



**ICNY**  
Interfaith Center of New York

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



East End Temple, Middle Collegiate, Brotherhood Synagogue & St. Lukes Episcopal Church Create Monthly Dinner for Migrants

Dear Friend,

World Interfaith Harmony Week comes right on time this year, the first week of February. You can find the WIHW calendar of [events here](#) including one hosted by [Tzu Chi at the Chan Meditation Space](#) in NYC.

As the number of Asylum seekers hoping to build lives in NYC grows, so do the opportunities to provide hospitality to new New Yorkers. In this newsletter, you will find ways to volunteer with some of the most exciting organizations providing service to migrants on the front lines of this historic moment (see below).

Looking ahead, we hope you will share the application with educators in your networks across the country who want to know how to apply for our [NEH Summer Institute; The Religious Worlds of New York.](#)

We also encourage you to share and participate in a new 3-part workshop series ["Disarming Hate"](#) on overcoming violence and hatred in Harlem and the Bronx as part of our Racial Justice initiative.

Finally, the **Interreligious Committee of the Diocese of New York's Facing Christian Anti Judaism** series and the **Hotline for Israel/Palestine** are two opportunities listed below for New Yorkers to counter hate with education and dialogue.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer

ICNY Executive Director



Our fifth ICLA cohort were in attendance at Mayor Adams' Interfaith Breakfast 2024 at the New York Public Library.



Care Not Criminalization Rally, Hostos College, Bronx, NY

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## ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

# Religious Worlds of New York

Teaching the Everyday Life of American Religious Diversity

NEH Summer Institute for K-12 Teachers • July 8-26, 2024 • Generous Stipend



Participants say:

*“Best professional development I’ve ever had, and one of the best learning experiences of my life.”*

*“The kind of work that changes the world.”*

Learn more and apply at [religiousworldsnyc.org](https://religiousworldsnyc.org).



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE  
HUMANITIES



ICNY  
Interfaith Center of New York

UNION

Summer Institute for K-12 Teachers

**Religious Worlds of New York**

July 2024

Applications Due March 5

In today’s climate of religious bigotry and extremism, K-12 teachers can help promote understanding across faith lines. ICNY’s **Religious Worlds of New York** summer institute gives teachers the tools they need to build a more inclusive society.

Public, private, and faith-based school teachers are invited to apply for the next *Religious Worlds* institute – a three-week program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, that helps teachers teach creatively and effectively about religious diversity. The institute will meet

from July 8 to 26, 2024, on the campus of Union Theological Seminary. Participants receive a \$2,850 stipend to help pay their travel, housing, and living expenses.

Past participants describe the institute as *“A tremendous experience that will enrich the teaching that takes place in classrooms across the country for decades to come.”* ([click here](#) for many more evaluations) Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore the religious worlds of New York!

Teachers, please visit [religiousworldsnyc.org](https://religiousworldsnyc.org) to learn more and apply. Applications are due March 5. If you're not a K-12 teacher yourself, please share this opportunity with teachers in your community – just click the following links for easy-to-share posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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

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# DISARMING HATE

DIALOGUE SERIES

## I. ROOTS OF VIOLENCE

Wed, March 13, 1:00 online

## II. PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

Wed, April 17, 1:00 online

## III. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Date and location TBD



[bit.ly/disarming-hate](http://bit.ly/disarming-hate)

## Save the Date for our "Disarming Hate" Workshops and Dialogue Series

Since the spike of gun violence during the pandemic, New York City has seen a slow but steady [decline in murders and shootings](#). More so, we have witnessed more faith leaders and communities engage in gun-violence trainings, especially since our 2021 Marshall Meyer Retreat “New York Faith Communities Respond to Gun Violence.” Though we are moving in the right direction towards less gun-related crimes, we can all recognize a growing trend in hate-crimes and biases — a critical component we must address in our public safety programming. Campaigns, such as #StopAsianHate, and ICNY’s own efforts to “[Covenant on behalf on the Newest New Yorkers](#)” demonstrate the need to respond to various forms of hatred and bias embodied in xenophobia, stereotypes, and prejudice. Further, we must also recognize a growing distrust in the government and police, especially in immigrant and asylum-seeking communities. While these the government and police are always available to New Yorkers, we can supplement these outlets with additional conversations on violence interruption at smaller scales (e.g., houses of worship).

