



**ICNY**  
Interfaith Center of New York

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*ICNY's Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy (ICLA) Fellows attend St. Nicholas' Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine's Ecumenical Prayer Service.*

Dear Friend,

ICNY and our current cohort of ICLA fellows were recently invited to attend an ecumenical service at the newly restored **St. Nicholas Orthodox Church** during the Week of Prayer for

Christian Unity (see above photo). Located on the World Trade Center Site and having been destroyed on 9/11, the modern themes in the new shrine's sacred paintings include firefighters, police, and the twin towers under the care Mary, Mother of God. As we enter **World Interfaith Harmony Week** (see programs below) and prepare for **World Hijab Day** today, February 1, we remember how far we have come as a city regarding interfaith relations and respect for religious diversity.

Meanwhile across NYC, the lack of affordable housing was highlighted this week when more than [50 migrant men demonstrated against a city transfer from the Watson hotel to a congregate and temporary facility in Brooklyn](#). They have refused to leave the Watson Hotel—where they have work and community—and ask to remain versus being sent to the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal. The migrant men, many from South America and West Africa, seek dignified housing and the right to work. Supporters are also asking for an end of the 90 day waiting period for housing vouchers, and a release in rent stabilized spaces. The plight of these men and their actions reflect another facet of the housing crisis in NYC.

We encourage you to join us for the [Faith Leader's Housing Rally at Recovery House of Worship on Thursday, Feb. 9th at 10 am](#) located at [360 Schermerhorn St, Brooklyn, NY 11217](#). Next, be sure to sign on to the [Housing 4 Justice Faith Leader Sign On Letter](#) that recommends reforming the voucher system and supporting more social housing.

This week, ICNY sent a letter to Mayor Eric Adams that was signed by 80 plus faith leaders representing New York City's diverse religious landscape. The letter calls for the Mayor's "clear and unwavering" commitment to reduce incarceration, close Rikers Island, and open borough-based jail facilities by 2027 as per legislation passed by the City Council in 2019. [You can view that letter and its many signers here](#).

Finally, please see the update about ICNY staff. We are thrilled to announce that Hanadi Doleh our Director of Community Partnerships was interviewed as a [featured delegate at the International Conference for Cohesive Societies](#), Henry Goldschmidt our Director of Programs recently published [a chapter in Teaching Critical Religious Studies Pedagogy and Critique in the Classroom](#), and I was recently interviewed by [NYN Media about the challenges religious leaders face entering the public square and my work as an ordained Episcopal priest](#).

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer  
ICNY Executive Director

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## ICNY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

# FAITH LEADERS FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

Press Conference and Rally

Thursday, February 9th | 10 AM  
Recovery House of Worship  
360 Schermerhorn St, Brooklyn, NY 11217



### NYC Housing Justice

#### Faith Leaders for Housing Justice: Press Conference and Rally

Thursday, Feb. 9: 10:00 AM EST @ Recovery House of Worship  
(360 Schermerhorn St, Brooklyn, NY 11217)

We have several opportunities for you to get further involved in housing justice. Please join us for **Faith Leader Housing Rally** at Recovery House of Worship located at [360 Schermerhorn St, Brooklyn, NY 11217](#).

Next, be sure to sign on to the [Housing 4 Justice Faith Leader Sign-on Letter](#).

This letter is in support of Housing Justice for All's "Our Homes, Our Power" plan, a package of five statewide bills to ensure every New Yorker has a safe and affordable home: Good Cause Eviction, Housing Access Voucher Program (HAVP), Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA), Rent Guidelines Board Reform, and Social Housing.

[Click Here to Sign Letter](#)

For Faith Leaders that want to get further involved in advocating for Housing Justice [sign up here](#) to **Dedicate a Sermon to Housing Justice**.

