



September 2018 Interfaith Center of New York **Newsletter**

Message from ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

With Labor Day upon us, the challenges to low-wage and immigrant workers and the role of faith communities are front and center. The Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition commends the [Interfaith Worker Justice's resources that are available for congregations](#). Also, faith leaders and human rights advocates are invited to accompany separated immigrant families at **El Grito De Las Fronteras/Cry from the Border** gathering from **September** 6-9 in El Paso, Texas.

Also in **September**, join ICNY's **Interfaith Civil Leader Academy Fellows** Giovanna Maselli and The Rev. Kyndra Frazier for the public luncheon [Breaking Bread: Baptist-Buddhist Dialogues and Mindful Practices](#) in the Far Rockaways. **September** 16 is the [Birthday of Ganesh](#), and the **Hindu Temple of North America** will be holding its annual procession through the neighborhood in Flushing. With the help of the **Charter of Compassion and Pay It Forward 9/11**, ICNY is hosting an [intergenerational dialogue about 9/11](#). See also the [Peace Lanterns Ceremony](#) and [Pax Christi's Interfaith Prayers honoring the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#).

This Fall, ICNY and the New York Board of Rabbis are working with Muslim and Jewish leaders to help the Comptroller's office develop a **Halal and Kosher School Lunch Pilot Program** that explores how Department of Education public school cafeterias can offer Halal and Kosher meal options. This initiative reflects collaboration between Muslim and Jewish communities in New York and is supported by Council Member Chaim Deutsch and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson who helped appropriate funding for a pilot in four schools. You can find more information about this interfaith initiative [here](#).

Finally, after the tragic suicides of six taxicab drivers this past year, [ICNY worked with the Micah Table and the Greater New York Labor-Religion Coalition on a letter](#)--signed by 66 religious leaders--supporting City Council legislation that puts a one-year freeze on for-hire vehicles (Uber, Lyft, etc.), with the exception of those that are handicapped accessible. For more information on the legislation that passed in August, see this [New York Times article](#).

We are also very grateful to ICNY Board Member, Baba Tony Mondesire who attended a recent conference on the [Opioid Crisis and Spiritual leaders](#), sponsored by NBTS (New Brunswick Theological Seminary) Center for Clergy Care and [SAMHSA.gov](#) (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).

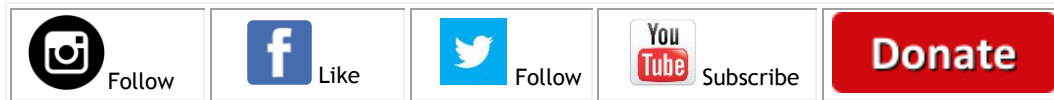
Happy New Year to all those celebrating the High Holy Days.


Best wishes,



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

PS: Thank you for your interest in our monthly [newsletter](#)! Please take a moment to learn more about the Interfaith Center's work to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by visiting us at [interfaithcenter.org](#) or by clicking on one of the links below.



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Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy Events

In partnership with [Trinity Church Wall Street](#), ICNY's [Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy](#) is giving diverse religious leaders the tools they need to make a difference -- with an intensive ten-month training program to develop civic engagement skills, as well as a rich network of relationships with colleagues across faith lines. In the final phase of the academy, our fellows receive grant funding to create their own community-based projects, applying the skills and insights developed in the program to address a social justice issue that impacts their faith community or other New Yorkers.

ICNY is proud to share these upcoming ICLA events -- the products of our fellows' extraordinary work:



[Giovanna Maselli](#)



[Rev. Kyndra Frazier](#)

***Breaking Bread:
Baptist-Buddhist Dialogues and Mindful Practices***



Date: Sunday, **September 16**

Time: 12:00 pm

Location: Rockaway Summer House, [504 Beach 68th Street](#) (Thursby Avenue Entrance), Arverne, NY 11692

The Interfaith Lunch is open to the public but RSVPs are required. Please send an email to RSVP@Buddhistinsights.com.

Breaking Bread is an event fostering interfaith dialogue and mindful practices. The interfaith lunch will bring together members of various faith communities to develop the inner qualities of awareness, compassion, equanimity, and kindness. In order to nurture mutual understanding and appreciation between practitioners of different spiritual traditions we seek to provide an environment that will add a pragmatic layer to interfaith dialogue, by providing a shared meal. Cosponsors for this event are Buddhist Insights, First Corinthians Baptist Church, Community Movement, and the Interfaith Center of New York.

