



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

### Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Today, April 3, ICNY invites you to join in the #WeAreAllMuslim campaign in response to a flyer circulating on the internet calling for violence against Muslims in the UK and US. The [Arab American Association of New York](#) is asking for volunteers to be present outside city mosques today. To volunteer sign up [here](#). Or take a photo of yourself with a scarf or Kufi (brimless cap) and tweet it with #WeAreAllMuslim. For more information, see [Shoulder2Shoulder](#) and/or this [New York Daily News article](#). Call 1-888-NYC-SAFE (1-888-692-7233). For those observing, a very happy Easter and Passover to you.

On Maundy Thursday, March 29, ICNY partnered with the New Sanctuary Coalition, Rabbi Lauren Grabelle-Herrmann of the [Society for the Advancement of Judaism](#), and Sunita Viswantha [Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus](#) to welcome Aura Hernandez and her two children into physical sanctuary at Fourth Universalist Society with an [interfaith foot-washing ceremony](#). Aura and her children are now the second family that has publicly taken sanctuary in New York City.

In light of the 50th anniversary of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination and in anticipation of the [New York State Poor People's Campaign's](#) 40 days of nonviolent direct action, on May 2 ICNY will be hosting the [35th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat "Multifaith Strategies for Nonviolent Direct Action."](#) Also, New Yorkers are invited to take a seat on the bus to DC for the April 4 [ACT to End Racism Rally](#) organized by the National Council of the Churches of Christ.

The Interfaith Center is delighted to welcome two new staff members:



Hanadi Doleh, Program Associate for Community Partnerships comes to ICNY from seven years at Park51. Hanadi received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a Masters of Arts in International Relations at CUNY Brooklyn. Hanadi is the child of first-generation immigrants and describes herself as an "unabashedly proud" Brooklynite. You can reach Hanadi at [hanadi@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:hanadi@interfaithcenter.org)



ICNY's new Interim Director of Development is Jonill Mayer, who brings with her a passion for improving the visibility of both corporate and nonprofit events. A former consultant with a focus on LGBTQ equality and human rights, Jonill has worked with the Tyler Clementi Foundation, the New York City Anti-Violence Project, and the New York Zen Center for Contemplative Care. She is thrilled to join the Interfaith Center of New York in time for the [June 11, 2018 James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner](#) and looks forward to meeting many of you in June. Jonill can be reached at [Jonill@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:Jonill@interfaithcenter.org)

Best wishes,

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

P.S. [Tickets](#) are now available for the [2018 James Parks Morton Interfaith Award Dinner](#) on June 11th at the Tribeca Rooftop. We hope to see you there!

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## ICNY Events



*THE 35TH RABBI MARSHALL T. MEYER RETREAT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE*

# *Multifaith Strategies for Nonviolent Direct Action*



**Wednesday, May 2, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm,  
at the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive**

Our diverse faith traditions call us to engage in nonviolent action for social justice. Transformative change often grows out of conversations among these traditions, as in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s description of the nonviolent struggle for racial equality: *“Christ furnished the spirit and the motivation, while Gandhi furnished the method.”*

In the spirit of Dr. King, please join us to explore diverse faith-rooted strategies for nonviolent direct action. The conference will include both interfaith dialogue and hands-on civil disobedience training. It will contribute to the Poor People's Campaign's upcoming **40 Days of Moral Action**, and to the Micah Institute's ongoing efforts to transform New York City for love and justice.

[Click Here for Detailed Info & Registration](#)

Religious leaders and community activists from all backgrounds are welcome to participate. A suggested donation of \$20 is requested to help pay for meals and conference expenses. ***We hope to see you there!***

Questions? Contact Hanadi Doleh, Program Associate for Community Partnerships, at 212.870.3547 or [hanadi@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:hanadi@interfaithcenter.org).