[Dedicate a Sermon to Housing Justice](#)

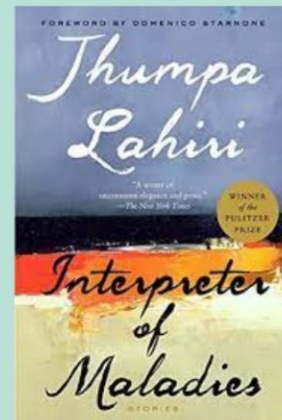


**ICNY**  
Interfaith Center of New York

The Interfaith Center of New York Presents

# FAITH IN FICTION

A Book Group on Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Literature



February 22nd from 6:00 - 7:30 PM

"Subtle, scenic tales about people trying to reconcile the traditions they've inherited with baffling new cultures. Their disorientation resonates in the evocative and often ominous details Lahiri employs... Superb." - Village Voice

**Interfaith Reading and Discussion Group**

**Faith in Fiction: A Book Group on Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Literature**

**Wednesday, Feb. 22: 6:00 - 7:30 PM EST @ Stewart Room - Union Theological Seminary**

Please join us for a free book group run by ICNY to inspire conversations about religion and spirituality. Whether you love fiction or are interested in learning more about the ways religion imbues people’s daily lives, this book group is a thoughtful space to gather and have an intentional conversation about the things that matter most.

The book group will meet once a month in February, March, and April to discuss different works of fiction facilitated by ICNY intern and Union Theological Seminary Master of Divinity candidate Brennan Brink. In February, the group will dig into the short story “This Blessed House” in Jhumpa Lahiri’s Pulitzer Prize winning collection Interpreter of Maladies.

Future sessions will delve into Franny and Zooey by J.D. Salinger and The Last One: A Novel by Fatima Daas.

If you have questions or if you want to register, email [Brennan@interfaithcenter.org](mailto:Brennan@interfaithcenter.org).

[Click Here to Register Via Email](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



JOURNALISTS AND  
WRITERS FOUNDATION



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK  
The Official UN Observance in the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of February



# THE ROLE OF INTERRELIGIOUS INITIATIVES IN RECONCILIATION AND PEACEBUILDING

2 FEBRUARY 2023, THURSDAY  
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EST

YouTube Live Event



## World Interfaith Harmony Week

### The Role of Interreligious Initiatives in Reconciliation & Peacebuilding

Thursday, February 2: 11:00 Am - 12:30 PM EST on Youtube Live

As part of World Interfaith Harmony Week, an annual event observed during the first week of February each year (1-7 February), The Journalists and Writers Foundation, in partnership with Peace Islands Institute New York, co-organize a virtual panel discussion to discuss the [Role of Interreligious Initiatives in Reconciliation and Peacebuilding](#).

Around the world, interfaith initiatives carried out by various civil society organizations, sometimes also promoted by governments or international organizations, help to establish networks of reconciliation and containment in contexts of conflict and often establish the necessary dialogues for peace building. This panel seeks to shed light on the work that various interfaith leaders are doing on the ground to create communities and environments of peace.

[Click Here to Register](#)



WE ARE  
LOOKING FOR

**VOLUNTEER  
CHILD  
ADVOCATES**

**Apply for the next  
Child Advocate  
Training  
February 11 & 12, 2023!**

Fill out an Interest Form at  
**[theyoungcenter.org](http://theyoungcenter.org)**

For more information  
email

[volunteer@theyoungcenter.org](mailto:volunteer@theyoungcenter.org)



[volunteer@theyoungcenter.org](mailto:volunteer@theyoungcenter.org)

## **The Young Center - Volunteer Child Advocate Training**

**Training Dates: Saturday Feb. 11 & Sunday Feb. 12** Trainings held at NYU School of Law (40 Washington Square S, New York, NY 10012)

The Young Center New York office will be hosting a Volunteer Child Advocate training on February 11 & 12, 2023, for those who are interested in supporting unaccompanied or separated immigrant children. The Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights is a non-profit organization whose mission is to advocate for the rights of unaccompanied immigrant children. The Young Center provides Volunteer Child Advocates (akin to guardians ad litem) for trafficking victims and other vulnerable immigrant children. These advocates are adults who volunteer to spend time with, and advocate on behalf of, an individual unaccompanied immigrant child while he or she is in federal custody and subject to immigration proceedings. Currently, the NY office needs bilingual volunteers who are available to conduct in person weekly visits for one hour as a Child Advocate at a facility in New York.

