

March 2018 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As sometimes happens, Easter and Passover will overlap this year—a reminder that the journey to freedom is a commonly-held theme among faith traditions. In the same week that United States Customs and Immigration Services took the phrase "a nation of immigrants" out of its mission statement, ICNY worked with the New York Immigration Coalition on a multi-faith press conference calling for Congress to pass the Dream Act. Rabbi Marisa Elana James of Congregation Beit Simchat Torah observed that "The Bible is filled with stories of people who had to leave the place of their birth and find a new home so that their families could flourish." The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, Bishop Assistant of New York recalled the Episcopal Church's baptismal vow to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being."

It has been six months since, <u>Amanda Morales and her three children</u> entered **Holyrood Episcopal Church--Iglesia Santa Cruz** in Washington Heights to seek physical sanctuary from deportation. Cinthya Santos-Briones, a photographer with <u>New Sanctuary Coalition</u> has documented their time in sanctuary in a <u>photo essay of Amanda and her family's daily life</u> in the **The Nation**. It includes text from <u>Dulce Carvajal</u>, <u>Amanda's eldest daughter</u>. For people afraid of deportation and detention and their supporters, **Legal Services NYC - Bronx** have provided an excellent **Know Your Rights presentation** that can be shared in <u>English</u> and in <u>Spanish</u>.

A few days after the State of the City Address, our partners at the **Micah Institute** held a "**Spirit of the City**" event at the Riverside Church where diverse religious leaders delivered their own assessment of the successes and challenges New York City faces--from affordable housing to public education, police-community relations, economic injustice and more. You can <u>read City Limit's coverage here</u> The entire text, is available here.

Finally, like so many around the country, ICNY has been both devastated by the mass shooting at Marjorie Douglas Stoneman High School in Parkland, Florida and inspired by the courage of the student survivors who have called out the complicity of both the NRA and political leaders in the scourge of deadly mass shootings. Follow your kids to Washington DC on March 24th or stay in NYC for the March for Our Lives.

The Interfaith Center of New York is planning for our <u>2018 James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner on June 11th at the Tribeca Rooftop</u>. We are also looking for assistance in this work and will be hiring a **Development Associate/Event Manager** this month. For more information, <u>visit this link</u>.

Best wishes,

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

Executive Director

The Interfaith Center of New York

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ICNY Events

Save the Date: 21st Annual James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner



Save the date, as we will be celebrating our 21st Anniversary Gala Dinner and James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards ceremony on Monday, June 11, 2018 at the Tribeca Rooftop, 2 Desbrosses St., New York, NY 10013; 6:30 pm cocktails, and 7:30 pm dinner. Ticket information will be available in a few weeks.

ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

Micah Faith Table Lunch



Date: Thursday, March 15, 2018

Time: 12 noon - 2 pm

Location: Riverside Church, Room 10T, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027

Advocacy and Action from Islamic Perspectives: What to Expect From Our Muslim Sisters and Brother in the Movement

On March 15, 2018 at 12:00 noon at Riverside Church during the Micah Institute's monthly gathering, a panel of Muslim faith leaders and community action agents will speak about their personal experiences with advocacy and social engagement and what they understand their faith to say about each individual's responsibilities in these areas.

As we work together in the interfaith movement to promote the welfare and well-being of all of the residents of our city, it is important for us to understand what we can and should expect from one another and what our respective faith traditions enable us to do. Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid of the Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood and Hanadi Doleh from Park 51 will be part of the panel. Other participants are still being confirmed.

This is an important conversation for all of us and we look forward to you being present. Please confirm your attendance with Rev. Joel A. Gibson at joelagibson@gmail.com.

Micah Institute 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 advancing 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 origindiverse 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 parttime paid seminary intern committed to interfaith work who would devote at least 6 hours a 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.

The Gabr Fellowship

Other Events & Resources

If you have an upcoming event that you think ICNY's audience might like to know about, please notify us by <u>filling out this event form</u>. We have final discretion about what events are included in the Newsletter. Please note that a listing here does not imply ICNY endorsement.

Stations of the Cross Art Exhibit



Dates: Now through April 1, 2018

Time: Various times (see website www.artstations.org)

Location: At 14 locations throughout Manhattan

Stations of the Cross, a unique public art project, takes visitors of all faiths and backgrounds on a creative, contemplative, and spiritual journey across Manhattan. The exhibition weaves together 14 religious and secular art spaces, from The Cloisters museum to the National September 11 Memorial in Lower Manhattan. Each installation, or station, invites people of all faiths to consider injustice, with a focus on difficult journeys and the plight of immigrants and refugees.

