



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



From Left to Right: ICLA alum **Marianne Montero**; ICNY intern **Brennan Brink**; Former Executive Presbyter **Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison**; ICNY Exec. Director **Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer** and other faith-based advocates meet with Assembly Member **Al Taylor (AD-71)** for NYS Council of Churches Ecumenical Advocacy Day, March 20, 2023.

Dear Friend,

In the coming weeks, we find the confluence of Ramadan, Passover, Easter, and the Sikh celebration of Vaisakhi. Further down in this email you will find links to iftars, seders, and other celebrations that are open to all New Yorkers, including the [Muslim Sisters of Staten Island Community Iftar](#), the [Seder in the Streets for Housing Justice](#), the [Queens Borough President's Vaisakhi Celebration](#), and much more. We hope you will take this opportunity to share in your

neighbors' sacred calendars. For those observing Passover, you can also enrich your own family's holiday by downloading the [HIAS Haggadah](#), which weaves the stories of today's refugees and asylum seekers into the Passover seder, and by downloading [Adamah's sustainable Passover Resources](#).

In our local NYC sacred calendar, it is important to note that this Tuesday, April 4, marks the anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's powerful speech [Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence](#), delivered at Riverside Church in Morningside Heights on April 4, 1967. Dr. King's call to action speaks to us in our own time of crisis: "*Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter—but beautiful—struggle for a new world.*"

Doing our small part in this struggle, ICNY recently joined [over 100 diverse faith leaders in calling on Governor Hochul to support Good Cause Eviction and other policies for housing justice](#). You can do your part by reaching out to elected officials in Albany. Also see below for an invitation to join in a [multifaith solidarity fast to support migrant hunger strikers](#) calling for more humane conditions at two privately-run detention facilities.

Last but not least, ICNY joins our Roman Catholic neighbors—and all people of good will—in offering prayers for Pope Francis's speedy recovery from bronchitis. Wishing His Holiness a springtime of good health and personal renewal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chloe Breyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chloe" and the last name "Breyer" clearly distinguishable.

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
ICNY Executive Director

*PS: Save the date for the 2023 James Parks Morton Interfaith Awards Gala, which will take place on **Monday, June 26**. We look forward to gathering with many of you in person in June, and invite you to stay tuned for more details very soon.*

ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS



Building Peace in Castle Hill

An Interfaith
Anti-Gun Violence Training

Tuesday, April 11th at 4:30pm

Castle Hill Public Library
947 Castle Hill Ave, Bronx, NY 10473
Please register here:
<https://interfaithcenter.salsalabs.org/BuildingPeaceinCastleHill>



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

Buddhist Council of New York

G.O.G.M.
Garden of Gethsemane Ministries, Inc.

New York
Public
Library

Council Member
AMANDA FARIAS
District 38 - The Bronx

Unite Against Gun Violence

Building Peace in Castle Hill: An Interfaith Anti-Gun Violence Training

Tuesday, April 11, 4:30 pm

Castle Hill Public Library, 947 Castle Hill Avenue, Bronx, NY 10473

Please join **ICNY**, **Garden of Gethsemane Ministries**, the **Buddhist Council of New York**, and **Council Member Amada Farias** for *Building Peace in Castle Hill: An Interfaith Anti-Gun Violence Training*.

IN PERSON at the Castle Hill Public Library, **Tuesday, April 11th at 4:30pm**. The event is open to the community, all are welcome. [Click here for details and registration](#).

Please reach out to Rev. Dominique Atchison at dominique@interfaithcenter.org with any questions.

[Click Here to Fight Gun Violence](#)



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

Interfaith Racial Justice Coalition

Monthly Faith Leader Gatherings to Share and Support our Ministries

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 12:30 pm
In Person at 475 Riverside Drive, Manhattan

Together for a Just and Inclusive City

ICNY's Interfaith Racial Justice Coalition

Tuesday, April 18, 12:30 pm

475 Riverside Drive, Robing Room

Faith leaders of all backgrounds are invited to join ICNY for the next meeting of our Interfaith Racial Justice Coalition. The next meeting will feature a conversation with **Jennifer Jones Austin**, Chair of the NYC Racial Justice Commission, and Executive Director of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies. We hope you can join us!

To RSVP, or with any questions about the coalition, please contact ICNY's Director of Racial Justice Initiatives, Rev. Dominique Atchison at dominique@interfaithcenter.org.

