



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy Fellows pictured from left to right: Hanadi Doleh (ICNY Staff), Jon Ammons, Rev. Lauren Ahava Jacobs, Dr. Aameena Ali, Mehmet Ozalp, Weini Zhao, Eugene Nam and Dr. Sheriden Booker

Dear Friend,

Since last summer, 44,000 people have arrived in NYC joining more than 45,000 people already

here and in search of dignified, affordable housing. [New York City's faith communities now have a unique opportunity to exercise a ministry of hospitality](#) and give back to the wider city. [Sign up here](#) to receive more information about how your house of worship can offer emergency shelter to up to 19 migrants and receive funding for doing this. ICNY is supporting **New York Disaster Interfaith Services** and the **Mayor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships** in this path-breaking initiative endorsed by the [NY Daily News Editorial Board](#). In that piece, you will find a link to my original [NYDN op ed](#) on the subject.

Advocacy opportunities for faith leaders committed to increasing affordable housing overall continue with the **New York State Council of Churches' Ecumenical Advocacy Day on Housing and Immigration in Albany, NY on March 21, 2023** (The earlier event was postponed due to weather concerns). See registration information below.

Finally, March is Women's History Month and I encourage you to sign up for the large numbers of events relating to technology and women that is the theme of this year's 67th UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
ICNY Executive Director

P.S. ICNY is hiring! Please check out our job description for a new Operations Manager and consider applying with your resume and a cover letter to info@interfaithcenter.org.

ICNY ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



NYC NEEDS YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP TO HELP SHELTER ASYLEES
A Proposed New Program will pay Congregations to Shelter & Feed up to 19 Asylees per Night

Since last summer, over 44,000 Asylum Seekers have arrived on their own or been transported to New York

City without regard for their wellbeing. Hundreds of asylum seekers continue to arrive each week. The NYC shelter system, hotels and alternative housing sites have been overwhelmed as asylum seekers try to find safe shelter while awaiting immigration court proceedings. While most are single men, single women and families with children are also arriving. Many of these fellow global citizens in crisis have fled unimaginable conditions in their country of origin and then experienced an arduous journey on their way to New York City.

Many arriving asylees have been traumatized by violence, robbery, sexual assault, and trafficking. They are also eager to start new lives. NYC government agencies, nonprofits and grassroots advocates have sought to create spaces and services that offer safe housing, compassionate care, immigration resources and the dignity of being treated with respect and with cultural and religious competence.

The city has been providing hotels, homeless shelters, and other mass care spaces as housing on a temporary basis. We are proposing to fund congregations, of any faith tradition, to provide temporary small group shelter housing to single adult male and female asylees. The program would provide shelter for the next 12-24 months while all of us continue to call on the state and Federal government to help address this need for more permanent housing.

We are seeking houses of worship that:

- Are located near subway or bus lines.
- Have a 900+ Square Feet space to sleep 19 asylees from approximately 7PM to 7AM - 24/7/365.
- Have space for 19 asylees to be served and sit to eat meals.
- Will hire or have a security guard.
- Will hire or have a volunteer Shelter Coordinator.
- Will provide all guests with a hot dinner and a hot or cold breakfast.
- Provide access to bathrooms and showers (shower installation grants are being considered in the absence of onsite showers).
- Training/Technical Support as well as Cots/Bedding/Towels & Storage Trunks will be provided.
- Adhere to key NYC building and fire safety code requirements.

In exchange for your hospitality, congregations will be paid a monthly fee – to cover all required operating expenses related to meeting each asylees' basic human needs and to offset space use costs

COMPLETE THIS ONLINE FORM IF YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP MAY BE ABLE TO HELP?

<https://howalert.org/AsyleeShelterSurvey>

If your congregation and its leadership would like to explore serving as an Asylee Shelter, please follow this link and complete the online form so that we may determine your eligibility for a shelter contract. Completing the form does not commit you to anything other than an exploratory conversation.



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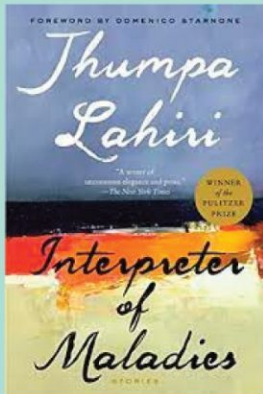
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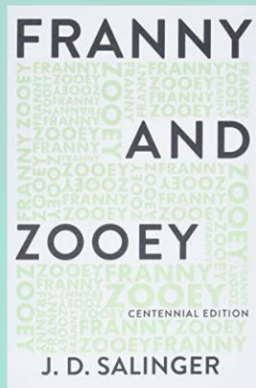
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[Click here](#) or the button below if your house of worship will be able to help.

