



November 2018 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from the ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Half-way through *Lord of the Flies*, William Golding's 1950s classic about a group of children marooned on an island during WWII, the children become fearful of what they think is a beast lurking somewhere on the island. Prophetically, one of the book's protagonists asks out loud, "What if there is a beast . . . [and] what if it is only us?"

Golding was onto something. Despite what the President and unscrupulous pundits have been telling us, the beast is NOT *out there*, not south of the border, not in a mosque down the street, not at the synagogue around the corner.

The horrifying anti-Semitic massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh this past week ([click here for statements from ICNY and others](#)), the racially-motivated shootings in Kentucky, and the pipe bombs mailed from Florida destined for members of the press and opposition party would not have happened without leaders—elected and otherwise—who demonize the other. They would not have happened without our own passivity in the face of widening "hotspots of hatred."

For twenty-one years, the Interfaith Center of New York has struggled against religious bigotry and hatred. In the summer of 2009, when verbal and physical vitriol was unleashed against Muslim communities in reaction to the proposal for a so-called "Ground Zero Mosque," we asked ourselves what more we could do. Today, we ask ourselves the same question, and vow to, with your help, redouble our efforts in the spirit of the [ongoing struggle for a more perfect city and a more perfect union](#). We trust that you will do the same.

Please continue to participate in our shared civic life while wearing your faith on your sleeve—whatever color or shape it might be. [Please go to the polls on Tuesday and bring others with you](#). Please continue to welcome the stranger and take care of the vulnerable as our shared teachings encourage.

And please help us discover inspiring Faith Justice Heroes in your community

so that we can raise up and celebrate their work and help their voices be heard across the city.

Learn more about this exciting and uplifting campaign below to help ICNY broaden our diverse faith network of ordained and lay leaders who are working tirelessly throughout New York City to improve life for the poor, for immigrants, and for victims of abuse and neglect.

Tell us about your #FaithJusticeHero:



(click on the image for our campaign video)

- Create a post on social media to honor a leader who inspires you through their work to help others
- Tag them if they are also active on social media, and be sure to use the hashtag #FaithJusticeHero
- Invite your hero to create a post about their own #FaithJusticeHero, too
- Send an email containing the name of your #FaithJusticeHero - and why you are nominating them - to socialmedia@interfaithcenter.org

Soon we'll begin to highlight some of these Faith Justice Heroes, featuring them in podcasts and articles, and more importantly, inviting them (and you!) to participate in the struggle to build a city and country that are safe for religious diversity in a time of hatred and division.

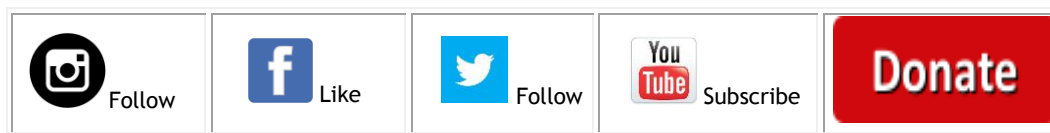
Best wishes,


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chloe Breyer".

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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ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

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



NYC faith leaders are invited to Reimagine End of Life's "Conversation Sabbath" October 26 - 28, in partnership with The Conversation Project and What Matters: Caring Conversations about End of Life, where clergy across New York City's five boroughs will preach or teach on the vital importance of having values-based conversations with loved ones about our wishes regarding care at the end of life. [Learn more about Conversation Sabbath here](#) and [fill out this form to become involved](#).

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 is 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

Diwali Celebration (with performance by Sunny Jain of Red Baraat!)



Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Brooklyn Borough Hall, [209 Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201](#)

The NYC Commission on Human Rights, in partnership with Sadhana, ISKCON NY, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs are hosting a Diwali Celebration event. Diwali is a time when Hindus around the world celebrate the victory of good over evil, and light over darkness. Our Brooklyn Diwali gathering will be a beautiful interfaith celebration and reflection on the battle between good and evil that is taking place all around us in our city, and within each of us. We

will also have special performances by Sunny Jain of Red Baraat and Grammy-nominated artist, Jahnvi Harrison!