This year, ICNY aims to equip faith and civic leaders with the vocabulary, methods, and advocacy tools to address harm and violence in their communities. To do so, we will host a three-part dialogue series, partnering with key cure violence organizations, violence interrupters, religious leaders and public advocates.

[Learn More](#)

**New Expanded Options & Additional Funding: Houses of Worship & FBO Shelters for Asylum Seekers**



## **Help! Asylees in NYC Need Safe & Compassionate Shelters**

**Winter has Arrived. Please Open the Doors to your House of Worship or Faith-based Space. This is a Humanitarian Crisis!**



### **Asylum Seeker Shelter-19 Beds Site**

**Over 130,000 Asylum Seekers have come to NYC seeking help** – hundreds more arrive every day. Over 70,000 are now sheltered in NYC sites. This straining our city's resources to the breaking point. NYDIS has been opening shelters in houses of worship since August. These small faith-based shelters are preferred by migrants because of the kindness, safety and compassionate care they receive – and, our shelters cost tax payers significantly less than hotels and mass shelters. Our current guests are overwhelmingly from South America and West Africa.

Serving the poor and marginalized is an obligation of all faith traditions. To reach our initial goal of opening 50 shelters. We are seeking a minimum of 20 more houses of worship or faith-based organizations to shelter **19 single adult men from 7PM to 7AM over the next 12-24 months – and, we advance \$50,000 each month to cover all direct costs and space use.** NYDIS also provides training, shelter supplies and regular operational support onsite.

**Help us Save Lives and offer your Hospitality!**







## **Help! Asylees in NYC Need Safe & Compassionate Shelters**

**Winter has Arrived. Please Open the Doors to your House of Worship or Faith-based Space. This is a Humanitarian Crisis!**



### **Asylum Seeker Shelter-15 Beds Site**

**Over 130,000 Asylum Seekers have come to NYC seeking help** – hundreds more arrive every day. Over 70,000 are now sheltered in NYC sites. This straining our city's resources to the breaking point. NYDIS has been opening shelters in houses of worship since August. These small faith-based shelters are preferred by migrants because of the kindness, safety and compassionate care they receive – and, our shelters cost tax payers significantly less than hotels and mass shelters. Our current guests are overwhelmingly from South America and West Africa.

Serving the poor and marginalized is an obligation of all faith traditions. To reach our initial goal of opening 50 shelters. We are seeking a minimum of 20 more houses of worship or faith-based organizations to shelter **15 single adult men from 7PM to 7AM over the next 12-24 months – and, we advance \$47,500 each month to cover all direct costs and space use.** NYDIS also provides training, shelter supplies and regular operational support onsite.

**Help us Save Lives and offer your Hospitality!**



New York City has recently approved additional food funding and a 15-bed option for houses of worship (HOW) and faith-based organizations (FBO) seeking to partner with NYDIS to shelter asylum seekers that continue to arrive in NYC on a daily basis.

1. **19 Beds:** These shelters are now approved for a \$50,000 monthly funding which increases the food allowance. Sites are still required to have a Sprinkler System and Central Monitoring System
2. **15 Beds:** These shelters are now approved for a \$47,500 monthly funding which increases the food allowance. Sites are not required to have a Sprinkler System or Central Monitoring System but are required to meet all other code requirements.

Our Outreach Team looks forward to working with you to determine your eligibility. As a reminder, this program provides a safe haven for migrants and asylum seekers in dire need – and represents a significant service to our community and cost savings to NYC. NYDIS will support you house of worship with training, all shelter supplies, a monthly allowance advance, and regular operational assistance onsite.