[Click here for a printable flyer.](#)

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***Tickets and Sponsorships Available Now for the  
2018 James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards Dinner***



Tickets and Sponsorships are now available for the 2018 James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards Dinner! Please join us on Monday, June 11, 2018 at the Tribeca Rooftop in Manhattan for an evening of cocktails, dinner, and entertainment as we celebrate the individuals and organizations that exemplify an outstanding commitment to promoting human development and peace.

[Click HERE to become a table host or ticket holder now!](#)

Thank you for your support of The Interfaith Center of New York. To learn more about this event and our esteemed honorees (to be announced shortly), please visit <http://www.interfaithcenter.org/2018-gala>

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### ICNY's *Interfaith Matters* Podcast Kicks Off Season Three With New Crew



Our third season of the [Interfaith Matters](#) podcast launches its first episode in a few days, helmed by our new crew: host **Hannah Meholick** (pictured above, left) and engineer and editor **Jeff Berman** (pictured above, right). Hannah is a



graduate of Point Park University, where she studied cinema and documentary filmmaking. Jeff is an audio engineer, multi-instrumentalist, and composer, who approaches music as an opportunity for creative dialogue. Learn more about them on [our podcast webpage](#). We're pleased to work with these young professionals as they craft a podcast series exploring the relationship between faith and social justice.

The first episode of the season features an interview with **Sunita Viswanath** (pictured above, center), the Founder of [Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus](#), discussing a range of topics, including her efforts to bring an end to the caste system and to protect the environment.

If you are interested in learning about the faith practices of your neighbors, or how faith motivates people and communities to activism, we hope you'll listen to the podcast and share it with others. And if you'd like to contact us with ideas for (or feedback on) the podcast, please write to us [socialmedia@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:socialmedia@interfaithcenter.org).

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## ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

### *Interfaith Seder for Immigrant and Refugee Justice*



**Date:** Monday, April 9, 2018

**Time:** 6:00 - 8:30 pm

**Location:** Jewish Center of Jackson Heights, [37-06 77th Street, Queens, NY 11372](#)

Together with communities of faith, activists, and community-based organizations, we will celebrate Passover, discuss issues facing immigrant and refugee communities, and highlight the work being done to make New York City a safe and welcoming city. **The Seder will be on Monday, April 9 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm) at the Jewish Center of Jackson Heights (37-06 77th Street, Jackson Heights).** The Seder includes a full sit-down meal and admission is free. It is organized by the NYC Commission on Human Rights. For more details and registration, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/interfaith-seder-for-immigrant-and-refugee-justice-tickets-44371059032>

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## *Micah Faith Table Lunch*



**Date:** Thursday, April 19, 2018

**Time:** 12 noon - 2 pm

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

Micah Institute's monthly luncheon gathering, on April 19, 2018 at 12:00 noon at Riverside Church will feature a speaker from the Poor People's Campaign.

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](mailto:joelagibson@gmail.com).

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## **Third Annual Awards and Fundraising Dinner of the New York State Council of Churches**



**Date:** Thursday, May 3, 2018

**Time:** 5:30 to 6:30 pm reception with cash bar; 6:30 to 8:30 pm dinner and awards presentations

**Location:** Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, [440 Whitehall Road, Albany, NY 12208](#)

The New York State Council of Churches third annual awards and fundraiser dinner highlights the powerful and life changing ministries. The dinner illustrates our

purpose to embrace a spirit of ecumenism and hospitality, to live into God's call to do justice and to love our neighbor. Together we bridge the sacred and the secular to point to the Kingdom of God on earth, as we envision a world where the marginalized are freed from poverty, where prisoners can be restored to live happier and healthier lives, and where we help people of all ages grow in their Christian discipleship. This year awardees include:

#### CHAPLAINCY

**The Reverend John Koopman** (United Church of Christ) Director of Hospital Chaplaincy, Broome County Council of Churches

**The Reverend Cleveland Thornhill** (African Methodist Episcopal Zion) Chaplain, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

#### ECUMENICAL

**The Reverend Dr. Chloe Breyer** (Episcopal) Executive Director, Interfaith Center of New York

#### FAITH FORMATION

**The Reverend Dr. James Giles** (Non-Denominational) Executive Director, Back to Basics Ministries, Buffalo

#### SOCIAL WITNESS

**Charles Kahn and Michael Kink**, Strong Economy for All  
**Jamaica Miles** (American Baptist/United Church of Christ) Lead Organizer, Citizens Action

Tickets for the reception and dinner are \$60.