[A printable version of the flyer is available here](#)

ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

#CompassionConvo and Pay It Forward 9/11



Date: Friday, **September 7**

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Interchurch Center, [475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115](#) (Dining Rooms A&B)

September 11 is a national day of remembrance and service in the United States. Young adults in college were infants when the terror attacks on America occurred. In the immediate aftermath, we saw boundless acts of compassion and global unity. Seventeen years later, the world is deeply divided and there is a lack of trust between generations.

#CompassionConvo is a pilot project of Charter for Compassion aimed at facilitating conversations and active listening between generations. The first curated conversations will launch in conjunction with the 17th annual Pay It Forward 9/11 initiative, which promotes random acts of kindness.

The event is FREE. Participants (ages 18+) must be willing to speak publicly in the group, and be willing to sign a waiver for potential use of their likeness (photo and video) in social media, to promote further ripples in this movement to spread random acts of kindness.

For more information, please email: Info@PayitForward911.org.

2018 Peace Lanterns Festival



Date: Sunday, **September 16**

Time: 2:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Gantry Plaza State Park, [49th Avenue and Center Blvd, LIC, NY 11101](#)

Peace Lanterns Festival is consisted of four parts; Public puddling and art creation from 2pm - 6pm, Meditate NYC organized by the Buddhist Council of New York from 2:30pm - 6pm, Interfaith Peace Ceremony from 6:30pm - 8pm, and Floating Peace Lanterns from 8pm - 9pm, kicking off United Nations Peace Week. We cultivate and develop the energy of peace and extend it to the United Nations, whose mission should be to bring peace to our planet.

Featured speakers are Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, founder of Buddhist Global Relief and environmental peace activist, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN and founder of the Global Movement for a Culture of Peace. Elected officials, interfaith leaders, and scientists will also participate.

[Click here for more information](#)

[You can find a full printable version of the flyer here](#)

Micah Institute Luncheons Resume



Date: Thursday, **September 20**

Time: 12:00 pm

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

The Micah Institute monthly luncheon will resume. There will be a review of the work and plans of the Poor People's Campaign, the New Sanctuary Movement, the Real Living Wage Campaign, and the Community Visits Project, as well as a discussion of plans for Micah's work going forward.

Please let Joel Gibson know if you are planning to attend: joelagibson@gmail.com.

Sacred: Milestones of a Spiritual Life



Date: Thursday, **September 20**

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Schimmel Center at Pace University, [3 Spruce St., New York, NY 10038](https://www.pace.edu/schimmel-center)

Shot by more than 40 filmmaking teams around the world, the film immerses the viewer in the daily use of faith and spiritual practice. At a time when religious hatred dominates the world's headlines, this film explores faith as a primary human

experience, and how people turn to ritual and prayer to navigate the milestones and crises of private life. The film's director commissioned or sourced footage from top independent filmmakers from more than 25 countries – and a wide range of religious traditions – with each team contributing a single scene. The film, sweeping in its global reach yet intensely intimate, is a tour de force that unifies these scenes into a single work, told without narration, without experts and, for long stretches, without any words at all.

[Click here for tickets!](#) (Save 10% with code COMM10)

For any questions, please contact: Julia Thorncroft | jthorncroft@pace.edu | 212-346-1171

P.S. Hear ICNY's podcast interview with the director of this film: [An Agnostic Filmmaker's Film About Religion: Thomas Lennon \(Best Documentary Oscar-winner\) on his new PBS film "Sacred"](#)

Brooklyn Clergy Day



BROOKLYN CLERGY DAY

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE

YOU ARE INVITED

Date: Tuesday, **September 25**

Time: 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Kings County Supreme Court, [320 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201](#) Rm 2.95

The Office for Justice Initiatives' Clergy Day program represents an effort and commitment by the NYS Unified Court System to connect with religious leaders to share information about available court programs and to learn firsthand about the unmet legal needs of their congregants and communities.

Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, ICNY Executive Director, will speak at 11:30am.

