



February 2018 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In her heartening [order for the release](#) of immigration activist and co-founder of the New Sanctuary Coalition Ravi Ragbir, Judge Katherine Forrest of the U.S. District Court of the Southern District of New York [wrote](#):

There is and ought to be in this great country, the freedom to say good-bye. That is, the freedom to hug one's spouse and one's children and to organize the myriad of human affairs that collect over time. It ought not to be—and never has been before—that those who have lived without incident in this country for years are subjected to the treatment of regimes we revile as unjust, regimes where those who have long lived in a country may be taken without notice from streets, home, and work. And sent away. We are not that country ...

The basic principles of ICNY's work are affirmed in Judge Forrest's order. We believe that the rights of citizenship in our diverse democracy are created through habits of civic engagement across religious and other lines of difference as much as they are conferred by the State. Our patriotic symbols are emptied of meaning when the lived experience of our newest neighbors do not reflect this truth. Grassroots immigrant religious leaders and their communities become New Yorkers as they respect the laws and customs of their home and make rich contributions to the lives of all those living here.

This past week was the one-year anniversary of the first Muslim ban and of the demonstrations at airports around the country in response to it. Last week, [hundreds gathered in Manhattan's Washington Square Park to speak and pray](#). Asad Dandia, NYU Masters student and Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy fellow, led the prayers and gave a [powerful sermon](#) about community from an Islamic perspective, based on a reflection he had delivered at Columbia University last fall.

ICNY is [looking for a new Program Associate for Community Partnerships](#). We said good-bye to former staff-member Iman Boukadoum last month as she transitioned to a position providing legal representation to Muslim victims of domestic violence. Applications for ICNY Program Associate position will be accepted until February 7th, 2018.

In celebration of the Black History Month and the Chinese New Year, please see following links for ways to celebrate in New York City:

<https://www.nycgo.com/articles/black-history-month-events>

<https://www.timeout.com/newyork/chinese-new-year>

Best wishes,

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

Executive Director

The Interfaith Center of New York

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.

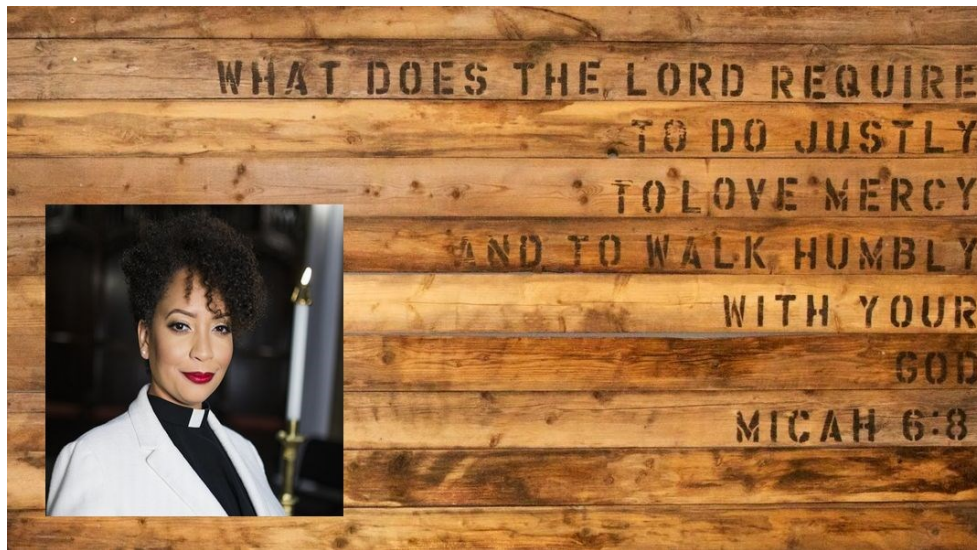
The *Religious Worlds* institute is sponsored by ICNY and Union Theological Seminary, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. As in previous years, the three-week program will bring 25 teachers from throughout the United States to New York City, to work with leading scholars of religion, 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! [Click here to visit the institute website](#).

ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

Micah Faith Table Lunch with Rev. Kaji Spellman Douša



Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018

Time: 12 noon-2 pm

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

Featured speaker for the February Micah luncheon will be the Rev. Kaji Spellman Douša. Rev. Douša is Senior Pastor of [Park Avenue Christian Church](https://www.parkavenuechurch.org/) in Manhattan, known as “The Park”. In the congregation’s 207 years, she is the first woman called to this role. She is one of very few young women senior leaders of important historic pulpits in the country. The Park is known as a congregation of fearless activism in New York City.

A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and of Yale University, Pastor Kaji is a prolific writer and a celebrated and awarded public speaker. About her public witness, Kaji says: “I’m realizing that it’s time for the church to repent. We’ve let the name of Jesus get away from us, get misused, twisted and turned ...”

Micah Institute is Seeking a Seminary Intern for Spring 2018



The Micah Institute at The Interfaith Center of New York

Organizational Description: Founded in 2010, the Micah Institute at the Interfaith Center educates and organizes faith leaders to fight poverty and injustice.

Internship Description: The Micah Institute seeks a called and gifted seminary intern to join its growing and dynamic team this spring. The Micah intern will play a critically important role in achieving Micah's efforts to build a vibrant faith-rooted organizing movement in New York City, with a ripple effect in New York State and the nation. The **two primary responsibilities** of the Micah intern will be to **assist the Director** in the administration and communication tasks essential to carrying out specific Micah initiatives and to be the **support staff for the Community Visits project**. This

supervised ministry opportunity will be a part-time position with a stipend.

Community Visits Project: The Micah Institute Community Visits Project was launched in 2017 with day-long visits to Harlem and East Harlem, and will continue in 2018 and 2019 with visits to religiously, racially, ethnically, and national origin-diverse neighborhoods in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island – order and dates of the visits to be determined. The goal of the Project is to deepen our knowledge and understanding of the needs and concerns of diverse NYC communities that are the focus of efforts by the Micah Table Economic Justice, Education, Housing, Immigration, and Police Reform Committees to serve as "moral messengers" to NYC elected officials, policy makers and advocates – in order to ensure the adoption of policies and processes that give *all* New Yorkers access to the resources and supports they need. Planning and organizing our day-long neighborhood visits, which include bus and walking tours and meetings at religiously diverse congregations and CBOs, involves identifying the leaders and institutions to be featured, doing outreach to them and to Micah leaders to invite their participation, drafting the tour and visit agendas, and organizing and providing logistical support for the tours and meetings. To facilitate this process, Visits Committee leaders wish to engage a part-time paid seminary intern committed to interfaith work who would devote at least 6 hours/week to assisting lead visits organizers, with an emphasis on outreach to both institution and Micah leaders and on visits logistics. Selection of the upcoming 2018 visits should be completed in January, and organizing efforts should begin by late January or early February.

Application Process: Those interested in applying should send a letter of intent and a resume to Rev. Joel A. Gibson at joelagibson@gmail.com.

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.

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.

Register for an open webinar (February 15th or March 6th) to learn more about the Fellowship Program: <https://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Russell-Berrie-Fellowship-in-Interreligious-Studies>

Summer Internship Program at the Temple of Understanding



Since 2005, the [Temple of Understanding](http://templeofunderstanding.org) has implemented its commitment to the education of youth by hosting a Summer Internship Program. Applicants must be at least 18 years old by June 15, 2018. TOU's student interns have the opportunity to attend some open meetings of the UN Security Council, the General Assembly, and various committees. This program provides individuals with a hands-on learning experience about the work of the UN for four-and-a-half intensive weeks.

Student interns also choose a topic for research that they are passionate about and that connects with the work of the Temple of Understanding, then present what they learn in an oral presentation and written paper at the end of the program. Throughout the program, student interns also have the opportunity to learn about different religions through visits to various interfaith sites, and they participate in volunteer work including park cleanups, serving food at soup kitchens, and teaching other young people about the UN.