[Click here to RSVP via Eventbrite](#) (RSVP required)

To request an assistive listening device, interpretation, or another accommodation, please email Widad Hassan at whassan@cchr.nyc.gov or call 646-648-3493. Wheelchair accessible entrance on Adams Street.

[Click here to download a printable version of the flyer](#)

Micah Institute Faith Table Luncheon



Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018

Time: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

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

Micah Institute will be hosting its monthly luncheon at Riverside Church, Room 10T. There will be a focused discussion on "What might the Holy Spirit be calling us to do post midterm elections." All are welcome to attend and help shape the focus of our movement going forward.

Please contact Joel Gibson at joelagibson@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.

Sermons for Safe Streets - A Call to Action for Faith Leaders



Date: November 16 - 18

The weekend before Thanksgiving is the deadliest holiday on US roads. Join religious leaders of every faith in every borough this weekend to commemorate World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. On these days, sermons across NYC, of all faiths, will address this public health issue, offering New Yorkers the opportunity to join the United Nations and cities around the world in memorializing those who've been killed in local neighborhoods and calling for safer streets. Faith leaders can use their pulpits and powerful voices to memorialize those who've been killed and to remind entire communities that it is up to each and every one of us to make sure there are no more deaths in traffic, that we are all responsible for each other and must slow down and pay attention. Organized by [Families for Safe Streets](#) (FSS) -- an organization that confronts traffic violence and its epidemic of tragic injuries and deaths.

[Clergy Kit, RSVP, and more resources here.](#)

[Read ICNY's "Interfaith Matters" blog by the Families for Safe Streets founders pictured above.](#)

An Interfaith Community Thanksgiving



Dates: November 21 & 22

Times: Nov 21 (5:00 pm-7:00 pm) and Nov 22 (10:45 am-2:00 pm)

Location: St. Paul's Chapel, [209 Broadway, NY NY 10007](#)

Join ICNY and the communities of Trinity Church Wall Street and Tamid: the Downtown Synagogue, to serve a Thanksgiving Lunch at St. Paul's Chapel to members of our community.

You will have 2 opportunities to volunteer:

On Wednesday, November 21st, 5-7pm to help set up St. Paul's Chapel for Thanksgiving Pizza.

<https://trinitywallstreet.volunteerhub.com/event/index/6969428>

On Thursday, November 22nd, 10:45 -2pm to help serve Thanksgiving Lunch.

<https://trinitywallstreet.volunteerhub.com/event/index/6970331>

Volunteer opportunities fill up fast, please RSVP as soon as possible.

"Mindful Therapy for Anxious Times" with author Mark Epstein, MD



Date: Saturday, January 12, 2019

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm


Location: Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, [7 West 55th Street, New York, NY 10019](#)

Join psychiatrist Mark Epstein, MD, and staff from the [Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute](#) for an instructional and experiential day-long conference that will explore how mindful psychotherapy techniques can help manage and decrease anxiety. This conference is designed for mental health professionals and the general public who are interested in exploring the ways mindfulness can help us cope with precarious political and societal circumstances and events. How do we respond to these difficult times without becoming overwhelmed or cynical? How do we help others remain calm amid the turbulence when we share their worries?

Five Continuing Education Credits and Units (CECs, CEUs) are available to LMFTs, LMHCs, LCSWs, LMSWs, and CASACs.

PSI is happy to partner with the Interfaith Center of New York, Trinity Church Wall Street, and St. Bart's to bring you the 2019 conference.

[More info & tickets here](#)

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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.

Open Full-Time Positions at Turning Point for Women and Families



Turning Point for Women and Families is growing! We are seeking a passionate and committed individual to fill a full-time Outreach Coordinator position and a Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate position.

