



INTERFAITH
CENTER OF NEW YORK

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



THE 36TH RABBI MARSHALL T. MEYER RETREAT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

***Welcoming the Stranger:
Taking Action Together for Immigrants' Rights***



***Thursday, January 24, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm,
at The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive***

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>***

ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

SEATING IS LIMITED

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



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](#)

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.

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](https://www.google.com/maps/place/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.

ADL Calendar of Observances

January 2019

January 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY The first day of the year in the Gregorian calendar, commonly used for civil dating purposes.
January 5	GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S BIRTHDAY • Sikh Guru Gobindh Singh was the 10th Sikh guru of Nanak and founder of the Khalsa.
January 6	EPIPHANY • Christian Known as <i>Theophany</i> in Eastern Christianity, it celebrates the manifestation of Jesus as Christ. In addition, the Western Church associates Epiphany with the journey of the Magi to the infant Jesus, and the Eastern Church with the baptism of Jesus by John.
January 6	CHRISTMAS • Armenian Orthodox Christian Armenian Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany, except for Armenians living in Israel, who celebrate Christmas on January 19th.
January 7	CHRISTMAS • Eastern Christian Most Orthodox churches celebrate Christmas 13 days later than other Christian churches based on their use of the Julian rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar.
January 15	MAKAR SANKRANTI • Hindu Seasonal celebration marking turning of the sun toward the north.
January 20	WORLD RELIGION DAY • Bahá'í Observance to proclaim the oneness of religion and the belief that world religion will unify the peoples of the earth.
January 21–23	MAHAYANA NEW YEAR • Buddhist In Mahayana countries the New Year starts on the first full moon day in January.
January 21 – January 25	NO NAME-CALLING WEEK Annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling and bullying of all kinds.
January 21	DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY The birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is celebrated on the third Monday in January.
January 21	TU B'SHVAT • Jewish New Year's Day for Trees, and traditionally the first of the year for tithing fruit of trees. Now a day for environmental awareness and action, such as tree planting.
January 27	UN HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY Annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust coinciding with the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945.

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