We ask that you please consider purchasing a sponsorship between \$125 and \$5,000 to support the New York State Council of Churches. Please submit ads by April 22 which will be published in an attractive awards booklet.

[Please click here to purchase tickets and sponsorships.](#)

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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.*

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**"Calling the Phoenix"  
Learning toward Transcending Political and 'Natural' Disasters**



**Date:** Saturday, April 7, 2018

**Time:** 10:30 am - 2:30 pm

**Location:** United Nations Church Center, [777 United Nations Plaza, NY, NY 10017](https://www.un.org/en/locations/ny)

Pasos Peace Museum and the International Institute on Peace Education (IIPE) invite you to hear Amada Benavides de Pérez, President of the Foundation for Peace Education (Fundación Escuelas de Paz), on the role of peace education in the Colombia peace process. She will be joined by Anita Yudkin Suliveres of the University of Puerto Rico, and Janet Gerson, of the International Institute on Peace Education. The discussions to follow will be chaired and facilitated by Betty Reardon, founder of the International Institute on Peace Education.

Sign in will open at 10 AM and the program will begin promptly at 10:30. You and your friends and colleagues are most welcome to join us just let us know how many you will be, so we can order enough lunch. [Free, advanced registration is required by registering here.](#)

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### ***Ahmed Mater: Mecca Journeys***





**Date:** Now through June 17, 2018

**Times:** Wednesday, Friday - Sunday 11 am - 6 pm, Thursday 11 am - 10 pm

**Location:** Brooklyn Museum, [200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238](https://www.brooklynmuseum.org)

*Ahmed Mater: Mecca Journeys* is organized by the [Brooklyn Museum](https://www.brooklynmuseum.org) 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

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### ***King's Legacy: The Black Church and Social Activism Today***



**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018

**Time:** 6:30 pm

**Location:** Museum of the City of New York, [1220 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029](https://www.mocny.org)

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, Rev. Dr. Calvin Butts of Abyssinian Baptist Church and SUNY Old Westbury and Rev. Dr. Johnny Ray Youngblood of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church discuss the continuing role of New York's African American churches in advancing civil rights and social activism with Carol Jenkins, host of *Black America* on CUNY TV.

Before and after the conversation, singer Imani Uzuri, will perform. Reception to follow. \$25 with discount code KING1, which includes museum admission.

<http://www.mcny.org/kinginny>

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***Join ICNY Board Member Baba Antonio Mondesire***

## *in Walking to End Blindness*



**Date:** Saturday, April 14, 2018

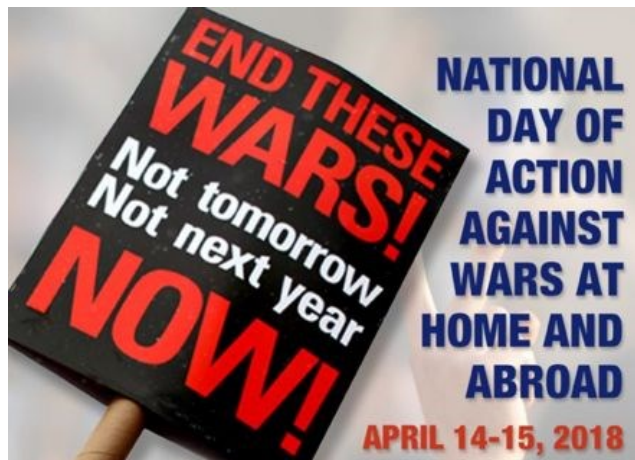
**Time:** 9:00 am

**Location:** [Naumberg Bandshell](#), Central Park, New York, NY 10019

Walk with the Foundation Fighting Blindness and make the world a brighter place for millions of Americans with blinding diseases. [Baba Tony's team page is here.](#)