Ahmed Mater: Mecca Journeys



Date: Now through April 8, 2018

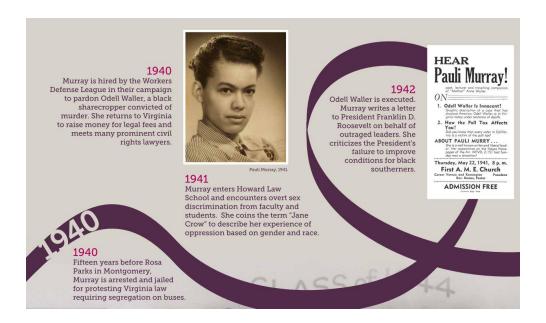
Times: Wednesday, Friday-Sunday 11 am - 6 pm, Thursday 11 am - 10 pm Location: The Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238

Ahmed Mater: Mecca Journeys is organized by the Brooklyn Museum in partnership with the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) and is produced in collaboration with CULTURUNNERS. Focusing on Mecca as both a symbolic site of worship and a contemporary urban center grappling with the consequences of unremitting growth, Mecca Journeys presents a portrait of the complex cultural dynamics at work in the city today.

Admission included with museum ticket:

Adults \$16 / Students (valid ID) \$10 / Adults 65 and over \$10 / Under 19 yrs free

Imp, Crusader, Dude, Priest: The Life of Pauli Murray



Dates: March 1-21, 2018 **Time:** Daily 10 am - 6 pm

Location: St. Paul's Chapel, 209 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

An interactive exhibit chronicling the life and legacy of Pauli Murray, poet, human rights activist, attorney, teacher, and priest. Murray refused to sit in the back of the bus 15 years before Rosa Parks, and her groundbreaking legal writings were instrumental in Brown v. Board of Education. The exhibit explores Murray's multifaceted identities and how she aspired to integrate them into a single life of purpose and transformation. Opening reception Thursday, March 1, 6-8 pm.

Free and open to the public.

https://www.trinitywallstreet.org/artasadvocacy

Harlem Pride & Friends @ Langston Hughes House



Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 **Time:** 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Location: Langston Hughes House, 20 East 127th Street, New York, NY 10035

HARLEM PRIDE welcomes LGBT friends and neighbors to a presentation, "The LGBT Life & Langston" by Harlem historian and Columbia University Community Scholar John Reddick, reflecting on Langston Hughes' LGBT friends, colleagues, and romantic associations viewed through the camera lens of his friend, long-time correspondent and photographer Carl Van Vecthen.

Also, it's a great opportunity to visit the interior of Langston's home and enjoy a reception including the witty presence of fellow writer and sometime Hughes nemesis "Zora Neal Hurston" as she joins the festivities!

Click here for more details

<u>Tickets are available online</u>: \$20 donation / \$15 students & seniors

Reception courtesy Kai & I Catering, Inc.

Freedom of Expression and Respect for Religious Beliefs

Date: Sunday, March 4, 2018

Time: 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: 64 Union Avenue, Amityville, NY 11701

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association of Long Island chapter invites you to our (*ladies only*) Interfaith Meeting on Freedom of Expression and Respect for Religious Beliefs, featuring guest speakers representing Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, and Sikhism.

Please give us your contact information so we can reach you if we have questions about this event.

Sadia Ahmed, Outreach Coordinator for Women Auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Long Island chapter.

Phone: 516-592-9501

Email: sadiaahmad5@hotmail.com

March Mass Meeting with Ravi Ragbir



Date: Sunday, March 4, 2018

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Park Avenue Christian Church, 1010 Park Ave, New York, NY 10028

During the civil rights movement, Mass Meetings were gatherings of faith leaders in churches where they would plan and mobilize their next non-violent direct action. In the spirit of the Mass Meetings, the Park Avenue Christian Church hopes to provide a space for grace for un-churched activists to experience a spiritual community

where they can love and be loved, getting the spiritual nurture they need for a lifetime of sustainable activism. A 5 pm evening gathering holds great appeal for people who are searching for a community of like-minded revolutionary friends to grow together with, in our journey for justice. It's vital that you and your friends join this Movement for Revolutionary Love. At the March 4 Mass Meeting, we will hear from Ravi Ragbir. Ravi is an immigrant rights activist and organizer who serves as the Executive Director of the New York, where he works directly with those who are facing deportation to empower them in the struggle to remain in the US.

Immigrants & the Sanctuary City: Then and Now



Date: Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029

Join historians, activists, and experts including Dr. Mae Ngai, Professor of Asian American Studies and History at Columbia University; immigration rights activist and leader Ravi Ragbir; activist leader Ana Maria Archila of the Center for Popular Democracy; and Bitta Mostofi, Acting Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, to contextualize the current climate for immigrants in New York in relation to the city's historic identity as the nation's melting pot. Moderated by WNYC reporter Matt Katz.

This program accompanies our ongoing exhibition "Activist New York." To view more programs in this series, click here.

