



December 2017 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

According to [Twitter's Hateful Conduct policy](#), users "may not . . . attack or threaten other people on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or disease." So earlier this week, when President Donald Trump re-tweeted violent and misleadingly-identified [Islamophobic videos](#) (winning the praise of former KKK Grand Wizard David Duke!) Twitter should simply have deleted them. By using his presidential pulpit to insinuate that millions of our Muslim neighbors -- whose workplaces, schools, and voting booths we share -- pose the same threat as an extremist Syrian ISIS follower, Trump abused his power and violated Twitter policy. If you agree that Trump's hateful re-tweets should be removed, you can write to:

Jack Dorsey, Chief Executive Officer
Twitter
1355 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Or if you're on Twitter, [tweet directly at Jack Dorsey](#) and his colleagues, and tell them to stop Trump from spreading hate speech. Or you can also sign the [M-Power on-line petition](#).

On a more positive note, the New Sanctuary Coalition is holding their Fundraising Gala at Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in Manhattan on Wednesday, December 13, at 6:00 PM. Tickets are [available here](#). New Sanctuary is a leader in the work of welcoming new New Yorkers, and "stands publicly in solidarity with families and communities resisting detention and deportation in order to stay together."

This coming [Thursday, December 7th, at 1pm at Brooklyn Borough Hall](#), you can join public defenders, community members, and immigrant organizations to demand that the Office of Court Administration and Chief Judge Janet DiFiore implement a policy to bar ICE agents from entering NY court property. This past Tuesday, Genaro Rojas-Hernandez, a Legal Aid client addressing misdemeanor charges in Brooklyn Criminal Court, was [detained by Immigration & Customs Enforcement](#). For more on ICE operations in courthouses, [see this article](#).

ICNY was honored to work last week with the Raising My Voice speakers bureau for formerly incarcerated individuals, to lead a workshop on reentry issues in Professor Michelle Alexander's class at Union Theological Seminary. Prof. Alexander is the author of [The New Jim Crow](#) (2012), and is currently a visiting professor at UTS, teaching a course called "Spirit of Justice: Towards an Interfaith Theology of Liberation." We are delighted to have contributed to her work.

Finally, we are very grateful to all of you who contributed to The Interfaith Center of New York on [#GivingTuesday](#). We need your support to do our work, and these days there's no shortage of work to be done.

Best wishes,

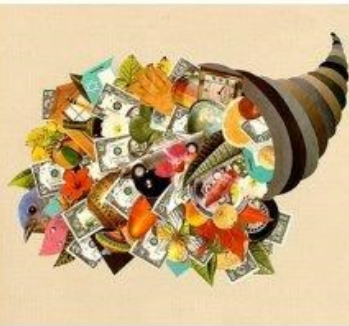
The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director
The Interfaith Center of New York

ICNY Events



**LAST CHANCE TO PRE-REGISTER 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 next week's [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

RSVP NOW

ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

"Love in a Dangerous Time" podcast episode

 **INTERFAITH IN THE CITY – with The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, executive director of The Interfaith Center of New York.**



Podcast: [Play in new window](#) | [Download](#) (Duration: 36:54 — 33.8MB) | [Embed](#)

"Hey, Lovers - This is Russ and I want to welcome you to Love in a Dangerous Time, where we look at The Church, and the profound changes it's going through in these Dangerous Times. We've got a great program today; today's episode, number 99, is all about interfaith work, and my guest is The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, the executive director of The Interfaith Center of New York. This is a very active and very effective organization that brings people of a variety of faith traditions together to break down divisions and do justice work together. We also look into the theological rationale behind this healing work and at some of the problems it brings up. These are Dangerous Times, Lovers. And we really have to learn to work together."