[19 Bed Screening Survey](#)

[15 Bed Screening Survey](#)



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Want to Volunteer to Help Asylum Seekers?

The Interfaith Center is proud to work with so many fantastic social service organizations who provide essential goods and services to the Newest New Yorker. If you, or your community, is looking to give back to this population, consider one of the following volunteer opportunities, or visit ICNY's [Volunteer Opportunity page](#):

- **Artists Athletes Activists and Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries** partner together weekly (Wednesday & Thursday | 10am – 3pm) at Metro Baptist Church 410 W 40th Street, New York, NY 10018 – a safe and inclusive community for recently-arrived immigrants of all backgrounds. Be a part of this incredible aid through volunteer work – assist with in-person resource referrals and sign-ups, programming activities and games, cooking, English lessons and more. Volunteers are welcome for all or part of the day. Fluency in languages other than English is

helpful, but not required. To volunteer, please contact Candice Braun at (917) 612-6782 or [candice\\_ben@mac.com](mailto:candice_ben@mac.com)

- **Afrikana**, a resource center in Harlem that assists migrants through a variety of applications, is looking for volunteers Monday through Thursday between 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Located at 685 Lenox Avenue, NY, NY 10030, come with your computer and be prepared for a 2-to-4-hour shift. Sign-up to volunteer through this link: <https://shorturl.at/jITU1>
- **St. Luke's in the Fields Clothing Closet** provides clothing, personal care items, and brown bag sandwich meals to anyone in need. Volunteers are needed every Saturday (except Church holidays/special events) from 3 – 4 P.M. at 487 Hudson Street in Laughlin Hall; Volunteers help sort, set up, and distribute donations, assemble meals, and provide a welcoming atmosphere. You can sign up to volunteer here: <https://episcopalcharities.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/stluke/>

Volunteer Opportunities

# 6th Annual REFUGEE SHABBAT

a project of **HIAS**

## Refugee Shabbat Havdalah: An Interfaith Gathering of Support

Join with your neighbors for Refugee Shabbat Havdalah: An Interfaith Gathering of Support. Alongside interfaith partners and the Synagogue Coalition on Refugee and Immigration Crisis, participants will hear from elected officials and insightful speakers, including **Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller; Merrill Zack, HIAS NY's Vice President of Community Engagement; and Ruth Messinger, Social Justice Consultant.**

Look forward to diving into some learning, prayer, music, and collective action as we unite in support of those seeking refuge.

To support newly arrived asylum seekers as they navigate NYC for the first time, please consider bringing prepaid metro cards (with enough value for four rides or more); these will be distributed during St. Paul & St. Andrew's upcoming migrant resource fairs.

This event is part of HIAS' annual Refugee Shabbat—an initiative inviting members of Jewish and other faith communities to express solidarity and support for refugees, asylum seekers, and anyone who has been forcibly displaced from their home country.

**Sat, Feb 3, 6:30-8 pm**

**St. Paul & St. Andrew United Methodist Church (263 West 86th St.)**

No registration required.

Scan the QR code for more info (livestream option available)



*Hosted by Ansche Chesed, B'nai Jeshurun, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, The Interfaith Center of New York, Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan, Romemu, SAJ, St. Paul & St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, the Synagogue Coalition on the Refugee and Immigration Crisis, and West End Synagogue.*

**B'Nai Jeshurun**

## **Refugee Shabbat Havdalah: An Interfaith Gathering of Support**

**February 3rd, 6:00-8:00 P.M**

**SPSA, 263 West 86th Street**

Join your neighbors for Refugee Shabbat Havdalah. Alongside interfaith partners and the Synagogue Coalition on Refugee and Immigration Crisis, participants will hear from elected officials and insightful speakers, including NYC Comptroller Brad Lander and HIAS NY's Vice President of Community Engagement, Merrill Zack. Look forward to diving into some learning, prayer, and collective action as we unite in support of those seeking refuge.

