



INTERFAITH
CENTER OF NEW YORK

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK



The Official UN Observance in the 1st Week of February



Inter Religious Federation for World Peace

February 2021

Dear Friend,

[A Common Word](#) Initiative was an open letter signed by 138 Islamic scholars worldwide to then-Pope Benedict and other Christian leaders inviting interfaith dialogue. In the spirit of this letter and the response that followed, **King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed World Interfaith Harmony Week** a few years later to the United Nations. It is now celebrated around the world on the first week in February.

This year, ICNY will be holding two international zoom workshops for Interfaith Harmony Week. The first will be a three-way comparative look at the landscape

of [post-COVID religious practice](#) in New York, Glasgow, and Cape Town. The second is a panel discussion with Jewish, Muslim, and Christian leaders and scholars on Pope Francis' recent Encyclical, [Fratelli Tutti](#) (Brothers and Sisters, All). Please register to join us below.

Also upcoming are two important Mayoral Candidate Webinars. The first is on 2/1/20 and features Scott Stringer. It is sponsored by [Bronx Christian Fellowship](#), [New York Board of Rabbis](#), [Christian Cultural Center](#), and [ICNY](#). The second forum is on 2/3/20 and features a growing list of Mayoral candidates. It is sponsored by the [Muslim Democratic Club of New York](#). In addition, find a 2/24/20 [zoom webinar on ranked-choice voting](#) and information about [NYDIS' Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit](#).

Stay warm and be well.



Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
Executive Director



World Interfaith Harmony Week

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

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



Please join ICNY, Interfaith Glasgow, and the 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.

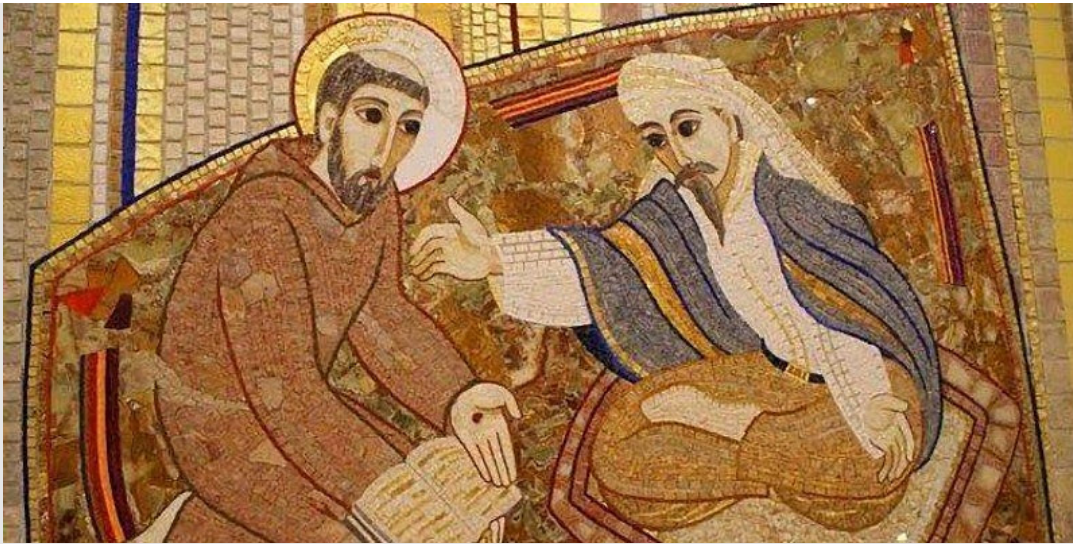
Join us from 12:00 - 1:30 EST for a panel and small group dialogue across faith lines.

Learn from scholars and religious leaders in the US, the UK, and South Africa, including Dr. Joshua Edelman, "British Ritual Innovation Under COVID-19," Manchester Metropolitan University; Roshi Pat Enkyo O'Hara, Abbot of the Village Zendo, New York; Imam Dr. A. Rashied Omar, Claremont Main Road Mosque, Cape Town, Dr. Nontando Hadebe, Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, Johannesburg; & Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, New York Board of Rabbis. *****Space is limited*****

[Register](#)

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

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



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 to reflect on *Fratelli Tutti* with diverse faith leaders and scholars.

Panel discussion and dialogue groups from 12:00 - 1:30 EST.

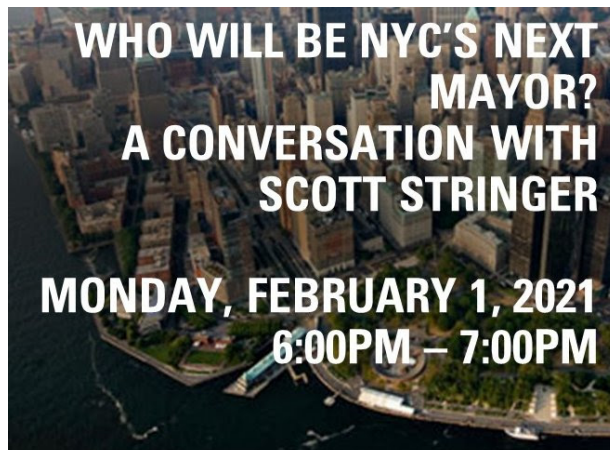
Speakers will include Dr. Pritpal Kaur, Education Director at the Sikh Coalition; Dr. Mona Siddiqui, University of Edinburgh; Rev. Sensei Kosen Gregory Snyder, the Brooklyn Zen Center; Rabbi Dr. Burt Visotsky, the Jewish Theological Seminary. ****Space is limited****

[Register](#)

Cosponsored Events

Who Will be NYC's Next Mayor? A Conversation with Scott Stringer

February 1, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm EST



THIS IS ONE OF A SERIES OF MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUMS. CLICK LINK TO RSVP AND TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS.