\$20 for adults; \$15 for seniors, students, and educators (with ID); \$10 for Museum members - includes Museum admission. Buy tickets here.

For group discounts for 10 or more, call 917-492-3395 or e-mail programs@mcny.org.

Celebrating Excellence - Empowering Hope



MAR 10

Celebrating Excellence Empowering Hope

by International Human Rights
Consortium's Salem Peace Institute &
Center Ente

Free

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018

Time: 7:30 - 9:30 pm

Location: Christ Church, 524 Park Avenue (at 60th Street), New York, NY 10065

Performing world artists and friends invite you to share an evening of "Celebrating Excellence" which they will host, and which will include special guest artists giving 'cameo' performances ranging from finest classical works to contemporary newsounds premier presentations. The Ralph Bunche International Medal awardees for 2018 will also be recognized on this unusual evening which will move from Europe to NYC for its 20th anniversary. Looking forward to welcoming you on Saturday, March 10, to share a great evening of music among friends.

Founding President of Voices of African Mothers Nana Fosu-Randall is among the honorees receiving the 2018 Ralph Bunche International Medal.

Organized by the International Human Rights Consortium's Salem Peace Institute & Center Enterprises. Free.

World Music Stars and special Premier Performances begin at 7:30 pm. Special performances by Scarlet Rivera.

Complimentary tickets available on Eventbrite

See our new website currently being updated at www.salempeaceinstitute.org

Defending Constitutional Rights: Religious Freedom and Police Accountability

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2018 (snow date Sunday, March 11)

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Ethical Culture Society of Westchester, <u>7 Saxon Wood Road</u>, <u>White</u>

<u>Plains</u>, NY 10605

Two lawyers and a community activist will address legal issues and recent court cases that have particularly affected Muslims and communities of color and the ramifications for the civil rights of all. Panel discussion will be followed by Q&A. Sponsored by the Westchester Coalition against Islamophobia (WCAI). Free and open to the public.

RSVP to <u>wcai@socialjustsiceparnters.net</u> to receive notification of postponement due to snow, or consult <u>ethicalsocietywestchester.org</u> by 10 am on March 10th.

Panelists: Omar Mohammedi, Esq., Partner, OTM Law and President, Association of Muslim American Lawyers; Kerry Dziubek, Esq., Counsel, Arnold & Porter; Jon Moscow, writer and community activist with NY Coalition Against Islamophobia and JVP-Northern NJ.

More information available at https://ethicalsocietywestchester.org

March Mass Meeting with Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis



Date: Sunday, March 11

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Park Avenue Christian Church, 1010 Park Ave, New York, NY 10028

These #MarchMassMeetings throughout the month of March are a spiritual gathering for activists committed to collective social change. On March 11 we will hear from the Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, Senior Minister at Middle Collegiate Church, a 1000-member multiracial, welcoming, and inclusive congregation in New York City. Rev. Dr. Lewis is an activist, preacher, and fierce advocate for racial equality, economic justice, and LGBTQ equality. Middle Church and Jacqui's activism for these issues has been featured in media such as *The Today Show*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*.

3rd Annual Passover in a Mosque



Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Location: Islamic Society of Mid Manhattan, <u>154 East 55th Street</u>, New York, NY

10022

Please join us for our 3rd Annual Passover in A Mosque!

The Passover celebration of freedom and justice provides us a special opportunity to come together and demonstrate our unity, despite the current divisive political climate. Our unique interfaith Passover Seder combines the traditional Haggadah story reading with group discussions and time to reflect on our own stories and challenges. We will be welcomed by Imam Ahmed Dewidar, led in the Haggadah reading and ritual by Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, and then enjoy a delicious halal/kosher meal.

Tickets: https://3rdpassoverinamosque.eventbrite.com

Flying Phoenix Qigong with Sifu Terence Dunn (Heavenly Healing Chi - "Fei Feng San Gung")



Dates: March 22-25, 2018

Times: Day 1: 7 pm-9 pm, Days 2 & 3: 9 am-9 pm, Day 4: 9 am-12 pm

Location: Eastover Estate & Retreat Center, 430 East Street, Lenox, MA 01240

Flying Phoenix Qigong is an immersive workshop-retreat that teaches Flying Phoenix Heavenly Healing Chi (Fei Feng San Gung), a rare and extraordinarily powerful medical Qigong system that was created more than 400 years ago by renowned Taoist monk Feng Dao Deh.

Terry Dunn is an expert instructor in Chinese martial, yogic, and healing arts, with more than 40 years of training. Since 1990 he has popularized Tai Chi through his highly acclaimed and original "Tai Chi for Health" and "Chi Kung For Health" DVD programs. Educated at Yale and Harvard, he wrote the first medical protocol in American medical history applying therapeutic Tai Chi/Qigong to accelerate recovery from major surgeries. In 2000 he became the first Tai Chi trainer for the NBA.