[Click Here to Sign up Your House of Worship](#)



February 22nd



March 29th



April 26th



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

The Interfaith Center of New York Presents

FAITH IN FICTION

Book Group on Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Literature

Join us in the Stewart Room at Union Theological Seminary

6:00-7:30 on the last Wednesday of the month

To RSVP or have Questions??? E-mail brennan@interfaithcenter.org

Interfaith Reading and Discussion Group

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

Wednesday, March 29: 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](#) meets once a month to discuss different works of fiction facilitated by ICNY intern and Union Theological Seminary Master of Divinity candidate Brennan Brink. In March, the group will dig into *Franny and Zooey* by J.D. Salinger.

If you have questions or if you want to register, email Brennan@interfaithcenter.org.

[Click Here to Register Via Email](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



MANHATTAN
COLLEGE

Holocaust, Genocide and Interfaith
Education Center

**TURBANS AND BEARDS, HAPPINESS AND JUSTICE:
TAPPING SIKH WISDOM TO MEET OUR CHALLENGES**

KELLY COMMONS, ROOM 5C, AT 7 P.M.

THURSDAY MARCH 2

Turbans and Beards, Happiness and Justice: Tapping Sikh Wisdom to Meet Our Challenges

**Thursday, March 2: 7:00 PM EST @ Kelly Commons 5C, Manhattan College
(3900 Waldo Ave, The Bronx, NY 10463)**

The featured speaker is Dr. Simran Jeet Singh. Dr. Singh is the Executive Director of the Aspen Institute for Religion and Society. He will discuss his book "The Light We Give", a book on the wisdom of Sikhism about overcoming racism and fear through optimism and connection. As turban-wearing Sikhs growing up in Texas, Dr. Singh and his brothers faced racism daily. On the soccer field, on the basketball court, and especially at the airport. Over the years, Dr. Singh learned that the same tradition that caused him to look different had unique wisdom for confronting the challenges of our time.

[Click here](#) to see Manhattan College's listing for this event.



ASU® Arizona State University

Sacred Space:

Religion and Cosmic Exploration

How has religion influenced space exploration?

March 2, 7:00 pm ET
How do religious traditions teach us to conduct ourselves in space?

March 16, 7:00 pm ET
How will space exploration reshape religions?

March 23, 7:00 pm ET
What is the cosmic future of humanity?

April 6 , 7:00 pm ET

Register at:
bit.ly/II SacredSpace

Sacred Space: Religion and Cosmic Exploration

March 2, 16. 23, and April 6: 7:00 PM EST @ Online

What does religion have to do with space exploration? Quite a lot, actually. In fact, the histories, ideologies, representations and practices of religion are central to the project of imagining and building human space futures. As we venture into space, we will bring religion and religious ideas with us, knowingly or not.

Sacred Space: Religion and Cosmic Exploration is a series of public talks where diverse guests from the space sector and from religious traditions will discuss religion and space exploration - two topics that have been intertwined through human history.

Featured speakers include:

Former NASA Chief Historian **Roger Launius**

Soviet historian **Victoria Smolkin**

Islamic ethicist **Zahra Ayubi**

Buddhist scholar **Daniel Capper**

Afrofuturist Curator **Ingrid LaFleur**

Rabbi **Danya Ruttenberg**

Indigenous Geographer **Deondre Smiles**

Vatican Astronomer **Guy Consolmagno**

Feminist ecotheologian **Catherine Keller**, and

Cosmologist **Paul Davies**

[Click here](#) to register and learn more about the webinars

[Click Here to Register and Learn More](#)



VALUES IN INNOVATION

Values in Innovation: Women's Engagement in Reimagining Digital Technologies

A hybrid dialogue for the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community New York United Nations Office

7 March, 1:00 - 3:00 pm EST (New York)

In person and Virtual: 866 UN Plaza, Suite 120 | Zoom registration below

Bahá'í
International
Community

Women's History Month

Values in Innovation: Women's Engagement in Reimagining Digital Technologies

Tuesday, March 7: 1:00 - 3:00 PM EST @ 866 UN Plaza, Suite 120 & on Zoom

The Baha'i International Community invites reflections on this statement titled, "Values in Innovation: Women's Engagement in Reimagining Digital Technologies". This hybrid dialogue is in recognition of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

This event aims to engage participants in conversation and facilitate their reactions to the themes of the statement, particularly around the role of digital technology in amplifying human capacity and connecting communities.

