Time: 7 - 9 pm
Location: Congregation Ansche Chesed, 251 W 100th Street, New York, NY 10025

What do proposed policy changes mean for immigrants and refugees?
What is the Jewish perspective and imperative?

Take Action: Learn about volunteer opportunities for action and advocacy from NGOs and government agencies. Hear from a member of the New York City Council, New York State Attorney General’s office, HIAS, a DACA recipient, and the New Sanctuary Coalition.

www.synagoguecoalition.org

National Donor Sabbath
Dates: November 10-12, 2017

From November 10th through 12th, Donate Life New York State, an organization that works to raise awareness of organ, tissue, and eye donation in New York, will be celebrating National Donor Sabbath with New York’s faith communities in an effort to increase awareness of the need for lifesaving donations in the state. We are asking churches and faith organizations to share information about organ donation in their newsletters during that weekend.

More details: [https://www.donatelife.net/nds/](https://www.donatelife.net/nds/) or contact: Suman Ali, Alliance Development Associate
Phone: 518-269-5542, Email: sali@jstrategiesinc.com

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**Project You: Home Health Aide Classes in Arabic**

Date: Starting November 11, 2017
Time: 10:00 am  
Locations:  
Brooklyn: 1712 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11229; 718-382-4424  
Queens: 60-19 Roosevelt Avenue, Woodside, NY 11377; 718-766-9800

Project You, Inc. aims to provide economic empowerment to marginalized low-income women who are struggling single mothers, domestic violence victims, homeless or unemployed, African American or Hispanic, and immigrants. We are offering Home Health Attendant Classes in Arabic at our Brooklyn and Queens location starting on November 11th. Classes are offered on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Once you get your certificate, we assist with job placement with a home care agency.

What you need to register:  
Photo ID, Social Security card, HS Diploma/GED (if you don't have it, you can take a 30-minute entrance test), physical exam (must be submitted before the class is over)

Rachelle Suissa, Chief Outreach Officer: 718-382-4424 ext. 113 or rachelle@projectyouny.org

An Interfeast: Cooking Class, Around the World with Breads and Dips

Date: Sunday, November 12, 2017  
Time: 3 - 6 pm  
Location: Harlem. West 121st St close to A/B/C/D trains at 125th Street - location is a private residence, please RSVP for exact address.

We’re teaming up again with Deborah Fishman of the delicious FED dinners for a super fun bread- and dip-making Interfeast. Learn how to bake bread, which we’ll enjoy together with the scrumptious international dips we'll prepare as well! We'll be baking pita, challah, and naan!

RSVP at breadinterfeast.eventbrite.com
Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay In 40 Questions

Date: Sunday, November 19, 2017
Time: 3 - 6 pm
Location: Congregation Beth Elohim, 274 Garfield Place, Brooklyn, NY 11215

The Refugee Advocacy Task Force at Congregation Beth Elohim will host a book event, followed by a panel discussion and a volunteer fair. The headline speaker will be Valeria Luiselli, author of *Tell Me How It Ends: An Essay In 40 Questions*. The book is based on her experiences as interpreter for dozens of Central American child migrants who risked their lives crossing Mexico to escape their fraught existence back home.

Using the intake questionnaire as her memoir outline, Ms. Luiselli reviews each question and the typically shaken responses. For instance, question 7 asks “Did anything happen on your trip to the U.S. that scared you or hurt you?” Luiselli says that children rarely give an honest answer, not to lie or evade, but because the truth is too awful: 80% of migrant girls and women crossing Mexico to the U.S. are raped en route.

A volunteer fair will follow the presentation, where individuals may volunteer to assist numerous advocacy organizations. St. Boniface Church’s Social Justice Committee supports this event and encourages parishioner involvement.

For more details and free registration [click here](https://muslimjewishsolidarity.org).
Multifaith Thanksgiving Eve Services

Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2017
Time: 5:45 pm - Hot meal for the neighborhood people
       7:00 pm - Giving Thanks with Prayers, Songs, and Contemplation
Location: All Souls Church, 88 St Nicholas Ave., New York, NY 10026 212-663-4514.