For more details and registration, please <u>click here</u>.

Rohingya Crisis and the International Community



MAR 28

Rohingya crisis: Human Rights and the International Community

by International Law Society

Free

Date: Wednesday, March 28, 2018

Time: 5 - 8 pm

Location: 2 Court Square, Long Island City, NY 11101

The International Law Society invites you to attend our conference on the Rohingya crisis at City University School of Law. The Rohingya have been called the "world's most persecuted minority." Officially, Myanmar's government does not recognize the Rohingya as lawful citizens. Since August 25, 2017 over half a million Rohingya have fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape killings, arson, and other mass atrocities. The Human Rights Watch have accused the Burmese security forces of carrying out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State.

The conference will feature several speakers who will discuss the plight of Rohingya, the international community's responsibility, and the application of international law to address the crisis.

Free event. Light dessert reception to follow. Click here to register.

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.

To register for an open webinar on March 6 to learn more about the Fellowship Program, please <u>click here</u>.

The Gabr Fellowship



When: Application deadline May 31, 2018

Locations: Cairo, Egypt; New York, New York; Washington, DC

The Gabr Fellowship is a cross-cultural exchange program that brings together emerging leaders from the United States and Egypt to enage with policymakers, academics, members of civil society, religious leaders, and others. Participants also implement their own action projects, which allow them to facilitate ongoing dialogue and engagement between the two regions.

Each year the Shafik Gabr Foundation organizes the Gabr Fellowship, a dynamic exchange program with a mission to empower talented emerging leaders. This annual intensive program brings together approximately 20 young professionals from the United States and Egypt, and has expanded over the years to include candidates from the United Kingdom, France, Lebanon, and Jordan.

Following the program, Fellows will work collaboratively and implement Action Projects that help to close the divide between the East and West and stem the erosion of public understanding.

https://eastw	vestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-apply/		
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The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2018 is available here.

March 2018

March Full Month NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Honors women as significant agents of historical change.

March 1 PURIM • Jewish

The "Feast of Lots" marks the salvation of the Jews of ancient Persia from extermination.

March 2- NINETEEN-DAY FAST • Bahá'í

March 20 Baha'is between 15 and 70 years of age do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset and set

aside time for prayer and meditation.

March 2 HOLLA MOHALLA • Sikh

An annual event which is a martial arts parade historically coinciding with Holi, the Hindu festival of colors. Celebrations related to Holla Mohalla may be held in various locations

over several weekends preceding the actual date of the holiday.

March 2 HOLI • Hindu

A spring festival in India and Nepal dedicated to the god of pleasure, also known as the

festival of colours or the festival of sharing love.

March 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women worldwide.

March 17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY • Christian

Feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. In the U.S., a secular version is celebrated by

people of all faiths through appreciation of all things Irish.

March 20 VERNAL EQUINOX

The date when night and day are nearly the same length. It marks the first day of the

season of spring.

March 20 NOWRÚZ • Zoroastrian

A traditional ancient Iranian festival celebrating the first day of Spring and the Iranian New

Year. Also celebrated as New Year's Day in Baha'i tradition (Naw-Ruz).

March 25 PALM SUNDAY • Christian

Observed the Sunday before Easter/Pascha to commemorate the entry of Jesus into

Jerusalem.

March 25 RAMA NAVAMI • Hindu

Celebrates the birthday of Rama, king of ancient India, hero of the epic Ramayana, and

seventh incarnation of Vishnu.

March 28 KHORDAD SAL • Zoroastrian

The Zoroastrian celebration of the birth of Zoroaster, the founder of the Zoroastrianism

religion. The holiday is specifically celebrated in India and Iran, immediately following the

Persian new year, Nowrúz.

March 29 HOLY THURSDAY • Christian

Also known as Maundy Thursday, it is celebrated on the Thursday before Easter

commemorating the Last Supper, at which Jesus and the Apostles were together for the last

time before the Crucifixion.

March 30 GOOD FRIDAY • Christian

Known as Holy Friday in Eastern Christianity, it commemorates the Crucifixion of Jesus on

the Friday before Easter/Pascha.

March 31 - PASSOVER/PESACH • Jewish

April 7 The eight-day "Feast of Unleavened Bread" celebrates Israel's deliverance from Egyptian

bondage.

March 31 MAGHA PUJA • Buddhist

Also known as Sangha Day, it commemorates the spontaneous assembly of 1,250 disciples, completely enlightened monks, in the historical Buddha's presence.

March 31 CESAR CHAVEZ DAY

Honors Mexican American farm worker, labor leader and activist Cesar Chavez (1927-

1993) who was a nationally respected voice for social justice.

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Ways to support and promote ICNY:

