### April E-News: Online Passover, Easter, and E-Satsanghs



## April 2020

Dear Friend,

As New Yorkers enter week three of self-isolation, social distancing, and an ever increasing number of coronavirus cases, communities of faith are giving back in imaginative ways. Recent examples include the <u>United Sikh's donation of thousands of individually packaged vegetarian meals for New York City's Office of Emergency Management distributed to the hungry. Likewise, Muslims Giving Back and the Halal Boys' donated 50 plates of food to staff of NYU Langone Hospital and 50 meals and 1000 masks to Wyckoff Heights Medical Center.</u>

Also, last weekend, the Muslim Community Network hosted an online vigil in which 10 faith leaders from various religious backgrounds offered short prayers for humanity in light of the Coronavirus pandemic. We invite you to watch this <a href="Interfaith Prayer Vigil online">Interfaith Prayer Vigil online</a> and we hope you will continue to tune in for similar opportunities found in ICNY's weekly roundup, out each Wednesday.

Finally, there is something very important you can do for your community today from your home. Today is Census Day and the perfect time to get your congregation involved by joining the <a href="Interfaith 2020 Coalition Count's Weekend">Interfaith 2020 Coalition Count's Weekend of Faith</a>.

Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer Executive Director

Clla By



### **ICNY Weekly Roundup #3**

#### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

<u>Resource Guide for NYC Domestic Violence Survivors</u>, prepared by Turning Point for Women and Families. Where to turn for support in an abusive relationship during the COVID-19 pandemic — when staying home isn't the safest plan.

<u>Report Bias Incidents and Hate Stemming from #COVID19 Stigma</u>. Call 311 to report any COVID-19 related discrimination to the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

<u>National Domestic Violence Hotline</u> (1-800-799-SAFE) and <u>National Sexual</u> <u>Assault Hotline</u> (1-800-656-HOPE). If you or someone you know is currently in isolation in an unsafe or dangerous home situation, you can call these 24/7 hotlines for support.

'Zoombombing' comes for houses of worship. Read about how the transition of houses of worship to online video conferencing platforms has attracted online trolls. Here is a <u>helpful guide</u> to prepare for your next online meeting or service.

#### WHERE YOU CAN GIVE (AND RECEIVE):

Record the sounds of religious life online during the COVID-19 pandemic, and share them with the American Religious Sounds Project, an online archive of religious sound. Help scholars and others understand your community's religious experience during this extraordinary time.

<u>Become a Telechaplaincy Volunteer</u>. If you would like to be considered for telechaplaincy support, please complete <u>this volunteer form</u>. Your information will only be shared with institutional leadership working to meet the needs of those whom they serve.

<u>www.nyccovidcare.org</u>. If you are or know a front-line COVID worker who is in need of counseling, you can sign up for free support from a volunteer mental health worker or spiritual care provider.

<u>GetFoodNYC food delivery program</u> provides food for coronavirus-vulnerable and food-insecure New Yorkers not currently served through existing food delivery programs. Sign up at the link above or call 311.

To get a thorough and informative general daily update about COVID-19 in Manhattan, see here: <a href="https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/signup/">https://www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov/signup/</a>

#### WHERE YOU CAN (VIRTUALLY) PRAY AND REFLECT:

Wishing a joyous Pesach to Jewish New Yorkers at this challenging time — two sets of resources and reflections for an online Passover seder, from the <u>Union for Reform Judaism</u> and the <u>Chabad-Lubavitch</u> movement.

<u>Make a Prayer Request</u>. Join St. Anthony's online prayer community. Post your prayer or pray for the intentions of others.

<u>Online Zendo</u>. Village Zendo's online zendo, a silent space for joining others in the practice of seated meditation or zazen.

#### **HOW YOU CAN BE COUNTED:**

<u>Census 2020 - Fill it out online, with the code you received in the mail</u>. Help ensure that New York receives adequate funding for our public health infrastructure and go to this <u>language assistance page</u> for assistance in over 50 languages.

<u>Week of Faith Action on the Census</u>. During the week of March 30 through April 5, we're asking all houses of worship to take action in getting our communities counted.

Why we ask. A guide to the questions the 2020 Census.

#### **Online Events**

Listings Do Not Imply Endorsement

Sadhana E-Satsangh:
Prayer and Meditation for Healing During COVID-19

April 2



Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Sadhana feels it is important to nurture both the spirit and the bodies of our members by performing weekly e-Satsanghs every Thursday. To bring our spirits together, we will be performing these Satsangh via Zoom, an online video-conferencing platform. We invite you to join us in prayer and love during this time of hardship.

Learn More

STORIES FROM THE FRONT: The North American Church's Response (So Far) April 2



As we go further into adjusting to the challenges of the coronavirus crisis, the Send Institute has been learning from leaders of denominations and networks how churches are doing and how they have been responding.

**Learn More** 

## Practices to Protect From Coronavirus April 5, 19, or 26



While it is most important we follow all recommended health and safety precautions, to give them power we must also address the root causes of disease itself. Get familiar with the special practices recommended by Lama Zopa Rinpoche to remove obstacles, especially those associated with the COVID-19 virus.

**Learn More** 

#UnitedFaithsOfAmerica

April 6



Using the hashtag #UnitedFaithsOfAmerica, post a 30 second or less prayer message in your own faith as everyone comes together to pray for the country as it grapples with the coronavirus pandemic.

Holy Week & Easter 2020

# TRINITY CHURCH WALL STREET

Next week as we reflect and prepare for our Easter celebration, Holy Week services, including Morning Prayer, 12:05pm Holy Eucharist, and Evening Prayer, will be shared online.

Learn More

#### Join Our Mission!

The Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) works to overcome prejudice, violence, and misunderstanding by activating the power of the city's grassroots religious and civic leaders and their communities.











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