



INTERFAITH
CENTER OF NEW YORK



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

January 2021

Dear Friend,

Welcome to 2021! ICNY has some great suggestions for ways to kick off the New Year. These include Religion For Peace's "[Multi-faith and Intergenerational Prayer for Peace](#)" on Jan 5, 2021, at 08:30 AM ET and ICNY's cross-cultural [mental health Webinar for faith leaders](#) in the US and UK. Closer to home, houses of worship across New York and the country are invited to [toll their bells on January 19th](#), the eve of the Presidential Inauguration, in memory of the over 350,000 people who have died from COVID-19 since the pandemic.

All of us at ICNY are deeply grateful to every one of you who made a contribution to our 2020 Annual Appeal. Your generosity allows us to continue our work to

strengthen civil society in NYC by catalyzing diverse faith leaders to work together.

If you have not yet had a chance to review our [2020 Annual Report](#), or [made a contribution to our work](#), please take a moment to do so now.

Thank you and blessings for 2021,



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-Based Stress Reduction For Faith Practitioners

Dates Below



Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) helps participants relate

differently to the stresses in their lives and offers the opportunity to cultivate resilience and emotional intelligence. It is backed by 40 years of research that shows decreases in acute and chronic stress, alleviation of physical and mental suffering, and a greater sense of enthusiasm for life in those who complete the course.

- Course 1: January 20 to March 10, every Wednesday, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
- Course 2: January 22 to March 12, every Friday, 10:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Day retreat (for both courses): February 28, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Orientation session (required): January 13, 6:30 pm - 7:30pm

Courses led by Ananta, an Ordained Buddhist and qualified MBSR (Brown University) and yoga teacher, with over 20 years of experience.



Hosted by ICLA Fellow:

Dharmachari Ananta,
Triratna New York

[Sign Up](#)

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

Cosponsored Events

Faith and Mental Health: How Do We Create Communities of Care?

Thursday, January 21, 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm ET



Please join a transatlantic Zoom conversation hired by ICNY, Interfaith Glasgow, and the Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute to envision the future of mental health care in diverse faith communities, drawing on lessons learned in the

COVID pandemic. Panel discussion from 12:30 - 2:00 ET – an opportunity to learn from faith-based mental health care providers in New York and Glasgow.

Speakers include:

- Dr. Mary Ragan, LCSW, Executive Director of the Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute
- Rev. Kyndra Frazier, LCSW, Founder of KYND Consulting and Former Director of the HOPE Center, Harlem
- Rabbi Simkha Y. Weintraub, LCSW, Former Rabbinic Director of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services
- Sunna Kaleem, Coordinator of Health Engagement for the Scottish Ahlul Bayt Society

Followed by small group dialogues across faith lines and the Atlantic Ocean – an opportunity to learn from your diverse neighbors, in New York, Glasgow, and beyond.

This event is free and open to all, but registration is required. [Click here to register](#). Zoom link will be provided to participants closer to the date.

[Register Here](#)

The Future of Religion: How has the Pandemic Changed the Ways we Practice?

Tuesday, February 2, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm ET



Please join ICNY, Interfaith Glasgow, and Cape Town Interfaith Initiative for World Interfaith Harmony Week, to explore new forms of religious life in diverse faith communities, reshaped by experiences of the COVID pandemic. Panel discussion from 12:00 - 1:30 ET – an opportunity to learn from scholars and religious leaders in the US, the UK, and South Africa.

Speakers will include:

- Dr. Joshua Edelman, Principal Investigator for "British Ritual Innovation Under COVID-19" research project, Manchester Metropolitan University
- Roshi Pat Enkyo O'Hara, Abbot of the Village Zendo, New York, and Founding Teacher of the Zen Peacemaker Family

- Imam Dr. A. Rashied Omar, Research Scholar at University of Notre Dame's Keough School of Global Affairs, and Imam of Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town
- Dr. Nontando Hadebe, Senior Lecturer, St. Augustine College, Johannesburg, and Member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians
- Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, Executive Vice-President of the New York Board of Rabbis, and Chaplain to the FDNY and Fraternal Order of Police

Followed by small group dialogues across faith lines and the Atlantic Ocean – an opportunity to learn from your diverse neighbors, in New York, Glasgow, Cape Town, and beyond.

Free and open to all, but registration is required. [Click here to register](#). Zoom link will be provided to participants closer to the date.

[Register Here](#)

"Paths of Peace to Heal Open Wounds": Interreligious Encounters with Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti*

Wednesday, February 3, 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm ET



Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* (Brothers and Sisters, All) calls for a "culture of encounter" in which dialogue across religious, racial, and national lines helps to heal our broken world. Please join ICNY, Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute, and other partners during World Interfaith Harmony Week, to reflect on *Fratelli Tutti* with diverse faith leaders and scholars, then work to realize the Pope's vision through dialogue with your diverse neighbors. Panel discussion from 12:00 - 1:30 ET.

Speakers will include:

- Dr. Pritpal Kaur, Education Director at the Sikh Coalition
- Dr. Mona Siddiqui, Professor of Islam and Interreligious Studies at the University of Edinburgh
- Rev. Sensei Kosen Gregory Snyder, Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies at Union Theological Seminary, and Senior Priest at the Brooklyn Zen

Center

- Rabbi Dr. Burt Visotsky, Professor of Midrash and Interreligious Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary

Followed by small group dialogues across faith lines – an opportunity to learn from your diverse neighbors, by engaging together with *Fratelli Tutti*.

Free and open to all, but registration is required. [Click here to register](#). Zoom link will be provided to participants closer to the date.

[Register Here](#)

Community Events

2021: The Fight Against White Supremacists

January 7, 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm



As the new administration prepares to take office, extremism is at record levels: 2019 was the deadliest year on record for hate crimes, and Homeland Security officials just called white supremacists the “most persistent and lethal threat” to our country.

Join WNYC's Jami Floyd, for a conversation with leading litigator Roberta Kaplan and Integrity First for America Executive Director Amy Spitalnick on the fight against extremism in the year ahead, from the White House to the courts.

[Get Tickets](#)

The Cinematters: NY Social Justice Film Festival

January 14-18



The Cinematters: NY Social Justice Film Festival presents impactful films that engage the community toward a more democratic, inclusive, and just society. Through films, special events, and conversations, we aim to inspire participants to reflect and take action in order to create a community of civic-minded individuals eager to make a collective change. In the spirit of Dr. King's legacy, our goal is to promote social action that leads to positive change in our society and beyond.

[Get Tickets](#)

Memorial for lives lost to COVID-19

January 19, 5:30 pm



Credit: Samuel Corum/Getty Images

To set the tone for his inauguration the next day, President-elect Biden will lead a memorial to remember and honor lives lost to COVID-19, with church-bell ringings and light shows across the country on January 19 at 5:30 pm ET.

[Learn More](#)

The People's Inauguration

January 21



The People's Inauguration will be a celebration of what's possible. Sound government is necessary - but it won't heal and transition America into a society where we are all free. This work belongs to us, the people.

On January 21, 2021, we'll come together to recommit to building a nation with liberty and justice for all.

[Sign Up](#)



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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