[You can find a full printable version of the flyer here.](#)

Pax Christi Interfaith Prayer Service on UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



Date: Wednesday, **September 26**

Time: 12:45 pm

Location: The Gazebo at [Dag Hammarskjold Plaza](#), 47th Street & Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Founded in 1983, Pax Christi Metro New York (PCMNY) provides a community for Catholic New Yorkers where peacemaking is paramount within the context of their faith. It offers support, instruction, and inspiration. Members include individuals and local groups centered in parishes or school campuses, lay people, and vowed religious.

PCMNY deeply values collaboration with members of other faith traditions and civic groups who share a commitment to nonviolence, and actively seeks creative opportunities to work together for peace and justice.

[Click here for more information](#)

Conversation Sabbath & Reimagine End of Life Are Coming to New York




Date: October 26 - November 3
Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm or 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Location: TBD

Conversation Sabbath, a program of The Conversation Project, is joining Reimagine End of Life NYC, a citywide, week-long collection of events exploring death, dying, and bereavement, and celebrating life through the arts, spirituality, health care, and innovation. In partnership with NYC faith institutions and coalitions, including ICNY, The Conversation Project, and What Matters: Caring Conversations About End of Life, Reimagine is inviting clergy throughout New York City to preach, teach and engage about the vital importance of having values-centered conversations with our loved ones about what is most important when it comes to care at the end of life, so that our wishes are honored and our passage smooth.

We hope you will join us for Conversation Sabbath. Please sign up here to let us know how you'd like to participate. Your congregation will be listed on the Reimagine website.

[Click here to sign up](#)

If you have any questions, please email Rachel Lovett at Rachel@letsreimagine.org

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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.

El Grito de las Fronteras/Cry From The Border



Date: Wednesday, **September 5** - Saturday, **September 8**
Time: 7:00 pm MDT (Wednesday) - 12:00 pm MDT (Saturday)
Location: El Paso, Texas

We need to develop a theological, political, and ethical critique that can support our faithful action and ground us as we bring the border back to the center of the nation's attention. We need time together to breathe the air of the borderlands, to listen to the stories of the people there, and space to walk the soil. We need a theology of place. Join justice organizers, theologians, scholars of religion, clergy, and students in El Paso, Texas, for a learning immersion in the borderlands.

[Click here to register](#)

9/11 Day Meal Pack NYC



Date: Tuesday, **September 11**
Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm or 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

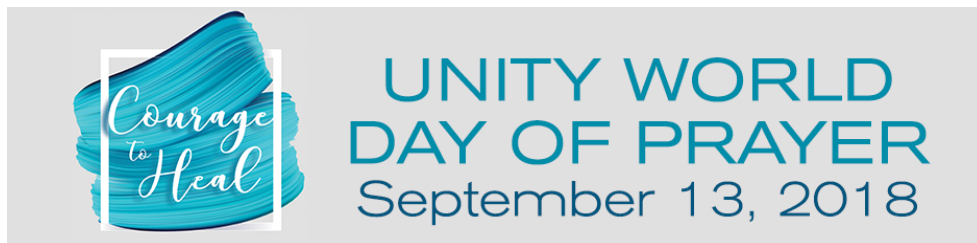
Location: Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Pier 86, [West 46th St and 12th Ave. New York, NY 10036](#)

On Tuesday, **September 11**, 2018, Islamic Relief USA will be joining forces with over 3,000 volunteers representing over 40 companies, interfaith groups, and organizations to help combat hunger at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City. We will be helping assemble over 750,000 dry meals for individuals at risk of hunger. IRUSA is an official partner for this project and we need your help! We have two shifts to choose from that last two hours, plus we suggest you arrive 30 minutes early to check in and go through security.

[Click here to sign up](#)

If you have any questions, please email Hoda Lajili at hlajili@irusa.org.

Unity in Harlem World Day of Prayer (UIH)



Date: Thursday, **September 13**

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: [2031 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard](#), RAW SPACE, (between 121 & 122 Streets) New York, NY 10027

Unity World Wide's annual observance of World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in Unity Centers all over the world, with significant emphasis on the 2018 theme of the COURAGE TO HEAL. The evening observance will be quiet, with selected music and words, prayers, and meditations from individuals and clergy of different faith practices. Free and all welcome.

