



## *January 2018 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter*

### Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year.

Last night at the third Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy workshop, we heard from Shahana Hanif, a young woman activist, organizer, and Community Liaison to the Bangladeshi Muslim Community of Kensington for the 39th City Council District of Brooklyn, New York. Shahana shared her strategies for "how to poke your way into the male-dominated mosque-lead leadership meetings in Kensington that you [as a young woman] are not invited to." Her strategies included speaking her mind, not minding what other people think, and accepting a position with her local City Councilman that gave her *both* a platform to advocate for the well-being of fellow Bangladeshi-American women and children *and* gain leverage with the some of the "uncles" in her community who grasped the importance of civic involvement in NYC.

May 2018 be filled with such examples of hope for all our communities.

Best wishes,

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

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## ICNY Events

*Religious Worlds of New York  
Summer Institute for K-12 Teachers  
Now Accepting Applications*



In today's climate of religious bigotry and extremism, K-12 teachers at public, private, and religious schools can help promote understanding across faith lines. The *Religious Worlds of New York* summer institute gives teachers the tools they need to build a more inclusive society.

The *Religious Worlds* institute is sponsored by ICNY and Union Theological Seminary, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. As in previous years, the three-week program will bring 25 teachers from throughout the United States to New York City, to work with leading scholars of religion, meet with diverse religious leaders, visit local houses of worship, and explore the religious life of the city. For more about the program and the application process, please [click here to visit the institute website](#).

The institute will meet from **July 9th to 27th** on the Union campus, in the Manhattan neighborhood of Morningside Heights. All NEH summer scholars will receive a **\$2,700 stipend** to help pay their travel, housing, and living expenses for the duration of the institute. **Applications are due by March 1st.**

Past participants have described the *Religious Worlds* institute as “my best professional development experience ever” and “one of the best learning experiences of my life” ([click here for more evaluations](#)). We hope you will apply, or share this information with educators in your community. Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the religious worlds of New York!

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## ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

### *Three Kings Celebration - Toys Needed for Children*



**Date:** Saturday, January 6, 2018

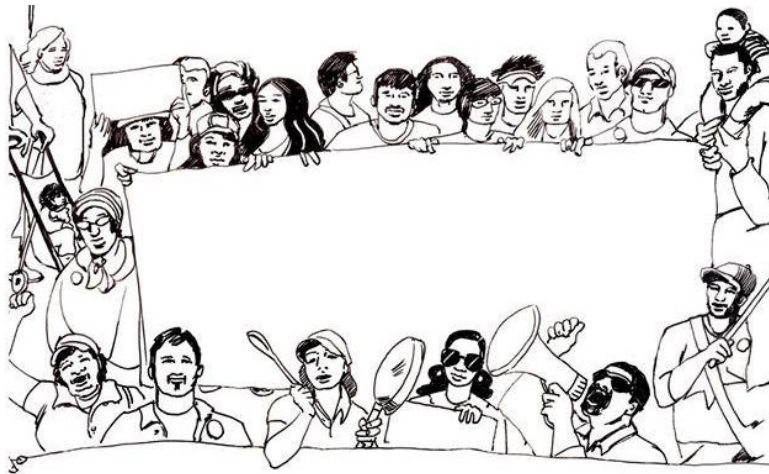
**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** Holyrood Episcopal Church/ Iglesia Santa Cruz, [715 W. 179th St.](#)  
[New York, NY 10033](#)

Join Iglesia Santa Cruz and friends for a celebration of Three Kings Day this Saturday at Holyrood Episcopal Church on 179th and Broadway. Please bring wrapped toys and unwrapped new children's clothing. We expect 40-50 children including those with parents in danger of deportation. For further information, contact the Church at 212-923-3770 or Fr. Luis Barrios 917-697-7056.

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### ***Solidarity Vigil Against Deportation***



**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2018

**Time:** 9 am-12 noon

**Location:** Foley Square, [111 Worth St, New York, New York 10013](#)

New York City families deserve dignity and respect. Each day, dozens of New Yorkers facing deportation must check-in with ICE Officers at 26 Federal Plaza. When they enter the building, they don't know if they will be able to see their families again. Now more than ever, it is important to show solidarity in the face of policies that threaten our communities.

Join us for a *Jericho Walk* to stand with individuals and families facing deportation. This interfaith act of solidarity will bring together advocates and supporters to show immigrants that they are not alone.