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## *National Day of Action Against Wars*



**Date:** Sunday, April 15, 2018

**Time:** 2:00 pm

**Location:** Rally at [Herald Square 34th Street and 6th Ave](#) and march to Trump Tower.

The time is now to return to the street to make our voices heard. Join us on April 14 -15 for united, nationally coordinated regional mobilizations to challenge the war makers and defend humanity. For more information, visit:

### ***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).

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### ***The Gabr Fellowship***



**Date:** 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 engage 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://eastwestdialogue.org/fellowship/how-to-apply/>

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### ***The Centro Pro Unione Summer School in Rome***



**Date(s):** June 25 - July 13, 2018

**Location:** Rome

The Centro Pro Unione Summer course is designed to introduce participants to the ecumenical and interreligious movements from a Catholic perspective. It will offer a historical and theological overview of the issues that divide Christians as well as the bonds that unite them.

The course, which is in English, is for men and women who are in preparation for ministry or religious life, who are in the mission field, who are ecumenical officers or members of ecumenical commissions, or who are looking for a sabbatical experience led by qualified professors and ecumenists.

The cost of the course, which earns up to 6 graduate credits, is US\$300 which is payable at the time of application. Upon acceptance of application, a list of possible lodgings in Rome will be mailed or faxed. Booking of lodging is the responsibility of applicant. Transportation (from North America), lodgings and meals will be approximately



US\$3,500. For more information, please visit:  
<https://www.prounione.it/en/formation/summer-school-rome/>

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## ***NYS - Approved Continuing Teacher Leadership and Education Course***

The Concordia College CTLE program is a great opportunity for teachers to pursue as little or much of the 7 - course, 21- credit menu as they want within the M.S. in International Education. These credits can also qualify toward salary scale - increase opportunities.

Course work is completed online. Each 3 - credit course runs for 8 weeks. Teachers may enroll in as few or as many courses as they want, taking one course at a time. Students do not have to matriculate, and registration is a simple and easy one - page form.

<https://www.concordia-ny.edu/about/news/1632920/concordias-graduate-classes-in-international-education-give-teachers-opportunities-for-ctle-and-other-advancement>

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

### **April 2018**

April	Full Month	<b>GENOCIDE AWARENESS MONTH</b> A month that marks important anniversaries for past and contemporary genocides. Throughout the month, individuals, communities and organizations join together to commemorate and honor victims and survivors of mass atrocities.
April 1		<b>EASTER • Christian</b> Known as <i>Pascha</i> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the resurrection of Jesus.
April 12		<b>YOM HASHOAH • Jewish</b> "Holocaust Remembrance Day" memorializes the heroic martyrdom of six million Jews who perished in the Nazi Holocaust.
April 14		<b>VAISAKHI (also spelled Baisakhi) • Sikh</b> The festival which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community as the Khalsa (community of the initiated). On this day, Sikhs gather and celebrate Vaisakhi at their local Gurdwaras (Sikh house of worship) by remembering this day as the birth of the Khalsa.
April 21–May 2		<b>FESTIVAL OF RIDVÁN • Bahá'í</b> Annual festival commemorating the 12 days when Bahá'u'lláh, the prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, resided in a garden called Ridván (Paradise) and publicly proclaimed his mission as God's messenger for this age. The first ( <b>April 21</b> ), ninth ( <b>April 29</b> ), and twelfth ( <b>May 2</b> ) days are celebrated as holy days when Baha'is suspend work.
April 24		<b>ARMENIAN MARTYRS' DAY</b> Memorializes the genocide of some 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923 in Turkey.
April 27		<b>DAY OF SILENCE</b> Students take a day-long vow of silence to protest the actual silencing of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students and their straight allies due to bias and harassment.
April 30–May 2		<b>THERAVADA NEW YEAR • Buddhist</b> In Theravada countries the New Year is celebrated on the first full moon day in April.