[Click Here for Info about the Racial Justice Coalition](#)



The graphic features a dark blue background with a white tree logo in the top left corner, representing the New York Board of Rabbis. The text is primarily in white and blue. A large, tilted photograph of Commissioner Louis Molina in a suit and red tie is on the right. A blue banner on the left contains the event title and date. A white button with a blue border is at the bottom center. The bottom of the graphic shows a colorful geometric pattern and a small logo.


The New York Board of Rabbis
Where diversity and unity meet

An Interfaith Briefing on Rikers Island with NYC DOCS Commissioner Louis Molina

April 20, 2023 at 11:00 AM

[Register Here](#)



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York


Vital Update on Rikers


Interfaith Briefing with Commissioner Louis Molina

Thursday, April 20, 11:00 am, Online

Religious and civic leaders are invited to join ICNY, the [New York Board of Rabbis](#), and the [Christian Cultural Center](#) for a briefing on the status of Rikers Island from Louis Molina, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Correction. [Click here](#) or the button below to register.

[Click Here to Register for Rikers Briefing](#)





THE LAST ONE
FATIMA DAAS
A NOVEL

FAITH IN FICTION

Book Group on Religion
and Spirituality in Contemporary
Literature

Join us on April 26 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Stewart Room at Union Theological Seminary

(Enter on Broadway at 121st Street)

April 26th

To RSVP or have Questions?
Email brennan@interfaithcenter.org



 COLUMBIA | RELIGIOUS LIFE

Faith in Fiction

Book Group on Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Literature

Wednesday, April 26, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Stewart Room, Union Theological Seminary @ Broadway & 121st Street

Please join us for a free book group to inspire conversation about religion and spirituality. If you love literature, and you want to explore the role of religion in people's lives, **Faith in Fiction** is a space to gather for intentional conversation about the things that matter most.

On **Wednesday, April 26**, we will explore themes of religious faith and sexual identity in the French-Algerian novelist Fatima Daas' critically acclaimed debut novel *The Last One*. Join us for light refreshments and rich conversation, facilitated by ICNY staff member and Union Theological Seminary M.Div. candidate Brennan Brink. Co-sponsored by Columbia University's Earl Hall Center for Religious Life.

To register, or if you have questions, email brennan@interfaithcenter.org.

[Click Here to Join the Conversation](#)





SCREENING

MAY 8TH



Colonel Kalsi: Beyond The Call

Created by a highly decorated and Emmy Winning crew, ***Beyond The Call*** explores the intersection of diversity and religious freedom in the US military.

LOCATION: MCNALLY AMPHITHEATER
FORDHAM LINCOLN CENTER

TIME: DOORS OPEN AT 4:00 PM

REGISTRATION: LINKTR.EE/NYCVETERANS



This screening will also include opening remarks from sponsors. Following the screening there will be a Q&A with Dr. Kamal Kalsi.

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

FREE SCREENING

SPONSORED BY:



Powerful Documentary

Colonel Kalsi: Beyond the Call

Monday, May 8, 4:00 pm

McNally Amphitheater, Fordham University at Lincoln Center

140 West 62nd Street, Manhattan

Created by a highly decorated and Emmy Winning crew, *Colonel Kalsi: Beyond the Call* explores the intersection of diversity and religious freedom in the US military. The screening will be followed by Q & A with the film's subject, Dr. Kamal Kalsi. Free admission — all are welcome!

Sponsored by: Sikh American Veterans Alliance, NYC Department of Veterans' Services, Fordham University, Interfaith Center of New York, The Sikh Coalition, NYC Office of Faith-Based and Community Partnerships.

[Click Here to Reserve Your Seat](#)



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York



**Ruth's
Refuge**

Welcome Asylum Seekers!

Spiritual and Practical Sanctuary for Migrant Families

Donation Drive with an Amazon Wish List

As fellows in ICNY's [Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy](#), Rev. Lauren Ahava Jacobs and Rev. Shokuchi Deirdre Carrigan are creating *Welcome Home* baskets for asylum-seeking families relocating to New York City. The baskets will include a collection of homemaking necessities, along with multifaith, multicultural welcome messages.

They need your help to welcome the newest New Yorkers! [Click here to purchase supplies for asylum-seeking families from Rev. Jacobs and Rev. Carrigan's Amazon wish list.](#)

The baskets will be assembled by the Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy, and distributed to families by [Ruth's Refuge](#). Together we will uplift the inherent dignity of these migrant families, and let them know that they can feel safe, comfortable, and welcome in their new home.

[Click Here to Purchase Supplies for Asylum Seekers](#)



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.



NYC Needs Your House of Worship

Support the Newest New Yorkers by Sheltering Asylees

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 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.

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 in all faith traditions that can meet the practical requirements outlined in the flyer above. 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.

[Click here](#) or the button below if your house of worship can help.

Click Here if Your House of Worship Can Help

SPRING HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

This is a month of multifaith celebration, with Ramadan, Passover, Easter, Vaisakhi, and other religious holidays. ICNY is glad to share upcoming holiday events that are open to all New Yorkers. Click the links for more details:

Ramadan Iftar Dinners:

[Muslim Sisters of Staten Island Community Iftar](#), Wednesday, April 5, 6:30 pm, at Port Richmond High School, 85 Saint Joseph's Avenue, Staten Island

[Arab American Federation Community Iftar](#), Thursday, April 6, 6:30 pm, at Leif Ericson Park, 5th Avenue and 67th Street, Brooklyn

[Muslim Democratic Club of New York Iftar](#), Tuesday, April 11, 6:00 pm, at Farida Central Asian Cuisine and Grill, 32 Cedar Street, Manhattan (*ticket purchase required*)

[LGBTQ+ Community Iftar](#), Wednesday, April 12, 6:00 pm, at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13 Street, Manhattan

[Bronx Borough President's Annual Iftar](#), Thursday, April 13, 6:00 pm, in the Rotunda of Veterans Memorial Hall at Bronx Borough Hall, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx

[Iftar on the Go](#), various dates and locations. 7,500 free halal meals will be available at grab-to-go sites across the five boroughs – sponsored by the Office of NYC Comptroller Brad Lander, Islamic Relief USA, and a wide range of community organizations, elected officials, and hunger relief organizations.

Passover Seders:

[Seder in the Streets for Housing Justice](#), Monday, April 3, 6:00 pm, at Tompkins Square Park, East 10th Street, Manhattan. Sponsored by Tirdof: New York Jewish Clergy for Justice, Jews For Racial and Economic Justice, and T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights

[Freedom Feast: Lab/Shul's Multifaith Liberation Seder](#), Wednesday, April 5, 5:30 pm, at Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South, Manhattan (*ticket purchase required*)

[Click here for a list of many more community seders](#), compiled by UJA-Federation.

Easter Celebrations:

[Easter Brunch at Riverside Church](#), Sunday, April 9, immediately following the 10:45 am worship service, 490 Riverside Drive, Manhattan (*ticket purchase required*)

[Easter Parade and Bonnet Festival](#), Sunday, April 9, 10:00 am, on Fifth Avenue from 49th Street to 57th Street, Manhattan

[Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity Church Wall Street](#), Sunday, April 9, 10:00 am, Trinity Churchyard, 89 Broadway, Manhattan

Vaisakhi Celebrations:

[New York City Council's Sikh Heritage Month and Vaisakhi Celebration](#), Thursday, April 6, 6:00 pm, in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Broadway and Chambers Street, Manhattan

[Queens Borough President's Vaisakhi Celebration](#), Tuesday, April 11, 6:00 pm, at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens

OTHER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



FREEDOM RISING

**Dismantling Fascism
with Fierce Love**

Join these leaders (and more)
in the movement for collective liberation.

APRIL 28 - 30 | LIVE IN NEW YORK CITY

Details & RSVP: freedomrisingconference.com



Nurturing Collective Liberation

Freedom Rising Conference

April 28 - 30

West End Church, 245 West 77th Street, Manhattan

The time to act is now: When freedom rises, we all flourish. On April 28-30, Join scholars, artists, prophets, and organizers to diagnose what's tearing the country apart, learn how to cultivate wholeness in the middle of oppressive systems, and build a movement that will get us all free.

Learn more and purchase tickets at freedomrisingconference.com. Use the code **ACTIVIST2023** for a free ticket! (limited availability -- sign up today)

Presented by Middle Church, along with our sponsors the Middle Project and Focus for Health. With support from Auburn Seminary, Drew Theological School, and the Union Theological Seminary Center for Community Engagement and Social Justice.

[Click Here for Details and Tickets](#)

RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES OF FAITH



2- Day Training for Religious Leaders, Spiritual Activists and People of Faith

Tuesday, May 16 & Thursday, May 18, 2023

9:30AM - 4:30PM at FPWA

40 Broad St, New York, NY

FACILITATED BY FORMER CONNECT CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REV. DR. SALLY MACNICOL AND CONNECT COMMUNITY EDUCATOR DANIELLE WILLIAMS, M.DIV.