[Click here to learn more about the Outreach Coordinator position.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the Domestic Violence Counselor/Advocate position.](#)

To apply, please send your resume with a cover letter, including names/email and phone contacts of three work-related references, via email to: jobs@tpny.org.

MV4NY Thanksgiving Food Drive 2018



Date: November 1 - 10

Thanksgiving Food Drive organized by Muslim Volunteers for New York, Inc (MV4NY) to help food-insecure members of our community across boroughs, including the homeless and homebound elderly. Beneficiaries of this drive are West Side Campaign Against Hunger, New York Common Pantry and City Meals on Wheels. MV4NY is partnering with each of these organizations as they serve a unique need for our food-insecure communities to alleviate hunger!

[Click here to donate to the virtual drive](#)

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](#)

**Pre-Broadcast Screening of PBS series NATIVE AMERICA
- Episode 4 - New World Rising**



Date: Friday, November 2

Time: 4 pm - 5:30 pm

Location: Barnard College - 202 Altschul Hall, [3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027](https://www.barnard.edu/3009-broadway-new-york-ny-10027)

Discover how resistance, survival, and revival are revealed through an empire of horse-mounted Comanche warriors, secret messages encoded in an Aztec manuscript, and a grass bridge in the Andes that spans mountains and centuries of time.

The screening is free and will be followed by a panel discussion on indigenous archaeology and the decolonization of Native American history by those involved in the making of the film. Panelists include Jhane Myers (Comanche/Blackfeet artist), Lindsay Montgomery (Muscogee archaeologist and Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona), Gary Glassman (documentary filmmaker, Providence Pictures), and Severin Fowles (archaeologist and Associate Professor at Barnard College). All are welcome to stay and continue the conversation during a wine and cheese reception to follow.

[Click here for more information on NATIVE AMERICA "New Worlds Rising"](#)

[Click here to learn more](#)

Not Without My Hijab: The Stage Play



Date: Saturday, November 3

Time: 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Location: Howard University- Cramton Auditorium, [2455 6th Street NW, Washington, DC 20059](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2455+6th+Street+NW,+Washington,+DC+20059)

Not Without My Hijab is a stage play that takes an inside look at a struggle faced by more young people than perhaps we realize. As Aneesa is torn between donning her hijab with confidence while navigating life as a teen and not wearing it but continuing to practice her faith, she confronts the question: Just how important is the hijab to her faith? Follow Aneesa and her journey and meet her friends and other members of her Muslim American family.

Get tickets here: <https://be-you-in-hd.ticketleap.com/not-without-my-hijab-washingtondc/>

[Click here for a printable version of the flyer](#)

New Sanctuary Coalition Gala



Date: Thursday, November 8

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Judson Memorial Church, [55 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012](#)

Join us Thursday, November 8th at 6:00 PM for a night to come together in community, to celebrate our ability to resist and survive, and to honor our Friends and affected community members. Let's celebrate with great food, music and dancing.

We will honor some shining lights of the New Sanctuary Coalition-faith-based sanctuary leaders, the Legal Aid Society, our Friend and community leader, Juana- and all those who show up every day to fight for the right of everyone to live in dignity. Join us to build a movement.

RSVP and donate here: <https://newsanctuarycoalition.nationbuilder.com/gala2018>
(Your donation helps us fight to keep families and communities together).

[Click here to learn more](#)

Fourth Annual Interchurch Center Conference: Mission Driven Development



Date: Thursday, November 8

Time: 8 am - 5:30 pm

Location: The Interchurch Center, [475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115](#)

This FREE all-day conference, which attracts nearly 300 clergy members, lay leaders and church administrators of all denominations, will include timely, educational sessions on how to develop a comprehensive mission and business plan.

Breakfast and lunch will be served and we will end with a reception featuring a live jazz quartet, art exhibit and refreshments.

