January 2019 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from the ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We hope that 2019 brings us all peace and productivity.

This month, ICNY welcomes delegations of two or more people from diverse faith communities across the city to register together for our 36th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat "Welcoming the Stranger: Taking Action Together for Immigrants' Rights." At this conference we are seeking to recruit from 40 to 50 experienced AND new-to-the-issue congregations around New York City and help them engage more deeply in immigration advocacy, direct service, and various forms of sanctuary. The day will begin with a keynote offered by Commissioner Bitta Mostofi, Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, followed by a response from former Manhattan Borough President and former President of American Jewish World Service Ruth Messinger. A panel of religious leaders will share best practices from their religiously diverse congregations. After lunch there will be a series of workshops that will include working with volunteers, engaging legal services, using social media, and advocating for change locally and nationally.

Cosponsors for this event include The Synagogue Coalition, ActionPotluck, New York Immigration Coalition, New Sanctuary Coalition, Jewish Theological Seminary, The Micah Institute, and New York Disaster Interfaith Services, Majlis Ash-Shura, NYC Action Lab, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), and Holyrood Church.

Best wishes,

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director
The Interfaith Center of New York
New York’s immigrant communities are under threat, but recent changes in Albany offer an opportunity for real change. **The time for action is now.** This conference will support the essential work of faith leaders and immigration activists, through civic engagement and advocacy training. The conference is cosponsored by ICNY and a broad range of faith-based and secular organizations working for immigrants’ rights and immigration reform.

Please join us on January 24 for: a keynote address by Bitta Mostofi, New York City’s Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs; a discussion of best practices for action, shared by faith leaders working for immigrants’ rights; hands-on community organizing, advocacy, and accompaniment training; and support for your own community’s initiative or event. Working together across faith lines, we will catalyze a city-wide wave of multifaith action for immigrants’ rights.

For detailed information and registration, please visit [http://interfaithcenter.org/mmr36](http://interfaithcenter.org/mmr36)
Date: Saturday, January 12
Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Location: First 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
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.

The Return with Purpose Summit

Date: Thursday, January 10
Time: 9:30 am - 5:30 pm
Location: The Grace Institute, 40 Rector Street, New York, NY 10006

This one-day, content-packed event will facilitate the transition to purpose-driven roles through a supportive, like-minded community of women. Participants will gain the clarity, confidence, community, and connections needed to pursue a career within the social impact sector. You’ll meet with women’s reentry experts, get to know social impact organizations looking for talent like you, understand what a professional toolkit for reentry looks like, and be inspired by the stories of women who are on the same journey -- and those who have made it to the other side.

The Return with Purpose Summit is designed for women interested in the social impact sector and looking to return to work. Tickets range from $200-$250; breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Click here for tickets
This is America: Honoring MLK

Date: Monday, January 21  
Time: 10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Location: St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church Wall Street, 209 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

THIS IS AMERICA will help volunteers rethink poverty from a different standpoint by experiencing a glimpse of the hardships that typical families go through while living in poverty. It is an experiential learning event with prepared scenarios to enable people to rethink poverty. Volunteers are needed to role play in these scenarios that will help shed light on typical families trying to survive from month to month.

Click here to learn more
Stop Mass Incarceration:
Ending Cash Bail and the Road to Closing Rikers

Date: Thursday, January 31
Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am
Location: St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church Wall Street, 209 Broadway, New York, NY 10007

You are cordially invited to a breakfast event on Thursday, January 31 at 8:30 am at St. Paul's Chapel to discuss the role that faith leaders and communities can play in driving criminal justice reform in Albany this coming legislative session.

Join us for a conversation with leading officials, directly impacted people, faith leaders, and former New York State Court of Appeals Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman about how together we can end cash bail and enact speedy trial, discovery, and parole reform. Please note that media will be invited.

Doors will open at 8:30 for breakfast. The program will start at 9 am and conclude by 11 am.

Click here to RSVP
INTERFAITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS CONFERENCE ON THE URGENT NEED FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Date: Saturday, February 9  
Time: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 21 Still Rd, Monroe, NY 10950

Baby boomers are retiring. This will have a huge impact on the US economy. How can immigration reform be shaped to benefit United States citizens while assisting immigrants? What are the related economic issues? How is this crisis compounded by the upcoming shortage of workers in the U.S.? A discussion on how the Family Reunification, Economic Expansion and Documented Organized Management Act addresses the needs of immigrant families and U.S. citizens with regards to the economy, family unity, and U.S. security. How can your organization help?

This conference is an exploration of the need for immigration reform in order to assist with the impending labor shortages and social crisis' that will occur with the baby boomers retiring. Followed by a discussion of the Family Reunification, Economic Expansion and Documented Organized Management Act; a legislative proposal for immigration reform.

Please call Robert Fuchs, Esq. at 917-501-9924 in order to reserve a seat.
The complete ADL Calendar of Observances for 2018 is available [here](#).