Gain a basic understanding of the complex dynamics of intimate partner abuse and its impact, and the role faith communities can have in helping to break the silence and prevent domestic violence

REGISTER AT
bit.ly/dvinfaith2023

Essential Training for Religious Leaders

Responding to Domestic Violence in Communities of Faith

May 16 & 18, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies

40 Broad Street, Manhattan

Religious leaders, spiritual activists, and people of faith from all traditions are invited to participate in this two-day in-person training, to gain a basic understanding of the complex dynamics of intimate partner abuse, intervention strategies, and the role of the faith community in preventing domestic violence. Training will be facilitated by **Rev. Dr. Sally MacNichol** and **Danielle Williams, M.Div**, and will also explore theological, pastoral, and spiritual issues raised in responding to domestic violence.

Training is free for participants, but space is limited. [Click here](#) or the button below to register.

[Click Here for DV Response Training](#)



PSYCHOTHERAPY & SPIRITUALITY INSTITUTE
TREATING MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT AS ONE



2023 VIRTUAL SUMMER
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

SPIRITUALLY INFORMED PSYCHOTHERAPIES

18 CECS ARE AVAILABLE TO NYS LMSWS,
LCSWS, LMFTS, LMHCS, LCATS

Enrich Your Practice in Mental Health or Pastoral Care

Summer Certificate Program in Spiritually Informed Psychotherapies

June 14 through July 26, Online

The [Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute's](#) summertime continuing clinical education certificate program in Spiritually Informed Psychotherapies gives qualified professionals providing mental health or pastoral care services an opportunity to holistically inform their practices through

the study of the key intersections between spiritual wisdom and psychological insight.

In a *virtual* seminar setting, students will consider a wide array of topics – including intimacy, family life, LGBTQIA+ issues, cultural diversity, addictions, conflict, grief, and trauma – incorporating spiritual perspectives into each area. A brief final integrative reflection paper will allow students to apply what they have learned to their own work.

This program is meant to enrich professionals' clinical practice and deepen their understanding of how spiritual dynamics figure in holistic care. **18-CECs are available to NYSED certified LMSWs, LCSWs, LMFTs, LCATs, and LMHCs.** Graduates of the summer certificate program will become PSI alumni and program affiliates.

[Click Here to Register](#)

MULTIFAITH SOLIDARITY FAST

In support of the unjustly incarcerated
hunger strikers at Mesa Verde and
Golden State Annex.

April 2-8, 2023



Learn more & register:
bit.ly/MultifaithSolidarityFast



Take a Stand with People of all Faiths or None

Multi Faith Solidarity Fast to End Immigration Detention

April 2 - 8, on a Day of Your Choosing

The [Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity](#) invites people of all faiths or none to fast on one day of their choosing from April 2-8, 2023, to support hunger strikers protesting the dehumanizing and unjust conditions of immigrant detention.

Over the past month, 84 people who are currently detained at Mesa Verde (Bakersfield, CA) and Golden State Annex (McFarland, CA) joined a hunger strike calling for immediate release and closure of the facilities. Since the strike began, at least 7 leaders have been violently removed by ICE officers and transferred to El Paso, TX for forced feeding. While the hunger strikers are traumatized from the attack, they are resolved in forging ahead. They are calling on the outside community to stand in solidarity with them, and to help elevate their demands to elected and ICE officials.

As a multifaith community we are hosting a week of fasting. Many faith traditions have a practice of fasting as a way to deepen our spiritual focus, intentions, and practice. Politically, fasting is a key strategy of nonviolent resistance to obtain political goals and disrupt the status quo. Together we will show the people who are detained that **THEY ARE NOT ALONE!**

[Learn More and Register to Fast](#)

 **Planned Parenthood of
Greater New York Action Fund**

GAVELS OFF OUR

GAVELS OFF OUR MEDICATION ABORTION: A COMMUNITY CARE AND MOBILIZATION EVENT

This community convening will center community care + education, and how we can boldly push back against this current attack on reproductive rights and ensure access for all.

Date: April 2nd

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Location: The Riverside Church

490 Riverside Dr

New York, NY 10027

Community Teach-In

Gavels off Our Medication Abortion

April 2, 2:00 - 5:00 pm

Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive

This community teach-in event will center community care and education, and how we can push back against this current attack on reproductive rights and ensure sexual and reproductive healthcare access for all. Due to a baseless lawsuit filed by anti-abortion actors, a drug called Mifepristone that is used in most medication abortions might be pulled off the market. These attacks are strictly politically motivated - Mifepristone is safe and effective, and has been used by more than five million people since the FDA approved it over 20 years ago.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

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](#)

Follow Us



© 2022 The Interfaith Center of New York

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)