[Click here for more information](#)

Šri Ganeša Chaturthi Grand Ratha Yatra (Birthday of Ganesh Grand Procession)



Date: Sunday, **September 16**

Time: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Location: The Hindu Temple Society of New York/Ganesh Temple, [45-57 Bowne Street, Flushing, NY 11355](#)

For devotees of the elephant-headed deity Ganeša, this birthday observance is the most joyous holiday of the year. Though ongoing events begin Friday, **September 7** ([see the temple calendar](#) for more related events), they culminate on Sunday, **September 16** with the biggest celebration of all. The Grand Ratha Yatra is a procession that begins in front of the temple, where the deity is brought out, placed on a dais, and accompanied by a procession of devotees around the community. It is an event that everyone living in this area of Flushing looks forward to each year with anticipation, and all New Yorkers are invited to attend.

[See a short video about this celebration, filmed by ICNY](#)

For more information, call 718-460-8484.

[You can find a full printable version of the flyer here](#)

Women In Faith Fellowship



Date: Monthly on Wednesdays, starting **September 26**

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location: [225 West 34th Street, Suite 1607, New York, NY 10122](#)

Are you a professional woman committed to her faith tradition or engaged in a spiritual practice? Or do you know someone who is? Then check out the Women in Faith Fellowship, now recruiting for the 2018-2019 Cohort.

Women in Faith, through ten monthly evening sessions and a half-day retreat, brings together professional women of different faiths and spiritual practices to understand other faiths and deepen their own, build relationships across cultural boundaries, and impact their communities. [Click here for info & to download an application.](#)

Pitch for Hope



Date: Thursday, October 4 **Submissions close September 15**
Time: 6:00pm
Location: TBD

The World Jewish Congress and Chelsea Football Club have teamed up to launch the Pitch for Hope, a competition calling on students, young professionals, and sports fans in the United States to propose creative projects capturing the spirit of sports to promote unity and inclusion. The projects will be pitched to a prestigious panel of judges and the winner will receive \$10,000 to implement their project and work with Chelsea F.C. and the WJC to make their idea a reality.

Prospective applicants should visit the Pitch for Hope website to get more details about the competition and the proposals, which can take the form of sporting events, digital media campaigns, and many others. Applicants will be able to submit their proposals through the website and will be informed on their success as proposals are reviewed.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact: cweiss@wjcmail.org.

For more information: <https://www.pitchforhope.org/>

God and Guns



Date: Thursday, October 11 - Friday, October 12

Time: Varies

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

The Riverside Church will host an intensive training for people of faith and goodwill committed to ending gun violence. Registration costs \$160 (scholarships are available).

God and Guns will address the uniquely compelling moral vision and leadership available to faith communities while also providing an array of practical workshops to meet a wide range of needs, including how to preach about gun violence, the

basics of community organizing, social media practices that amplify your voice, how to talk to kids and teenagers about guns, facilitating tough but constructive conversations around guns, and more. Partners for God and Guns include powerhouse organizations like Everytown for Gun Safety, Narrative 4, Faith in Action, and Auburn Seminary.

Attendees of God and Guns do not have to share the same views on the solutions to the epidemic of gun violence, only a belief that something must be done and a commitment to act in their communities.

[Click here for more information](#)

Tony 'n Tina's Wedding



Date: Saturday, October 13

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Church of the Holy Apostles, [296 Ninth Avenue, New York NY 10001](#)

The Church of the Holy Apostles will be the latest venue for the classic off-Broadway hit *Tony 'n Tina's Wedding*. This immersive and entertaining performance featuring original cast members will delight “wedding guests” as they take part in the romantic ceremony and lively reception dinner, Italian American style.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact: cweiss@wjcmail.org.

Tickets for the benefit, supporting Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen, may be purchased at:

<https://tonylovestina.brownpapertickets.com/>

For more info: <https://holypostlessoupkitchen.org/tony-n-tinas-wedding/>

Parliament of the World's Religions



Dates: November 1 - 7

Location: The Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada

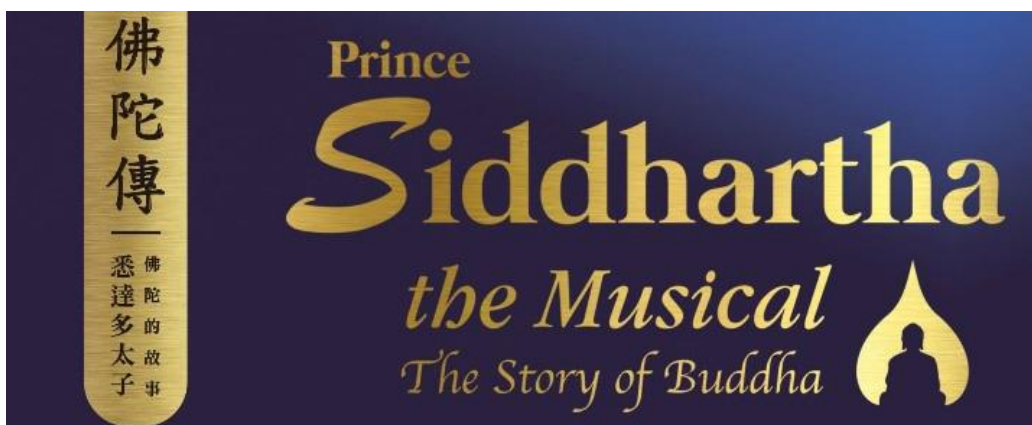
The Parliament of the World's Religions was created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

The theme of the 2018 Parliament is "The Promise of Inclusion, The Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation, and Change." More than 10,000 people will participate in the Parliament, which will last for seven days and comprise more than 500 programs, workshops, and dialogues, alongside music, dance, art and photography exhibitions, and related events presented by the world's religious communities and cultural institutions.

Speakers will include His Holiness the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa, Ogyen Trinley Dorje, Dr. Karen Armstrong, Cardinal Thomas Collins, and many more.

[More info and ticketing information are available here](#)

Prince Siddhartha the Musical, The Story of the Buddha



Date: Sunday, November 11

Time: 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: Hunter College - The Kaye Playhouse, [E 68 street between Lexington and Park Ave.](#), New York, NY 10065

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, the FGS Guang Ming College of Philippines presents the world's first musical on the life of the Buddha--Prince Siddhartha. The musical was written based on Venerable Master Hsing Yun's best seller, *Biography of Sakyamuni Buddha* and the lyrics of the "Sounds of the Human World." With elegantly composed English lyrics and music, the moving storyline leads the audience through the tunnel of time to the Buddha's birthplace, India, and follows the Buddha's footprints, exploring the meaning of life and the path to awakening.

[Get tickets here](#) or contact IBPSNY: 718-939-8318

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ADL Calendar of Observances

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

September 2018

September 2		KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI (Also known as JAYANTI) • Hindu Celebrates Krishna's birthday, Vishnu's eighth incarnation on earth.
September 3		LABOR DAY Celebrated the first Monday in September in recognition of U.S. workers.
September 8		INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY Call to action for universal literacy.
September 10–11		ROSH HASHANAH • Jewish Beginning of the Jewish New Year and first of the High Holy Days, which marks the beginning of a ten-day period of penitence and spiritual renewal.
September 12		MUHARRAM • Islamic The month of Muharram marks the beginning of the Islamic liturgical year. The first day of the month, al-Hijra, remembers the migration of Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE. It also marks the beginning of the ten-day Shi'ite Remembrance of Muharram, a period of intense grief and mourning of the martyrdom of Hussein, the son of Ali and grandson of Muhammad.
September 13		GANESH CHATURTHI • Hindu Celebrates the birthday of Ganesha, the elephant-deity.
September 15–October 15	Full Month	NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates the contributions, heritage and culture of Hispanic and Latino Americans.
September 17		CONSTITUTION DAY AND CITIZENSHIP DAY Commemorates the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1787. Also honors all who have become U.S. citizens.
September 19		YOM KIPPUR • Jewish The "Day of Atonement" marks the end of the Ten Days of Penitence that begin with Rosh Hashanah.
September 21		ASHURA • Islamic A day of fasting observed on the 10th day of the month of Muharram to celebrate Moses' exodus from Egypt. For Shi'a Muslims, it also marks the climax of the ten-day Remembrance of Muharram, which mourns the martyrdom of Hussein at the Battle of Kerbala in 680 CE.
September 22		AUTUMNAL EQUINOX The date when night and day are nearly of the same length. It marks the first day of fall.
September 23		BI VISIBILITY DAY Seeks to draw attention to public policy concerns and foster respect for bi+ individuals and communities.
September 24 - 30		SUKKOT • Jewish The week-long "Feast of Booths" commemorates the 40-year wandering of the Israelites in the desert on the way to the Promised Land.

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