



**INTERFAITH**  
CENTER OF NEW YORK

ICNY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Discover how ICNY faced the COVID-19 pandemic with your support and how you can join our work in 2021 with a tax-deductible gift.

[Explore 2020](#)

[Please consider a year-end gift so we can help faith leaders create positive change in their communities and the city as a whole.](#)

## December 2020

Dear Friend,

We are proud to invite you to join the first two community projects created by our current cohort of Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy Fellows. The first is an evening of mindfulness practice, offered by ICLA fellow Dharmachari Atnata of the Triattna Buddhist order, which was specifically created in the context of the mental health challenges posed by the pandemic. The second project, created by two Hindu Teachers committed to changing the practice of disposing of ritual offerings in rivers, includes beach clean-ups in the Bronx and Queens. To learn more about our fellows, [please click here](#).

The Interfaith Center of New York is grateful to the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) of the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), which will host an exciting online dialogue between the NYPD and Youth ages 10-18 across New York. Young

people in this age bracket are invited to join tomorrow night, December 3rd, 2020 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM. [Click here to RSVP](#). A special thank you to ICNY Board Members Fred Davie, Chair of the CCRB and Rabbi Joe Potasnik of the New York Board of Rabbis, for helping to create this virtual opportunity for youth to voice their concerns on policing, discuss ways to strengthen relations between NYPD and youth, and also propose actionable next steps.

Finally, please consider attending The City's online memorial to New Yorkers who have died of COVID-19. This multi-day event, created to celebrate the lives of those we lost, will feature storytelling performances, poetry readings, writing and poetry workshops, music, video tributes, and more. [Please go HERE to register](#).

Sincerely,



Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer  
Executive Director



## The Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy

*Civic Engagement, Policy Advocacy, and Community Organizing Training  
for Diverse New York Religious Leaders*

[Learn More](#)

### Mindfulness For Mental Health: An Introduction For Faith Practitioners

December 16, 1pm - 2:30pm



An introduction to “mindfulness” – its mental health benefits and interfaith dimensions. It will draw on four decades of research into Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), the most scientifically researched mindfulness program in the world, and the lived experience of practitioners of different faiths.

Learn more about the [8-week MBSR courses](#) in January, freely offered and sponsored by The Interfaith Center of New York and Triratna New York.



*Hosted by ICLA Fellow:*

**Dharmachari Ananta**

[Sign Up](#)

[\(Download a flyer.\)](#)

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## Hindu Diaspora Eco-Worship Dialogue and Solutions Symposium

Dates/Times Below



Join us to celebrate New York's religious diversity and protect its natural beauty. Cosponsored by the United Madrassi Association, the Vishnu Mandir, and the Interfaith Center of New York.

1. Queens / Jamaica Bay Beach Cleanup, Saturday, December 12, 1-4 pm, at the Crossbay Kiteboarding Launch Area, near North Channel Bridge, Crossbay Blvd, Queens, NY. [Find it on Google Maps.](#)
2. Bronx / Whitestone Beach Cleanup, Sunday, December 13, 1-4 pm, at **10 Hutchinson River Pkwy, Bronx, NY.** [Find it on Google Maps.](#)

No need to RSVP – [share the flyer](#) and join us at the beach.

Questions? Email [vijah.ramjattan@gmail.com](mailto:vijah.ramjattan@gmail.com) or [contactvyaas@gmail.com](mailto:contactvyaas@gmail.com).

*Hosted by ICLA Fellows:*

**Vijay Ramjattan  
& Pandit Vyaas Sukul**

(Left to right)



## Cosponsored Events

**Who is my Neighbor,  
Abrahamic Dialogue during the time of COVID**

December 3, 11am - 12 pm



Ayatollah  
Seyed Mostafa  
Mohaghegh Damad



Rabbi  
Lynn Gottlieb



Bishop  
John Bryson Chane

This bi-national webinar will offer a unique opportunity for participants from across the world to engage with leading Christian, Muslim, and Jewish thinkers on this theological question. Panelists will engage one another and the audience in dialogue on the implications of the answer to that question for people of faith in both the U.S. and Iran.

Webinar by LUKE 10. Cosponsors include The Interfaith Center of New York, Washington National Cathedral, Hartford Seminary, and World Evangelical Alliance.

[Register Here](#)

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## Community Events

### Building the Blessed City Together - an evening of Gratitude and Hope

December 3, 7pm - 8:30pm



Building the Blessed City Together - an Evening of Gratitude and Hope to recognize 5 individuals who help to create a more equitable and compassionate New York City – Gale Brewer, the Reverend Peter Cook, Rachel Fee, Casey Kemper, Shams "Da Homeless Hero" DaBaron – plus an auction to benefit the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing.

[Register Here](#)

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**Responding to Domestic Violence in Faith Communities:  
Two-Day Training for Faith Leaders, Spiritual Activities,**

# and People of Faith

December 9 - 10, 10am - 12pm & 2pm - 4pm



Communities of faith and their leaders have the potential to play a significant role in helping to prevent and eliminate family violence.

Facilitated by CONNECT Co-Executive Directors, Rev. Dr. Sally MacNichol and Quentin Walcott.

To learn more, email [smacnichol@connectnyc.org](mailto:smacnichol@connectnyc.org).

[Register Here](#)

## MISSING THEM - Memorial Event Presented by THE CITY

December 11-13



Join THE CITY online to tell and listen to stories about those felled by the coronavirus. The goal: to remember and celebrate lives at a time when the pandemic has changed the way we say goodbye.

The event, in collaboration with several community partners, will also feature storytelling performances, poetry readings, writing and poetry workshops, music, video tributes, and more.

[Register Here](#)

## Happy Holidays!

Explore a few holy days happening this month.



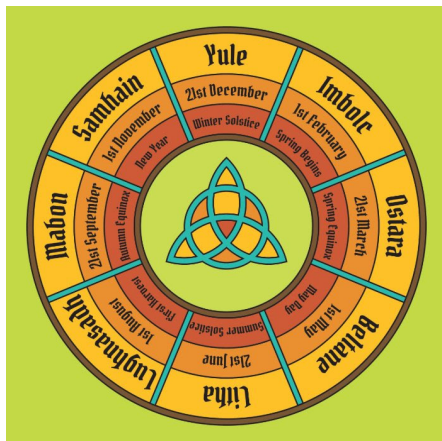
**Bodhi Day**  
(Buddhist)

*December 8*



**Hanukkah**  
(Jewish)

*December 10 -18*



**Winter Solstice**  
(Yule)



**Christmas**  
(Christian)

*December 21*

*December 25*



**Kwanzaa**  
(African American Heritage)

*December 26 - January 1*



**Zartosht No-Diso**  
(Zoroastrian)

*December 26*



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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