Read the statement [here](#):

[Click here](#) or the button below to register.

Click Here to Register



2023 Ecumenical & Interfaith Advocacy Day
Housing & Immigration Legislation

Welcome & Reception
March 20th 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Keynote Sermon- by Rev.
Reginald Bacchus, Senior Pastor,
Mt. Ollie Baptist Church,
Brownsville, Brooklyn



ADVOCACY DAY
March 21st 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

Register at: <https://bit.ly/EIAD2023>

**Westminster Presbyterian Church, 262
State St. , Albany, NY 12210**

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Housing & Immigration

2023 New York State Ecumenical and Interfaith Advocacy Day

Monday & Tuesday, March 20-21: Westminster Presbyterian Church and NYS Capitol

Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather forecast for Albany this coming Monday and Tuesday and out of an abundance of caution, NYSCC has decided to **postpone the NYS Council of Churches Ecumenical and Interfaith Advocacy Day until Monday March 20th from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 pm and Tuesday March 21st from 9:00am-4:00 pm.**

The Council of Churches is preparing its 2023 legislative ask to help congregations advocate for a wide variety of state legislation which will impact their members and the communities they serve. In developing our ask, we have been conducting public policy seminars which can viewed by [clicking here](#).

While all the issues are important, this year, the Council will highlight from our comprehensive legislative ask two issues, immigration and housing, which will form the basis for our legislative visits on Advocacy Day. We anticipate in 2023 that an enormous focus for the governor and the legislature will be on addressing the affordable housing crisis. Moreover, with the lifting of title 42 and the influx of immigrants across the state, the issue of immigration will be front and center on the political stage.

To learn more about the schedule or to register, [click here](#) or the button below.

[Click Here to Register](#)



THE INTERNATIONAL INTERFAITH RESEARCH LAB
TEACHERS COLLEGE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Please join us for an evening of celebration, exhibition, and discussion

THE JOURNEY OF THE SARAJEVO HAGGADAH
A Story of Interfaith Collaboration and Human Coexistence

The Journey of the Sarajevo Haggadah: A Story of Interfaith Collaboration and Human Coexistence

**Monday, March 20: 5:00 -6:30 PM EST @ Teachers College, Columbia University
(Milbank Chapel in the Zankel Building - 525 W 120th St, New York, NY 10027)**

Join The International Lab for Research and Leadership in Interfaith Collaboration and Coexistence. As they present the story of the Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the oldest Sephardic Haggadahs in the world, originating in Barcelona ca. 1350. They discuss the journey of its safety by courageous individuals of different faiths through amazing acts of courage, compassion, and collaboration. See how this story applies in today's world to prevent hate through understanding and recognition of common human values. At this special event, a rare copy of The Sarajevo Haggadah will be on display.

The evening will feature a special panel, moderated by Dr. Amra Sabic-El-Rayess, with experts engaging in meaningful dialogue on the transformative power of interfaith collaboration, coexistence, and leadership, all of which are foundational ideas of The Interfaith Lab.

[Click here](#) or the button below to learn more and to register.

Click Here to Register

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

9AM - 10AM

**TWEED COURTHOUSE STEPS
52 CHAMBERS ST.**



**RALLY FOR A
CLOSE RIKERS
BUDGET**



Join us to call for a City budget that supports closing Rikers by moving resources from the bloated Department of Correction to crucial community needs.

REGISTER AT bit.ly/closerikersbudget

Campaign to Close Rikers Island

Rally for a Close Rikers Budget

**Thursday, March 23: 9:00 - 10:00 AM EST @ Tweed Courthouse Steps
(52 Chambers St New York, NY 10007)**

Join us ahead of the City Council Criminal Justice Committee's Preliminary Budget hearing to insist on a budget that supports the closure of Rikers by moving resources from the bloated Department of Correction to crucial community needs.

New York City runs the most richly funded (and richly staffed) jail system in the country while consistently delivering the worst results. And yet this year the Mayor has proposed increasing the Department Of Correction's budget while cutting funding for housing, healthcare, education, employment, and youth services. Elected leaders must utilize this year's budget process to correct this injustice by investing in community resources to improve safety and reduce incarceration, not more DOC budget bloat.

Read more about [DOC's budget](#), and how it can be [reinvested](#) in our communities.

[Click here](#) or the button below to register and learn more.

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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