The fee for the TOU Summer Internship Program is \$2,200. This covers travel to service and religious sites, honorariums for speakers, room rentals, supplies, and various other expenses. If the fee represents a financial hardship for you, please submit a request for a scholarship with your application and include a 2016 or 2017 tax return. For more details and information about the application process, please visit:

<http://templeofunderstanding.org/what-we-do/united-nations/un-internship/>

**14th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice
Celebrating World Interfaith Harmony**



Date: Sunday, February 4, 2018

Time: 3 pm

Location: Bet Am Shalom Synagogue, [295 Soundview Ave, White Plains, New York 10606](#)

14 different religious traditions are invited to recite prayers of peace and justice celebrating World Interfaith Harmony. Universal Prayers for Peace and Justice will be recited, including prayers from the following religious traditions: Hindu, Humanist, Buddhist, Jain, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Baha'i, Christian, Native American, Society of Friends/Quaker, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints/Mormon tradition. Free event.

WHO: Representatives of world religions and faith and humanist traditions will come together to recite universal prayers or statements for peace and justice.

WHY: In recognition and celebration of the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly proclaiming the first week of February World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths, and beliefs.

Charles S. Chesnavage, PhD, Service Planner, cchuck60@aol.com

THE PEACEMAKER



Dates: February 9-15, 2018

Times: 1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:00, 9:15 pm

Location: Cinema Village, [22 East 12th St, New York, NY 10003](http://www.cinemavillage.com)

The award-winning and critically acclaimed documentary THE PEACEMAKER will open in New York at Cinema Village on Friday, February 9, 2018 ahead of a wider release. The film's subject, Padraig O'Malley, and filmmaker James Demo will be in attendance opening weekend for Q&A discussions with the audience!

THE PEACEMAKER is an intimate portrait of international peacemaker Padraig O'Malley, who helps make peace for others but struggles to find it for himself. The film takes us from Padraig's isolated life in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to some of the most dangerous crisis zones on Earth – from Northern Ireland to Kosovo, Nigeria to Iraq – over five years as he develops a peacemaking model based on his recovery from addiction.

<https://www.cinemavillage.com/Now-Playing/the-peacemaker.html?d=20180209>

www.peacemakermovie.com 212-924-3364

My Faith/Your Faith



Date: Saturday, February 10, 2018

Time: 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Cathedral of St. John the Divine, [1047 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10025](http://www.cathedralstjohn.org)

My Faith/Your Faith is an interfaith fellowship for NYC teens in Grades 8-12 that meets monthly. We are now accepting applications for our Winter/Spring 2018 fellowship. My Faith/Your Faith fellows participate in social justice-oriented interfaith education programs. Over the course of the programs teens will learn about different faith traditions in New York City and draw on their own diverse traditions to help combat youth homelessness. For our February event we are attending the Celebration of Blessed Absalom Jones at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

For more information, visit <http://mfaithyfaith.wixsite.com/mfyf> or e-mail Ruben Brosbe at rubenbrosbe@gmail.com

What is Love? Storytelling Performance and Workshop



What is LOVE?

Storytelling Performances and Workshop
with the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee



Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018

Time: 6:30-9:30 pm

Location: The Nuyorican Poets Café, [236 East 3rd St, New York, NY 10009](#)

What Is Love? Please join us for an evening of storytelling to reflect on the different types of love at play in our lives, and learn how to craft and deliver our own stories.

What Is Love? We crave it and look for it; it inspires and devastates us. But do we fully understand the loves that have shaped us into the people we are and will continue to influence our lives? Please join the Muslim-Jewish Solidarity Committee for an evening of storytelling to reflect on the different types of love at play in our lives. We will hear experienced storytellers answer the question "what is love?" and then learn how to craft and deliver our own stories.
<https://www.nuyorican.org/event/1636065-what-is-love-storytelling-new-york/>

Let's Brunch in the Bronx – an Interfaith Brunch



Date: Sunday, February 18, 2018

Time: 12-2 pm

Location: Bronx Coworking Space, [2825 Third Ave, Bronx, NY 10455](#)

We're part of many communities throughout our lives, the neighborhoods we live in, our houses of worship, places of work. Our communities are our support system in hard times, and those we celebrate with in good times. They give us a sense of pride, but at times also challenge and concern us. Please join us for an interfaith brunch in the Bronx where we'll reflect on the communities we've lived in and discuss our part in shaping the paths of the communities we live in now. Free brunch provided.