Listen to the podcast episode featuring Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer:
http://loveinadangeroustime.net/?powerpress_pinw=1192-podcast

Race, Spirit, and Justice

THE OF MANY INSTITUTE FOR MULTIFAITH LEADERSHIP PRESENTS THE ANNUAL FRITZI WEITZMANN OWENS LECTURE

FEATURING PANELISTS:

 Shaun King: Executive Director, Organizer	 Imam Khalid Latif: Executive Director and Chairman of the Islamic Center at NYU
 Dr. Simran Jaiet Singh: Founder and Co- Chairman at NYU	 Rev. Angel Kyodo Williams: Senior Author, Zen Preach, Social Justice Activist

Moderated by:
Alina Das:
Clinical Law Professor,
New York University
School of Law

 **NYU** Global
Spiritual Life

**RACE,
SPIRIT,
AND
JUSTICE**

DECEMBER 4TH, 2017 7-9:30 PM
SRL AUDITORIUM 4TH FLOOR
60 WASHINGTON SQUARE SOUTH NYC
RSVP: [HTTP://BIT.LY/RACESPIRITANDJUSTICE](http://bit.ly/RACESPIRITANDJUSTICE)

\$10 NON-NYU,
\$5 WITH NYU ID

CO-SPONSORED BY THE BROTHMAN CENTER FOR ETHICAL STUDIES AND
CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS, GLOBAL SPIRITUAL LIFE,
THE OF MANY CENTER AT NYU, AND PHOTONICS AT NYU.
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE NEW YORK COMMONS FUND.

Date: Monday, December 4, 2017

Time: 7:00-9:30 pm

Location: E&L Auditorium, 4th Floor, [60 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012](#)

Please join ICNY and NYU's Of Many Institute for Multifaith Leadership, for the annual Fritzi Weitzmann Owens Lecture: a special evening with Shaun King (Justice Activist, Columnist for Daily News), Imam Khalid Latif (Executive Director, Islamic Center at NYU), Simran Jeet Singh (Faculty and Chaplain, NYU) and Rev. Angel Kyodo Williams, Sensei (Author, Buddhist Priest), moderated by NYU Law Professor, Alina Das.

What role do spiritual and religious people have to play in conceptualizing and bringing about a more racially just world? How does faith affect the road to social change and how might it shape our goals and messages? This event will feature leadership from five faith traditions engaging in these questions.

Light refreshments will be served.

Tickets are \$10 for non-NYU and \$5 with valid NYU ID.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-york-universitys-global-spiritual-life-annual-fritzi-weitzmann-owens-memorial-lecture-2017-race-tickets-39492978562>

We Are One: Micah Faith Table Lunch



Date: Thursday, December 14, 2017

Time: 12 noon-2 pm

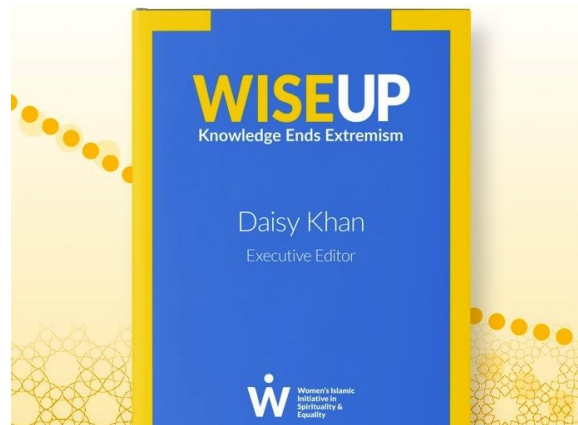
Location: Riverside Church, Room 10T, [490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027](#)

The Micah Institute Luncheon for December will be held on Thursday December 14, 2017 at Riverside Church room 10T at 12 noon. This will be an End of the Year Celebration and Holiday Party. All those who have worked with Micah in any fashion throughout this past year as well as those who are interested in learning more about the organization are invited to attend.

There will be a brief presentation on the work of this past year, and of equal importance some highlights of what lies ahead for Micah in 2018.

If you plan to attend, please communicate your intentions to JP Ross at johnpaul.ross@gmail.com.

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

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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 about what events are included in the Newsletter. Please note that a listing here does not imply ICNY endorsement.

The Futūḥāt Project
The world of Muḥyiddīn Ibn al-'Arabī

THE FUTUHĀT PROJECT

The world of Muhyiddīn Ibn al-‘Arabī
A two-day workshop with Dr. Eric Winkel
December 1-2, 2017 - New York City

Dates: Friday, December 1st, and Saturday, December 2nd

Times: Friday 8:00-10:00 pm, Saturday 10:00 am-4:30 pm

Location: Dergah al-Farah, [245 West Broadway, New York, NY 10013](#)

The Futuhat Project is Dr. Eric Winkel’s translation project of the entirety of Muhyiddin Ibn al-‘Arabī’s al-Futuhat al-Makkiyah, the Openings Revealed in Makkah. To learn more please visit www.thefutuhat.com.

Throughout the Openings Revealed in Makkah we hear the two imperatives: Learn, and Verify for yourself. The six sections of the Youth, etched in light and revealed to Ibn al-Arabi, correspond to six processes we seek to learn, and verify for ourselves. The all-day workshop gives us time to process what we learn, and prepares us to verify for ourselves all along our spiritual paths.

For more details on the Friday Night Lecture and the 3 workshops on Saturday, please visit sufibooks.com. Registration fees range from \$15 to \$60 online.

National Interfaith Anti-Bullying Summit



Dates: Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd

Time: Dec 2nd: 9:00-5:00 pm EST, Dec 3rd: 9:00-2:00 pm EST

Location: George Washington University, Ames Hall, [2100 Foxhall Road NW, Washington, DC 20007](#)

Islamic Networks Group (ING) is proud to officially announce the first-ever National Interfaith Anti-Bullying Summit. This Summit is a collaborative effort between ING and various faith partners including American Muslim Health Professionals, Hindu American Foundation, Sikh Kid 2 Kid, National Baptist Convention, and Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom in an effort to share research and best practices about an increasingly serious problem facing youth of various religious backgrounds.

We will be discussing and aiming to provide solutions that concern the mental health effects of faith-based bullying, solutions for parents, educators, peers and targets of these types of bullying incidents, and community-driven examples of success of addressing this issue.

Tickets \$35-\$90. Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-interfaith-anti-bullying-summit-tickets-36879685131>

United Religions Initiative North America Seeks Spring Interns



Date: Application priority deadline, Monday, December 4, 2017

The United Religions Initiative North America is seeking two interns to join our team for the Spring 2018 semester which runs from January to May 2018. These interns provide vital support to our communications work and, specifically to the #TangibleHope campaign. The two open positions are Public Relations/Storytelling Intern and Social Media Intern. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis with a priority deadline of December 4, 2017.

More information may be found here: <https://urinorthamerica.org/web/united-religions-initiative-north-america-seeks-spring-interns>

Speak Out Against Sexual Harassment & Assault

Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Time: 5:30-7:30 pm

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

Break the Silence! Break the Chains! As women are courageously calling out sexual predation, harassment and rape, join the fight to demand an end to all forms of the enslavement of women.

Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

The image shows the cover of a book titled "Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding". The cover features a photograph of an olive branch with green olives. On the left side, there are several logos: the United Nations emblem, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) logo, the United Nations Foundation logo, the NYU Center on International Cooperation (CIC) logo, and the QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office) logo. On the right side, the text reads: "DEC 08", "Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding", "by Office of the President of the UN General Assembly, Sustainable Development...", and "Free".

Date: Friday, December 8, 2017

Time: 9:00 am-1:00 pm

Location: Faculty House, Columbia University, [64 Morningside Drive, New York, NY 10027](#)

The meeting “Sustaining Peace: Partnerships for Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding” will serve as one of the critical events in the process leading up to a High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly to be convened by the President on the 24th and 25th of April, 2018, and a valuable platform for the relevant stakeholders to present their perspectives. The event will engage diverse stakeholders in discussion on preventing conflict and addressing its root causes. Participants will include university students and faculty, private sector representatives, civil society organizations, and government representatives. President of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, will make the opening remarks.

Through this event and subsequent meetings, it is hoped that momentum can be built and sustained beyond the UN, and that greater visibility will be given to this critical issue.

For more information and registration, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustaining-peace-partnerships-for-conflict-prevention-and-peacebuilding-tickets-39556691128>

Unable to attend in person? This event will be Live-streamed at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uRVP2uGzQE>

***Deepening and Personalizing our Faith Practices
Through Yoga and Meditation***



DEC
10

Deepening and Personalizing our Faith
Practices Through Yoga and Meditation

Date: Sunday, December 10, 2017

Time: 2:00-4:00pm

Location: Battery Dance, [380 Broadway, Suite #5, New York, NY 10013](#)

Join us to learn about the integral role of contemplative practice within Judaism, Islam, and numerous other faith paths. This will be a yoga class and discussion where we will explore how yoga and

meditation help us deepen our connection to our faith. Through the practice of yoga and meditation, facilitators Hannah and Anita will highlight the universality of creative/spiritual force, accessible and available to us through many means.

This will be an opportunity to deepen and personalize our faith practices, to intentionally bring our bodies into sacred space, and to connect with each other in a heartfelt way. No previous experience with yoga or meditation is necessary.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/deepening-and-personalizing-our-faith-practices-through-yoga-and-meditation-tickets-40042881336>

**God Box Talk:
Embracing the Religious and Spiritual Diversity of the African People**



Date: Thursday, December 14, 2017

Time: 6:00-8:30 pm

Location: Caribbean Cultural Center (CCCADI), [120 E 125th St, New York, NY 10035](#)

Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute in collaboration with The God Box Foundation presents "God Box Talk: Embracing the Religious and Spiritual Diversity of the African People." Join us for a dynamic Interfaith Dialogue between esteemed African and African Diasporan Religious Scholars and Practitioners.

Topics to be discussed include:

- The African traditional, cultural and spiritual connections with the Judeo- Christian-Islamic and African Diasporic Religions
- How Pan African theologies have been reconstructed by these religions and the impact slavery and colonization has had within this reconstruction.
- How our Pan African theologies reconnect the umbilical cord between Africans and Africans of the Diaspora in our efforts towards reconciling with God.

Panelists include Dr. Samuel Cruz, Dr. Marta Moreno Vega, Dr. Aliou Niang, Professor James Smalls, and Dr. Sednak Yankson.

For more information and tickets, please visit:

<http://cccadi.org/events/godboxtalk-embracing-religious-spiritual-diversity-african-people>

The Dialogue Experiment: Talking Through Red and Blue



The Dialogue Experiment: Talking Through Red and Blue will host a series of facilitated political dialogue sessions in a casual environment designed to encourage sharing and listening, rather than debating. Over a potluck dinner, participants will get to know one another, engage in communication skills exercises, and explore one another's political viewpoints with the help of an impartial facilitator.

The polarization of American politics is a well-worn subject, yet never in recent history have political divisions caused the intensity of anger, outrage and fear that have characterized political discourse since the 2016 campaign season and election. The current political environment does not benefit ordinary citizens. Congress is deadlocked and social media seems to divide as much as it connects us. The Dialogue Experiment seeks to facilitate connections between people who might not otherwise have opportunities to hear one another's point of view, and create a forum for substantive political dialogue that avoids the familiar patterns and animosity so prevalent in our national politics and media.

To sign up for a dialogue session, please contact dialogueexperiment@gmail.com. Sessions will be scheduled so as to accommodate as many participants as possible.

facebook.com/talkingthroughredandblue

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/>

http://www.nycourts.gov/FORMS/cpl_160.59_sealing_application/index.shtml

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.

For more information, please visit <http://sosspeace.org>

or e-mail sheryl@sosspeace.org

To engage with the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom, [click here](#)

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

DECEMBER 2017

December 1	WORLD AIDS DAY International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
December 1	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad which occurs in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.
December 3	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
December 3–24	ADVENT • Christian Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.
December 6	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Shi'a) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad which occurs in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Celebrates the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, founder of Islam. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims
December 8	BODHI DAY • Buddhist Also known as <i>Rohatsu</i> , it observes the spiritual awakening (bodhi) of founder Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, ca. 596 BCE. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
December 10	HUMAN RIGHTS DAY On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
December 12	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.
December 13–20	CHANUKAH • Jewish Eight-day "Festival of Lights", celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.
December 15	BILL OF RIGHTS DAY Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.
December 21	WINTER SOLSTICE In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of winter.
December 25	CHRISTMAS • Western Christian Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
December 26–January 1, 2018	KWANZAA A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. "Kwanzaa" means "first fruits (of the harvest)" in Swahili.

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