Hot meal at 5:45 pm is courtesy of Sai Baba Manhattan, Mandala Cafe, and the Manhattan Clericus/IPC.

Thanksgiving celebration at 7:00 pm is co-sponsored by All Souls Episcopal Church, Sai Baba Manhattan (Hindu), Pamsula Zen Center, Harlem Hevruta, JCC Harlem, Church of the Heavenly Rest, and St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

Sealing of Certain Convictions
As part of Raise the Age legislation, the legislature passed and Governor Cuomo signed C.P.L. § 160.59, “Sealing of Certain Convictions,” into law on April 10th. New York’s new sealing law opens critical opportunities for those whose convictions occurred long ago to have their records sealed, thereby increasing their opportunities to obtain employment, housing, and other necessities of life that their criminal records have made it difficult to obtain. This change in the law allows people who have not been convicted of a crime in 10 years to seal up to 2 past convictions. Being able to seal certain convictions will open the doors to critical opportunities for New Yorkers with criminal record histories.

https://lac.org/passage-sealing-legislation/

Sisterhood of Salaam-Shalom
Sisterhood of Salaam-Shalom is seeking new participants in a new midtown Manhattan chapter of their national organization, dedicated to bringing Muslim and Jewish women closer together. SOSS was founded on the premise that relationships overcome prejudice among strangers. The Sisterhood presents a unique way to engage in interfaith relationship-building by focusing on friendship, trust, and respect. We are changing the world one Muslim and one Jewish woman at a time.

More information: visit [http://sosspeace.org](http://sosspeace.org) or e-mail sheryl@sosspeace.org
To engage with the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, [click here](http://sosspeace.org)

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**NYC Commission on Human Rights: A Survey**

Are people like you being targeted for discrimination at work, in housing, or in your neighborhood?

If you are Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, South Asian, or Arab, help us understand how discrimination is affecting your communities by taking our short online survey. Your input will help us understand how discrimination impacts communities like yours across NYC and how we can direct resources to those that need them most.

[Take the Survey](http://sosspeace.org)

New York City Commission on Human Rights has launched a survey project to better understand how discrimination impacts our communities. We’re specifically looking to survey those in the Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, South Asian, and Arab communities. The survey takes just 5 minutes and is available in 9 languages — Arabic, Bengali, English, French, Hindi, Punjabi, Russian, Urdu, and Yiddish. We hope to have a report on the survey by Spring 2018 and we will be happy to share that with all of you once completed.

Take the survey at: [www.nyc.gov/HumanRights](http://www.nyc.gov/HumanRights)

Daryl J. Cochrane, MPA
Director, Manhattan Community Service Center, NYC Commission on Human Rights
22 Reade Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10007
212-416-0182

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

**NOVEMBER 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Observance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November  1</td>
<td><strong>ALL SAINTS’ DAY</strong> • Christian Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.</td>
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<td>November  2</td>
<td><strong>ALL SOULS’ DAY</strong> • Christian Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as <em>Dia de los Muertos</em>, observed between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.</td>
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<td>November  4</td>
<td><strong>GURU NANAK DEV JI’S BIRTHDAY</strong> • Sikh A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.</td>
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<td>November  7</td>
<td><strong>ELECTION DAY</strong> A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.</td>
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<td>November  9</td>
<td><strong>KRISTALLNACHT</strong> Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.</td>
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<td>November 11</td>
<td><strong>VETERANS’ DAY</strong> Honors the U.S. Armed Services and commemorates the war dead.</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td><strong>BIRTH OF BAHÁ’U’LLÁH</strong> • Bahá’í Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá’u’lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá’í Faith, in Núr, Persia.</td>
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<td>November 12</td>
<td><strong>AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK</strong> Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U.S. receives a quality education.</td>
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<td>November 16</td>
<td><strong>INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE</strong> Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.</td>
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<td>November 20</td>
<td><strong>TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE</strong> Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.</td>
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<td>November 23</td>
<td><strong>THANKSGIVING DAY</strong> Following a 17th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims’ harvest feast in the autumn of 1621.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26</td>
<td><strong>DAY OF THE COVENANT</strong> • Bahá’í Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá’u’lláh’s appointment of His son, Abdul-Baha, as His successor.</td>
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