[Click here to register](#)

Encountering Difference Workshop



Date: Saturday, November 10

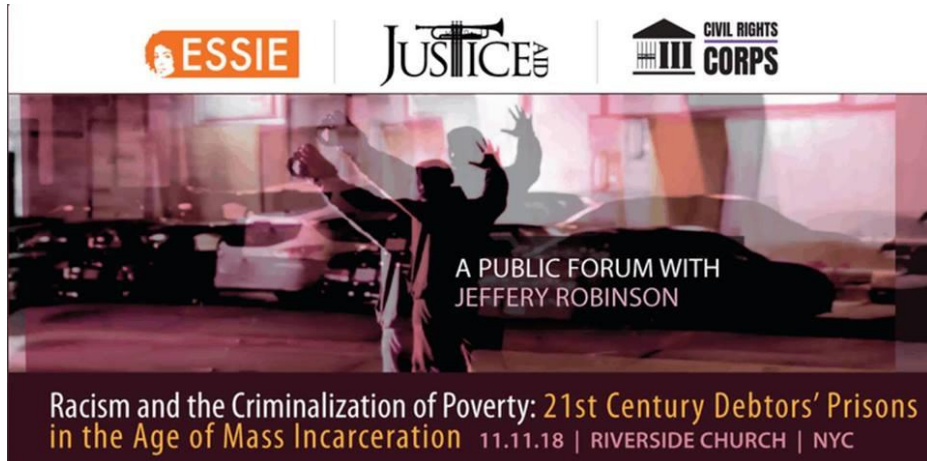
Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: All Angels Church, [251 W. 80th Street, New York, NY 10024](#)

A practical workshop geared towards active members of Muslim and Christian communities throughout New York City. This interactive workshop will be led by the Rose Castle Foundation and will include interactive activities on how to engage in meaningful dialogue across deep divisions. The afternoon session will include an introduction and interactive session on Scriptural Reasoning, a method of dialogue that centers around listening and learning from one another by discussing passages from each others' scriptures. Lunch will be provided.

The cost of this workshop is \$35. Please register by October 15 by contacting Annalisa Jackson at annalisa.jackson@rosecastle.foundation.

RACISM AND THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY: 21st Century Debtors' Prisons in the Age of Mass Incarceration in a Public Forum



Date: Sunday, November 11

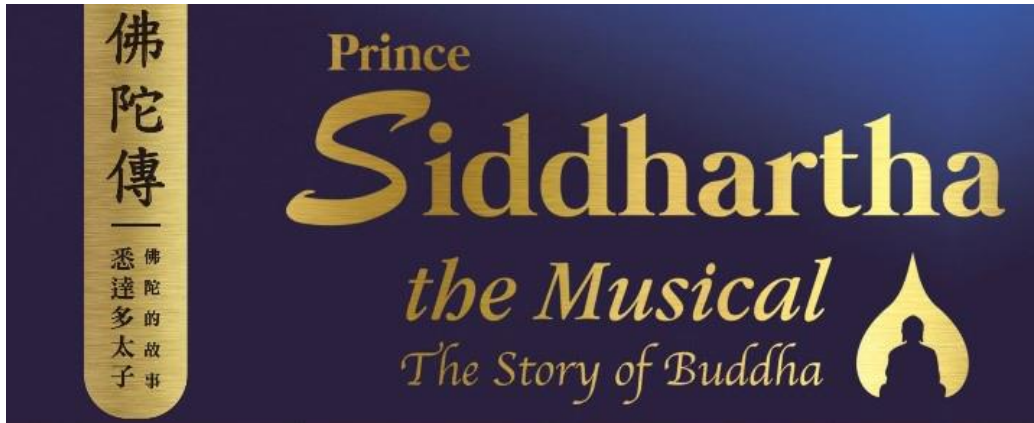
Time: 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

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

JusticeAid, in partnership with Riverside Church, explores the history and impact of "Racism and the Criminalization of Poverty: 21st Century Debtors' Prisons in the Age of Mass Incarceration" in a public forum. The forum, which is free and open to the public, will present multiple perspectives on the issues, including a public conversation with Civil Rights Corp's Alec Karakatsanis and Essie Justice Group's Gina Clayton, and Johnny Perez, Director of U.S. Prison Programs at National Religious Campaign Against Torture, who overcame three years of solitary confinement at Rikers; and a presentation by Jeffery Robinson of "Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America," with performances by poet Randall Horton and singer Abena Koomson-Davis