At 9 am, we will be meeting at Foley Square (right across the street from 26 Federal Plaza, by the fountain), and begin the *Jericho Walk*, circling the building in silence and thoughtful prayer. Though we walk in silence, our actions speak to the injustices that our communities face.

Sponsoring organizations: American Friends Service Committee, Brooklyn Defender Services, Center for Constitutional Rights, Detention Watch Network, Immigrant Defense Project, LatinoJustice, Make the Road New York, Minkwon Center for Community Action, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Project, the New York Civil Liberties Union, Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights, UnLocal, Inc. and a growing list of others!

Please invite others to attend via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/723945307810415/>  
RSVP at [eventbrite.com/e/solidarity-vigil-against-deportation-tickets-40893734260](http://eventbrite.com/e/solidarity-vigil-against-deportation-tickets-40893734260)

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## ***Micah Faith Table Lunch with Rev. Dr. Karyn Carlo***



**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2018

**Time:** 12 noon-2 pm

**Location:** Riverside Church, Room 10T, [490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027](https://www.riversidechurch.org/)

The Micah Institute Luncheon for January will be held on Thursday January 18, 2018 at Riverside Church room 10T at 12 noon.

Featured speaker for January will be Rev. Dr. Karyn Carlo. Dr. Carlo will describe her recent experience serving as Visiting Professor of Theology at the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary in Paynesville, Liberia. In this work, she was struck by the many ways in which US racism and white supremacy continue to harm this West African nation. Her presentation will include a brief history of the relationship between our two countries, the problem of U.S. Christianity as a tool of colonization and oppression, and possibilities for a more just way forward. In addition, she will share some personal reflections on visiting the Liberian birthplace of Mohamed Bah and on the many connections between Liberia and the Micah Institute as partners in the global struggle for more liberating faith-based narratives.

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## ***National Day of Fasting and Witness for Fair Food***



On January 18, 2018, faith leaders allied with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers will fast and

demonstrate outside of Wendy's restaurants across the country in solidarity with farmworkers' struggle for dignity, respect, and basic human rights in the fields.

The national action will commemorate the historic conclusion of six farmworkers' 30-day hunger strike, which took place in Immokalee twenty years ago that day. Though incredible progress has been made since 1998 through the CIW's Presidential Medal-winning Fair Food Program, farmworkers' prophetic call for justice in the agricultural industry continues. On January 18, we will call upon the leadership of Wendy's to join their peers, listen to their consumers, and finally sit at the table with their workers by joining the Fair Food Program.

Participants in this national action are called to fast throughout the day on January 18, and to bear witness to the injustice of Wendy's refusal to join the Fair Food Program. Participants are asked to choose a local Wendy's restaurant and organize a public component to their fast: a flyering event, a demonstration, a pray-in, a vigil, or some other form of protest.

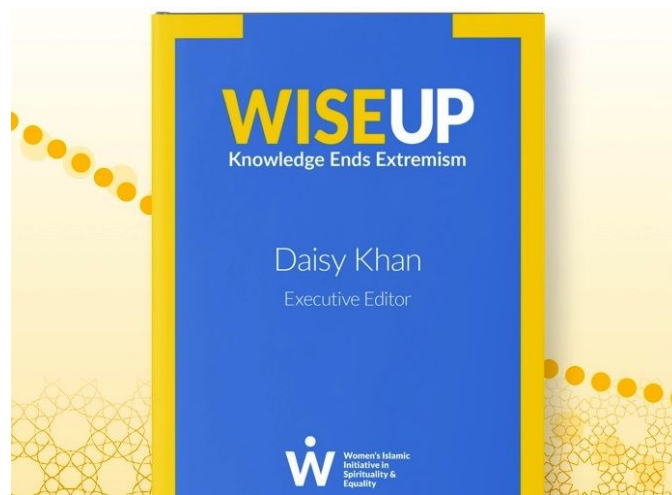
Sign up to participate: <http://www.allianceforfairfood.org/january-18-national-fast>

**The vigil in NYC will be at 10:30 am at 280 Park Avenue on January 18th.** It's really important that participants RSVP by signing up for the fast so that they can be provided in advance with the details.

Also check out the [Resource Guide](#).