**Volunteer requirements:**

- Must be 21+ years of age.
- Must be fluent or highly proficient in Spanish, Mam, K'iche', Kekchi, or Chuj.
- Must be able to travel to at least one of the facilities served by the Young Center in Westchester County, Harlem, and the Bronx.
- Must attend a two-day in person training in February 2023.
- Must be able to clear a federal and state background check.
- Must provide proof of a negative tuberculosis test within the past 12 months and a COVID vaccination card to enter a detention facility.
- Must provide COVID19 vaccination card.
- Must be willing to commit approximately one hour per week to visit with an unaccompanied child.

To sign up for the training, please complete the following form:

<https://www.theyoungcenter.org/volunteer-child-advocate-interest-form>.

For any questions, you may contact Young Center Volunteer Coordinator, Rommie Cardenas, at [volunteer@theyoungcenter.org](mailto:volunteer@theyoungcenter.org).

Click Here to Sign Up





# WOMEN IN RELIGIOUS SCRIPTURES

9 FEB 2023, 7 - 8.30 PM

Hear and discuss how the lives and stories of Women in Religious Scriptures can inspire and empower women of faith today at our online event



**Dr Lakshmi Vyas**  
President, Hindu Forum of Europe

**Professor Jagbir Jhutti- Johal**  
Professor of Sikh Studies  
University of Birmingham



**Reverend Suzanne Vernon-Yorke**  
Vicar, PhD researcher on  
interfaith and gender



Register Below

[tinyurl.com/WomenInReligiousScriptures-Feb](https://tinyurl.com/WomenInReligiousScriptures-Feb)

 **Religions for Peace**  
UK WOMEN OF FAITH NETWORK

## **Religions For Peace UK Women of Faith Network - Women in Religious Scriptures**

**Thursday, February 9: 7:00 - 8:30 PM EST Online**

Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network invites you to 'Women in Religious Scriptures' to mark World Interfaith Harmony Week.

Speakers for this inspiring event are: Professor Jagbir Jhutti-Johal - Professor of Sikh Studies, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham, Dr Lakshmi Vyas - President, Hindu Forum of Europe; educationalist cum academician, and Reverend Suzanne Vernon-Yorke - Vicar of a church in West London, PhD researcher on interfaith and gender.

Come and hear our panel of expert speakers discuss questions such as: "Is there a particular woman in your religious scriptures who inspires you and how/why?". "Which verses in your religious scriptures empower women and how?" "How can women of faith, challenge those who misuse religious scriptures to cause harm?"

Men and women welcome. To book your place, please register by [clicking here](#) or the button below.

Click Here to Register



## **Religions for Peace USA - Faith Voices Faith Matters: Our Work Together to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

**Thursday, February 16: 2:00 - 3:00 PM EST**

Today, the threat of nuclear war is all too real -- perhaps greater than it has been since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 - threatening all of humanity. Join Sean Meyer, Co-founder of Back from the Brink: Bringing Communities to Abolish Nuclear Weapons to learn how you and your organization can get involved in this campaign and join a growing global nuclear abolition movement.

[Click Here to Register](#)

# INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE

## THE LEGACY OF DELORES S. WILLIAMS

AND THE IMPACT OF WOMANIST  
THEOLOGY ON OUR WORK TO END  
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2023  
6-8PM EST • ZOOM**



**RSVP TO DANIELLE WILLIAMS**

[dwilliams@connectnyc.org](mailto:dwilliams@connectnyc.org)

## **CONNECT Interfaith Roundtable: Reflecting on the Legacy of Delores S. Williams on Our Work to End Gender-Based Violence**

**Thursday, February 16: 6:00 - 8:00 PM EST on Zoom**

Join CONNECT for their monthly Interfaith dialogue circle as they celebrate the legacy of Delores S. Williams and the impact of Womanist Theology on our collective efforts to end gender based violence.

All are welcome! [Click here](#) or the button below to register.

If you have any questions you can email Danielle Williams @ [dwilliams@connectnyc.org](mailto:dwilliams@connectnyc.org).

[Click Here to 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.*

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