Join the Bronx Christian Center, The Christian Cultural Center, The New York Board of Rabbis, and The Interfaith Center of New York for a conversation with Scott Stringer, a Mayoral candidate.

[Sign Up](#)

NYDIS Pandemic Toolkit & Vaccine Updates Webinar for Religious Leaders of Any Tradition

February 11, 10:00 am - 11:30 am EST



This webinar is a part of a series that will present NYDIS' new [Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit](#), which guides congregations on how to write a preparedness plan during the COVID-19 pandemic. The webinar will highlight key resources and planning tools, as well as COVID-19 vaccine updates from a DOHMH guest speaker.

The Pandemic Preparedness Toolkit is adapted from DOHMH's "Pandemic Community Preparedness Toolkit" with support from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Fund for Public Health in New York City.

This webinar is offered by New York Disaster Interfaith Services and cosponsored by the Interfaith Center of New York and the NYC Mayor's Center for Faith and Community Partnerships.

[Register](#)

Interfaith Forum on COVID-19

February 18, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EST



The Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.,
Alpha Gamma Lambda Chapter (Harlem Alphas)
and the Interfaith Center of New York
Present



AN INTERFAITH FORUM ON COVID-19
*A panel of diverse faith leaders discussing the impact of
and response to the pandemic*

The Interfaith Forum on COVID-19 will feature a panel of diverse faith leaders discussing the impact of, and response to, the pandemic. The Forum is being jointly sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Gamma Lambda Chapter, and the Interfaith Center of New York.

It will feature a moderated panel discussion followed by questions from the audience. Panelists include:

- Rabbi Lauren Grabelle Herrmann, Society for the Advancement of Judaism
- Imam Tahir Kukaj, Albanian Islamic Cultural Center
- Dr. Simran Jeet Singh, Union Theological Seminary & Sikh Coalition
- Rev. Dr. T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki, Buddhist Council of New York
- Rev. Canon Terence Alexander Lee, St. Philip's Church

Our Special Guest Speaker will be New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul.

[Register](#)

Starting Your Own Nonprofit Organization: A Step-by-Step Guide for Religious & Civic Leaders

February 23, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm EST



Are you a faith leader or social activist, working to create positive change for your own community and your fellow New Yorkers? Have you dreamed of starting your own nonprofit organization?

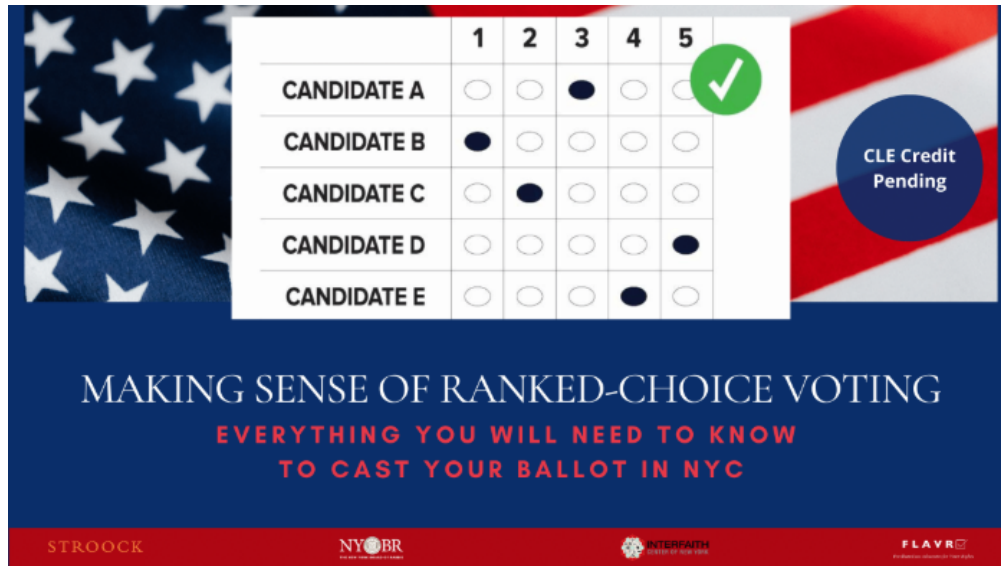
Trainers from New York Law School's Nonprofit and Small Business Clinic will walk you through the process, with an introduction to nonprofit law and applying for federal tax exemption. The clinic will also offer a limited number of individual consultations for participants, to be scheduled following the workshop.

Please join us on February 23, from 12:30 to 2:00 pm, and get the tools you need to make a difference. The workshop will be held on Zoom – a meeting link will be provided closer to the date.

[Register](#)

Making Sense of Ranked-Choice Voting: Everything You Will Need to Know to Cast Your Ballot in NYC

February 24, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST



Everything You Will Need to Know to Cast Your Ballot in NYC with Jerry H. Goldfeder, Special Counsel at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP and Fordham Law Advocates for Voters Rights. February 24, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST.

Cosponsored by The Interfaith Center of New York and The New York Board of Rabbis.

[Register](#)

Community Events

(Listing does not imply endorsement)

The Symbolism, History & Misconceptions about the Swastika

February 3 - 4 and 6

Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) and the Heiwa Foundation are proud to launch SEAC, an initiative meant to bring about awareness regarding the Swastika, one of the most sacred symbols for Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains around the world. Through this campaign, CoHNA hopes to prevent misunderstanding and misuse while imparting much-needed education on hatred and intolerance in today's world.

[Register](#)



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.



[Donate](#)

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