RSVP at <https://interfaithbrunchinthebronx.eventbrite.com>

Compassionate Conversations: Conflict Resolution Workshop



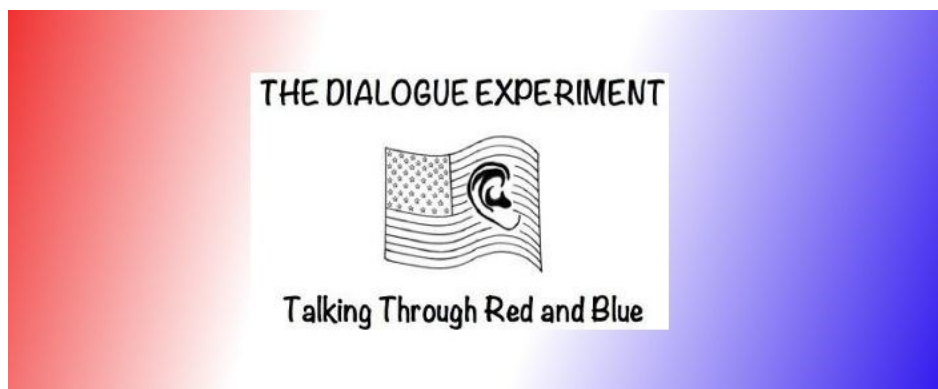
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Time: 6:30-9:30 pm

Location: The 14th Street Y, [344 East 14th St, New York, NY 10003](#)

Please join us for another exciting workshop in our Compassionate Conversations program. Conflict resolution specialist Jessica Baen will introduce key conflict resolution techniques to facilitate effective communication across difference. Through hands-on exercises we will explore how we approach conflict, what triggers us, and what challenges we need to overcome in order to have more productive conversations. No prior training necessary. Refreshments will be served. <https://compassionateconversationsworkshop.eventbrite.com>

The Dialogue Experiment: Talking Through Red and Blue



Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: A meeting space in Midtown Manhattan; details will be disclosed to confirmed participants.

The Dialogue Experiment brings people with different political beliefs together for an exchange of views over a potluck meal. With the help of an impartial, trained facilitator, participants seek to understand, not to debate or convince one another of their views.

The Dialogue Experiment will hold its first facilitated dialogue session over a potluck meal on February 28th, 6:30-8:30pm at a meeting space in midtown Manhattan. Participants will be invited to return for two additional sessions. To participate, email dialogueexperiment@gmail.com with a brief statement describing your interest in attending and a little bit about yourself.

The Dialogue Experiment has been endorsed by the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University and the New York Society for Ethical Culture. We welcome endorsers from across the political spectrum!

About the founder and facilitator: Jessica Baen, MPA, is a conflict resolution specialist who grew up in a politically divided household. She has a background in community mediation, intercultural dialogue, and international affairs. Jessica is a Senior Facilitator with Soliya, recently served as a fellow with the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University, and has extensive nonprofit management and political research experience. Her political dialogue work was recently featured on NPR's Voting Block series and discussed on the Brian Lehrer Show.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/160827971215378/>

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

February 2018

February	Full Month	BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.
February 1		NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
February 13		SHROVE TUESDAY • Western Christian A day of penitence as well as the last chance to feast before Lent begins. Also known as Mardi Gras.
February 13		MAHA SHIVARATRI • Hindu Also called <i>Shiva Ratri</i> , it is the Great Festival of Shiva.
February 14		VALENTINE'S DAY Celebrates the idea of romantic love.
February 14		ASH WEDNESDAY • Western Christian The first day of Lent for Western Christian churches, a 40-day period of spiritual preparation for Easter, not counting Sundays.
February 15		SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY Birthday of Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906), a pioneer in the Women's Rights Movement.
February 15		NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.
February 16		LUNAR NEW YEAR On this day Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese New Year are celebrated.
February 19		PRESIDENTS' DAY Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.
February 19		CLEAN MONDAY • Eastern Christian The beginning of <i>Great Lent</i> for Eastern Christian churches, which starts 40 days before Orthodox Easter (Pascha), counting Sundays.
February 25 – March 1		AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í The Ayyám-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year by inserting days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar.

Ways to support and promote ICNY:

Donate Now Online



Like



Follow



Subscribe



Follow