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

### ***Become a Constitutional and Human Rights Specialist on Issues of Religion and Public Life***

NEWSEUM INSTITUTE



**Date:** The application deadline for the spring semester is **Sunday, January 7, 2018.**

The faculty and staff of the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute serve as educational specialists for theological schools and schools of education and journalism. Our mission is to provide current and prospective students with specialized training in constitutional and human rights approaches to issues of religion and public life.

Our classes prepare religious and civic leaders for effective leadership in a religiously diverse society, equip educators with resources for modeling First Amendment principles in schools, and help all students navigate the difficult religious freedom questions of our time.

For a complete description of our courses and application process, visit:

<http://www.religiousfreedomcenter.org/admissions/>

Applications are currently being accepted for Spring 2018 academic term. The final date to apply is January 7, 2018.

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***Health Care For All New York: Annual Winter Meeting 2018***



**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2018

**Time:** 10:30 am-3:30 pm

**Location:** [155 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210](#)

The agenda will include:

- Keynote address by Ron Deutsch, Executive Director of the Fiscal Policy Institute on tax reform and its implications for health care in New York State
- Advocates' Panel Discussion on HCFANY's policy priorities for 2018
- State and Federal discussion and planning groups

Lunch will be served. To register, [click here](#). For questions, please email [tfrazier@cssny.org](mailto:tfrazier@cssny.org).

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### ***Russell Berrie Fellowship in Interreligious Studies***



The Russell Berrie Fellowship targets priests, women religious, and members of the laity for the purpose of studying at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) to obtain a License Degree or a Diploma in Interreligious Studies. The goal of the Fellowship Program is to build bridges between Christian, Jewish, and other religious traditions by providing the next generation of religious leaders with a comprehensive understanding of and dedication to interfaith issues.

The award provides one year of financial support for new Russell Berrie Fellows. It is intended to cover tuition, a modest living stipend and book allowance, examination fees, and travel to and from the recipient's home country. Applicants of all faiths and backgrounds from around the world - including students currently enrolled at the Angelicum - who have a demonstrated interest in Interreligious

Studies - are encouraged to apply. The application deadline is **April 20, 2018**.

Program information and application materials can be found at [www.iie.eu/berrie](http://www.iie.eu/berrie).

Register for one of the three open webinars (Jan 18th, Feb 15th, or March 6th) to learn more about the Fellowship Program:

<https://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Russell-Berrie-Fellowship-in-Interreligious-Studies>

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## **NYIC VISTA**



Do you want to help end immigrant poverty? Develop valuable nonprofit skills and experiences? Give back to the community? If so, consider applying for an NYC VISTA position today!

NYIC VISTAs are AmeriCorps VISTAs who - through the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) - engage in a year of full-time paraprofessional service at a host organization, where they work on community outreach, communications, fundraising, program development and/or volunteer management projects for the purpose of building the host organization's capacity to implement immigrant-focused anti-poverty programs and services.

The NYC is currently seeking applicants for NYC VISTA positions that will be active from February 24, 2018 to February 23, 2019. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older; and be either a U.S. citizen, national, legal permanent resident, or DACA recipient.

To learn more information about the open NYC VISTA positions and how to apply, please visit <http://thenyc.org/VISTA>.

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## ***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](http://www.nycourts.gov/FORMS/cpl_160.59_sealing_application/index.shtml)

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### *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](mailto:sheryl@sosspeace.org)

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

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The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2018 is available [here](#).

## January 2018

January 1	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.
January 1	<b>TEMPLE DAY • Buddhist</b> Many Buddhists of all traditions pay their respects and pray for good fortune for the new year at the temple.
January 2–4	<b>MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist</b> In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.
January 5	<b>GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh</b> Guru Gobind Singh was the Tenth Guru of the Sikhs who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and is known as the Father of the Khalsa.
January 6	<b>EPIPHANY • Christian</b> Known as <i>Theophany</i> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.
January 6	<b>CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian</b> Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.
January 7	<b>CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian</b> Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.
January 14	<b>MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu</b> Seasonal celebration recognizing the increasing length of days.
January 15	<b>DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY</b> The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.
January 15 – January 19	<b>NO NAME-CALLING WEEK</b> Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.
January 21	<b>WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í</b> Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.
January 27	<b>UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY</b> Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.
January 31	<b>TU B'SHVAT • Jewish</b> New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.

*Thanks to the International Civil and Human Rights Advocacy (ICHRA) UNITED SIKHS for information on Sikh observances cited herein.*

## Ways to Support and Promote ICNY:

