



February 2019 Interfaith Center of New York Newsletter

Message from the ICNY Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thanks to everyone who made the [36th Rabbi T. Marshall Meyer Retreat, “Welcoming the Stranger: Taking Action for Immigrants Rights,”](#) a great success. One outcome of the conference is an important [sign-on letter](#) sponsored by The Micah Faith Table, The Interfaith Center of New York, Union Theological Seminary, The New Sanctuary Coalition, the New York State Council of Churches, and Rural & Migrant Ministry. [This letter](#) invites New York State faith leaders to advocate for passage of two important New York State immigration bills ensuring new protections for immigrant New Yorkers:

- 1) **Driver’s Licenses for All** 'A. 10273 (Crespo) and S. 0868 (Sepulveda)' that would allow access to driver’s licenses for all qualified drivers, regardless of immigrant status, providing those who live in transit deserts and rural parts of New York State access to supermarkets, doctor appointments, schools, and other basic services.
- 2) **Separation of Children Accountability Response Act** 'the SCAR Act' A. 1436 (Epstein) and S.222 (Benjamin) that would require immigrant holding centers throughout the state to provide information to the State Legislature about the condition of youth being held, so that advocates and policy makers will have the information they need to ensure that the needs of these youth are being met.

Join us in **signing and circulating [this letter](#)** before **February 11, 2019**. In addition, come up to Albany for Advocacy Days on **February 12, 2019** and **April 2, 2019**.

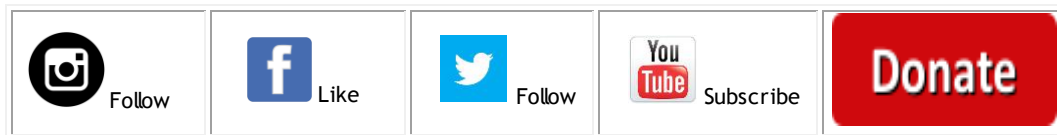
In honor of Black History Month, you are invited to the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies' [Interfaith/Intergenerational Peace and Justice Black History Service](#) at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Harlem. Speakers include: **Dr. Hazel Dukes**, NYS NAACP, **Rev. Michael Waldron**, First Corinthian Baptist Church, **Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid**, Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood and **Candace Simpson**, faith educator. This month also, The People’s Institute is holding a [Faith-Based Anti-Racism Workshop](#) and Trinity Church Wall Street is offering [Arraignments 101](#), a first-hand look at the systemic requiring bail-reform.


Finally, on February 27, 2019 [ICNY and East End Temple are hosting a live Interfaith Matters Podcast recording](#) with Kyndra Frazier, First Corinthian Baptist Church, Shahana Hanif, Office of City Council Member Brad Lander, Gagan Kaur, ThriveNYC at the Mayor's Office, and Rabbi Joshua Stanton of East End Temple. Please join us.

Best wishes,



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



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ICNY Events

YOU ARE INVITED - "INTERFAITH MATTERS" PODCAST RECORDING

Young New Yorkers on "Leading Through Faith and Advocacy"



Date: Wednesday, February 27

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: The Sanctuary of East End Temple, [245 E. 17th Street, New York, NY 10003](#)

Recently, the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) launched a campaign called #FaithJusticeHero, inviting New Yorkers to celebrate leaders from diverse faith communities who are doing inspiring social justice work. Four of these impressive young #FaithJusticeHero's join host Hannah Meholick of ICNY's "Interfaith Matters" podcast, to discuss faith and advocacy. How does faith inspire social justice work? How does advocacy inform faith? These leaders share their stories.

Guests (pictured left to right):

- Kyndra Frazier, Executive Director of the HOPE Center, and Associate Pastor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, First Corinthian Baptist Church, Harlem
- Shahana Hanif, Director of Organizing and Community Engagement, Office of City Council Member Brad Lander (Brooklyn District 39)
- Gagan Kaur, Director of Community Development for ThriveNYC at the Mayor's Office
- Joshua Stanton, Rabbi of East End Temple

PLEASE RSVP here: www.interfaithcenter.org/interfaith-matters-podcast

[Click here for a flyer](#)

ICNY Co-Sponsored & Featured Events

#NYCPAHousingDebate
Public Advocate Candidates on Affordable Housing



CHRISTIAN
CULTURAL
C E N T E R

Date: Friday, February 8

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Christian Cultural Center, [12020 Flatlands Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11207](#)

The theme of this candidates forum will be crisis in affordable housing in the city of New York, together with the crisis in the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and in Mitchell-Lama Housing. Candidates will explain how, if elected, they will work on behalf of the working families of the city of New York, to redress and ameliorate this crisis.

The moderator for the debate will be Brian Lehrer, host of WNYC's 'The Brian Lehrer Show', and questioners on the panel will be Herb Boyd, of the Amsterdam News; Brian Lehrer of WNYC; a reporter from GOTHAMIST, to be named; Bob Law, of WBAI; and Rev. A. R. Bernard, pastor of the Christian Cultural Center. Bishop Dr. Raymond H. Rufen-Blanchette, Executive Chairman of CCSEJ, will credential and facilitate the debate. For more information, please call CCSEJ at (646) 770-1583.

Micah Faith Table Luncheon



Dates: Thursday, February, 21

Time: 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

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

Debbie Almontaser will be the principal speaker at the February 21 Micah Faith Table Luncheon at Riverside Church. She will be talking about her new book, *Leading While Muslim: The Experiences of American Muslim Principals After 9/11*.

The book is a first of its kind to study Muslim principals in the United States, and provides an important and very relevant focus for us at this time when education and issues of immigration are front and center in our city.

Spiritually-Informed Psychotherapies



Dates: Wednesdays, June 12 through July 17 (no class held July 3)

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: The Trinity Parish Center, [56 Trinity Place, New York, NY 10006](#)

The Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute and the Interfaith Center of New York offer a summertime continuing clinical education certificate program in spiritually informed psychotherapies. This program gives qualified professionals providing mental health or pastoral care services an opportunity to undertake structured and sustained study of key intersections between spiritual wisdom and psychological insight.

In a seminar setting, students will consider a wide array of topics relevant to practice including intimacy, family life, diversity, addictions, conflict, grief, and trauma incorporating spiritual perspectives into each area. A brief final integrative paper will allow students to apply what they have learned to their own work.


This program is meant to enrich professionals' clinical practice and deepen their understanding of how spiritual dynamics figure in holistic care. 15 CEC's are available to LMSWs, LCSWs, LMFTs, and LMHCs as well as for OASAS certified, in New York State. Graduates of the summer certificate program will become PSI alumni and program affiliates.

Early bird rate is \$425.00 if you apply by May 1, otherwise,
Tuition is \$495.00

Rates are available for PSI affiliates and full-time students, if eligible.

[Apply Here](#)

PSI is recognized by the New York State Education Department Office of Professions -
NYSEd SW Provider # - 0252 /#MFT-0044/#MHC-0081/NYS OASAS #1153

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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.

To: People of faith, clergy and laypeople
Pledge of Resistance to I.C.E.



Sign on to a pledge of nonviolent noncooperation with I.C.E., in any or all of its immigration enforcement policies and tactics.

Why is this important?

Because I.C.E. is tearing apart immigrant families and communities and treating people as invaders and aliens, rather than treating every human being as having inherent dignity and value, created in the divine image.

No human being is "illegal" and no human being should be treated as such. As long as I.C.E. continues to do so, we pledge our noncooperation and resistance.

How will the pledge be delivered?

Via e-mail to Homeland Security / I.C.E.

[Click here to sign](#)

15th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice Celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week



Date: Saturday, February 2

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: The India Center of Westchester, [116 South Central Ave, Elmsford, NY 10523](https://www.indiacenter.us/116-South-Central-Ave-Elmsford-NY-10523)

The service will be held in recognition and celebration of the resolution adopted by U.N. General Assembly proclaiming the first week of February World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths, and beliefs.

Organized by Charles S. Chesnavage, PhD, and participants of other religious traditions. The 15th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice seeks to promote understanding and tolerance among all religious traditions and beliefs.

Universal Prayers for Peace and Justice will be recited, including prayers from the following religious traditions: Hindu, Humanist, Buddhist, Jain, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Baha'i, Christian, Native American, Society of Friends/Quaker, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/Mormon tradition.

If you have any questions, please email: info@indiacenter.us

[Click here to learn more](#)

Rally Against Hate



Date: Saturday, February 2

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Bukharian Jewish Community Center, [106-16 70th Avenue, Forest Hills, NY, 11375](#)

A 16-year old Yeshiva student was attacked by a gang of over 20 teens at the end of November. Across the city there is an epidemic of hate crimes. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

[Click here for the flyer](#)

Fair Housing Leadership Workshops



Date: Thursday, February 7 or Wednesday, February 13

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Location: Fair Housing Justice Center, [30-30 Northern Boulevard, Suite. 302, Long Island City, NY 11101](#)

The Fair Housing Justice Center is launching a new Fair Housing Leadership program as a part of the Building the Beloved Community interfaith initiative. To become a Fair Housing Leader, we offer an interactive workshop in which you will have the opportunity

to learn more about fair housing rights and issues, and the role you can play to advocate for fair housing in your community.

Register here: <http://www.bbcfairhousing.org/leadership-workshops/>

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 Road, Monroe, NY 10950](#)

Baby boomers are retiring. This will have a huge impact on the U.S. 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.? Attendees will discuss 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 crises that will occur as baby boomers retire. 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 to reserve a seat.

Interfaith/Intergenerational Peace and Justice Black History Service



Date: Monday, February 11

Time: 7:00 pm

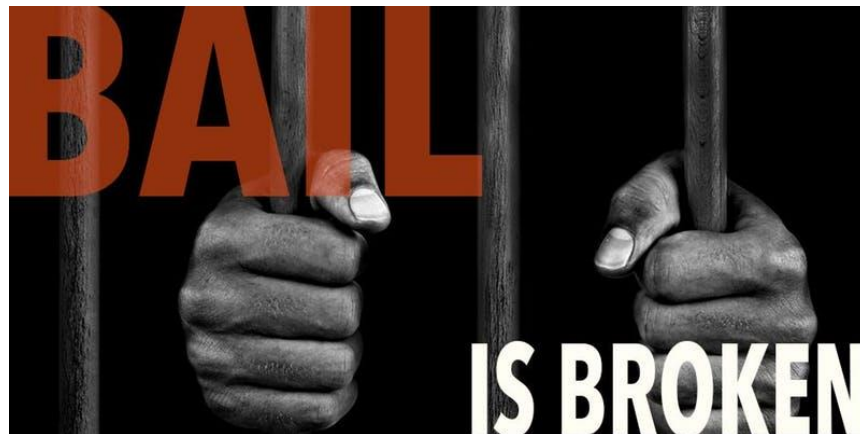
Location: St. Philip's Episcopal Church, [204 West 134th Street, New York, NY, 10030](#)

This is a special invitation to attend an Interfaith/ Intergenerational Peace and Justice Black History program on Monday, February 11th at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Harlem. As you well know, we are living in a time that beckons faith leaders to work just as vigorously as the faith leaders of both the social gospel and civil rights movements to confront and dismantle the systems and structures of inequality that pervade our society.

The purpose of the Interfaith and Intergenerational Justice Worship Service is to unite the voices of religious leaders and social activists who make full use of their platforms daily to inspire the broader faith community to do the same. We hope you will be able to attend this event.

[Click here to learn more](#)

[Arraignments 101](#)



Date: Saturday, February 23

Time: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Location: St. Paul's Chapel of Trinity Church Wall Street, [209 Broadway, New York, NY 10007](#)

After a person is arrested, their first appearance before a judge determines whether they are held behind bars, whether bail is set, or if they are allowed to go home while awaiting trial. This is called an arraignment.

Join Trinity Church Wall Street, Middle Collegiate Church, and the Brooklyn Community Bail Fund as we learn about arraignments and travel together to the Manhattan Criminal Court to observe arraignments in person.

[Click here to register](#)

Faith-Based Anti-Racism: How do we make a difference?

FAITH-BASED ANTI-RACISM

How do we make a difference?

Date: Thursday, February 28

Time: 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Location: The Loft at Marble Collegiate Church, [274 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10001](#)

How do we strategize anti-racism efforts that will help religious groups develop effective networking and collaboration to organize against racism?

A central goal of this gathering will be for folks to network and collaborate. This particular event will include discussion among participants about a continuum of anti-racist structure/efforts by institutions.

There will also be a chance to do some interfaith connecting geographically that might help recruit those in strategic roles at faith institutions to attend a 3-day undoing racism workshop in late April.

You can register here: <http://fbar.eventbrite.com>

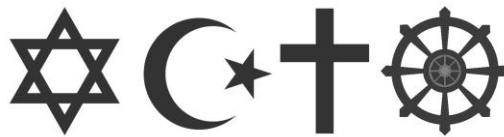
Parking details: <http://www.marblechurch.org/welcome/info/>

For any questions, please email: jbarndt@msn.com or 831-345-6349

Sponsored by: Faith-Based Anti-Racism Committee – NY Anti-Racist Alliance – People's Institute for Survival and Beyond

[Click here for the flyer](#)

"Trauma Response & Treatment: What Faith Traditions Can Teach Us"



Date: Wednesday, April 3 and Wednesday, May 1

Time: 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

Location: One Spirit Learning Alliance, [247 West 36th Street, 6th Floor, NY, NY 10018](#)

Members of the PSI staff partner with NYC faith leaders from different traditions for two interfaith conversations this spring, addressing how religious traditions influence communities of faith and individuals coping with trauma, especially in light of recent events in houses of worship, immigrant communities, and beyond. We will explore what we can learn as clinicians and helping professionals that will inform our response and treatment.

1.5 CEC available for LCSW/LMSWs, LMFTs, LMHCs and OASAS certified in NY State.

April 3 - Judaism & Islam. With Kim Schneiderman, LCSW; Rabbi Dianne Cohler-Esses, Romemu; Julia Kristeller, MEd; Dr. Ahmad Jaber, Masjid Dawood Chair, Arab American Association of New York, President

May 1 - Buddhism & Christianity. With H. Kimball Jones, PhD, LMHC; Rev. Doyeon Park, Minister of the Won Buddhist Temple; Mary Ragan, PhD, LCSW; Rev. Kristin Kaulbach Miles, Trinity Church Wall Street

Please subscribe to our email list to receive a notification when tickets go on sale for this event: <https://psinyc.org/> Psychotherapy & Spirituality Institute Spring Speakers

**Russell Berrie Fellowship Program
in Interreligious Studies**



Application Deadline: April 19, 2019

On behalf of the Russell Berrie Foundation, the Institute of International Education is pleased to announce the twelfth consecutive year of the Russell Berrie Fellowship in Interreligious Studies, arranged at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum), Rome, Italy.

The aim 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. Russell Berrie Fellows are expected to complete the program and return home to their parishes and communities to lead others in efforts to promote interfaith understanding.

The Fellowship offers clergy, religious, and members of the laity an opportunity to study for a Licence Degree or a Diploma in Interreligious Studies at the Angelicum. 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 19, 2019.**

Program information and application materials can be found at www.iie.eu/berrie.

Pictures and more information about our alumni can be found at <http://www.jp2center.org/programs/fellowship/>


Sign up for one of our upcoming open webinars to learn more about the Fellowship and application requirements through the links below:

[February 12, 2019](#) | 11 AM (CET)

[March 6, 2019](#) | 4 PM (CET)

[April 4, 2019](#) | 3 PM (CET)

If you have any questions, please contact: berrie@iie.eu.


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ADL Calendar of Observances






February 2019

February	Full Month	BLACK HISTORY MONTH Celebrates Black History and African American culture in the United States.
February 1		NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY Commemorates the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865.
February 5		LUNAR NEW YEAR • Confucian, Daoist and Buddhist Also known as the Spring Festival, an important festival celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunisolar Chinese calendar.
February 14		VALENTINE'S DAY Celebrates the idea of romantic love.
February 15		SUSAN B. ANTHONY DAY A commemorative holiday to celebrate the birth of Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906) and women's suffrage in the United States.
February 15		NIRVANA DAY • Buddhist Celebrates the day when the historical Buddha achieved Parinirvana, or complete Nirvana, upon the death of his physical body. Sometimes celebrated on February 8.
February 18		PRESIDENTS' DAY Honors all past presidents of the United States of America.
February 20		WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE U.N. day to recognize efforts to achieve fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights at work.
February 26 – March 1		AYYÁM-I-HA OR INTERCALARY DAYS • Bahá'í The Ayyám-i-ha, or "Days of Ha" are devoted to spiritual preparation for the fast, celebrating, hospitality, charity and gift giving. They are celebrated the four days, five in leap year, before the last month of the Bahá'í year by inserting days into the calendar in order to maintain their solar calendar.

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

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Ways to Support and Promote ICNY:

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15th Annual Interreligious Prayer Service for Peace and Justice Celebrating World Interfaith Harmony Week