[Click here for the Facebook Event Page](#)

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, [East 68th Street between Lexington and Park Avenues](#), New York, NY 10065

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of Fo Guang Shan New York Temple, the FGS Guang Ming College of the Philippines presents the world's first musical on the life of the Buddha Prince Siddhartha. The musical is 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 story line 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

Reconciliation & Wellness



Date: November 15 -17


Time: 3:00 pm (November 15)

Location: Stony Point Retreat Center, [17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, NY 10980](#)

How do we work towards reconciliation in our communities and also take care of ourselves? This two-day retreat will be facilitated by Rose Castle Foundation and will focus on rest and personal renewal in the midst of conflict management. The retreat will balance spaces for learning, exercising, reflecting, and sharing. Sessions will explore stress management and best practices in personal renewal.

A restorative retreat for Muslim and Christian women. Ticket cost: \$150 - \$250, depending on available accommodation.

Register by October 15 with Annalisa Jackson:
annalisa.jackson@rosecastle.foundation

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ADL Calendar of Observances

November 2018





November	Full Month	NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH Celebrates and honors the history and culture of Native Americans in the United States.
November 1		ALL SAINTS' DAY • Western Christian Commemorates all known and unknown Christian saints. Eastern Christianity observes it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.
November 2		ALL SOULS' DAY • Christian Commemoration of all faithful Christians who are now dead. In Mexican tradition it is celebrated as <i>Día de los Muertos</i> between October 31 and November 2, and is an occasion to remember dead ancestors and celebrate the continuity of life.
November 6		ELECTION DAY A day set by U.S. law for the election of public officials.
November 7		DIWALI • Hindu Also called Deepavali, "Festival of Lights", it celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.
November 7		BANDI-CHHOR DIWAS • Sikh A commemorative occasion having no fixed date which occurs in October or November and celebrates the release of the Sixth Guru Har Gobind Sahib from imprisonment and coincides with Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.
November 9–10		KRISTALLNACHT Commemorates the 1938 pogrom against Jews throughout Germany and Vienna.
November 11		VETERANS' DAY Honors military veterans and the U.S. Armed Services.
November 12		BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH • Bahá'í Observance of the anniversary of the birth in 1817 of Bahá'u'lláh, prophet-founder of the Bahá'í Faith, in Núr, Persia.
November 12–16		AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK Celebrates public education and honors individuals who are making a difference in ensuring every child in the U. S. receives a quality education.
November 16		INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR TOLERANCE Emphasizes the dangers of intolerance and is a call to action for the advancement of human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as a day to encourage tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures and peoples.
November 20		TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE Memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.
November 20		MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Sunni) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabi' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Shi'a Muslims celebrate it five days later than Sunni Muslims.

November 22	THANKSGIVING DAY Following a 19th century tradition, it commemorates the Pilgrims' harvest feast in the autumn of 1621. It is considered by some to be a "national day of mourning," in recognition of the conquest of Native Americans by colonists.
November 23	GURU NANAK DEV JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh A very important holiday in the Sikh faith as Guru Nanak Dev's was the First Guru of the Sikhs and the Founder of Sikhism. He was born in mid-November; the holiday is celebrated according to the lunar date.
November 25	MAWLID AL-NABI (Also known as MILAD AL-NABI) • Islamic (Shi'a) The observance of the birthday of Islam founder Prophet Muhammad, which is celebrated in Rabī' al-awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. Sunni Muslims celebrate it five days earlier than Shi'a Muslims.
November 26	DAY OF THE COVENANT • Bahá'í Day of the Covenant is a festival observed to commemorate Bahá'u'lláh's appointment of His son, Abdu'l-Bahá, as His successor.

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

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