This event is part of HIAS' annual Refugee Shabbat—an initiative inviting members of Jewish and other faith communities to express solidarity and support for refugees, asylum seekers, and anyone who has been forcibly displaced from their home country, and an opportunity to step back, reflect, and celebrate the work we have already done.

[Learn More](#)

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## **OTHER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# 2024 Interfaith Harmony Week

## Friday, February 2

3:00pm ~ 6:30pm

Tzu Chi Center: 229 East 60th Street, New York, NY 10022

**We are excited to welcome our Panelists, Cello Performer, and Guests**

To share experiences & knowledge, and have an open dialogue on core values in our faith traditions and how we can actualize these values in the communities we serve.



**Rev. Doyeon Park**  
Won Buddhism of  
Manhattan



**Thomas Petriano, Ph.D.**  
Professor & Chair of  
Religious Studies  
St. Joseph's University New York



**Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer**  
Executive Director  
The Interfaith Center of  
New York



**Rosleny Ubiñas**  
Youth Representative  
of the Bahá'ís of the  
US to the United Nations

### Special performance



**Lee Dufallo**  
Cellist  
Together In Harmony

### Program

Panelist Dialogue 3pm ~ 4pm

Chan Space - Meditation 4:15pm ~ 5pm

Refreshments & Reflections 5:15pm ~ 6:00pm

Cello Performance & Closing Prayer 6:00pm ~ 6:30pm

*Looking forward to seeing you there!*



**Tzu Chi Center**  
For Compassionate Relief



Tzu Chi Center

## 2024 Interfaith Harmony Week

February 2nd, 3:00-6:30 P.M

229 E 60th St

New York, NY 10022

**The World Interfaith Harmony Week** provides a platform – one week in a year – when interfaith and other groups of goodwill show the world what a powerful movement they are. On February 2nd, during the World Interfaith Harmony Week, the presenters invite you to contribute to an intergenerational conversation and share experiences, knowledge and values founded on your faith tradition that fosters mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration. “Collaboration” in this context is a call to action.

We believe your unique perspective and expertise will greatly contribute to the meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences, bringing new perspectives and understandings to the day’s issues. **The event will begin at 3:00pm at the Tzu Chi Center for a 60–90 minute conversation with the other participants and interaction with the audience.** We hope you will stay longer for tea and meditation at Chan Space, and back to the Tzu Center for a final gathering, with light food and prayers. Tzu Chi Center and Chan Space are located on the same block on East 60th Street, between 2nd and 3rd Avenues.

Click the button below to learn more.

[Learn More](#)





# BROOKLYN INTERFAITH CLERGY BREAKFAST



**FEBRUARY 19, 2024**

**10:30AM-12PM**

Doors open at 10AM

**MT. LEBANON  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

230 Decatur Street  
Brooklyn NY

*CONNECT Faith and Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church invites you to a breakfast for an engaging discussion to support faith leaders in preventing and addressing domestic violence.*

**We encourage clergy to bring a leader from your congregation that assists in ongoing efforts to prevent and address domestic violence.**

**RSVP: [bit.ly/clergybreakfast2024](https://bit.ly/clergybreakfast2024)**

Contact Danielle Williams for more information, [dwilliams@connectnyc.org](mailto:dwilliams@connectnyc.org)

**Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church**

**CONNECT Brooklyn Interfaith Clergy Breakfast**

**February 19th, 10:00 A.M**

**Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church**

**230 Decatur Street**

**Brooklyn, NY 11233**

Join us for a morning of dialogue and theological reflection as we explore the pivotal role that faith communities play in preventing and addressing domestic violence. We will gather to share stories, experiences and resources that will support our collective effort in building safe families and safe communities. *We encourage clergy to bring a leader from your congregation that assists in ongoing efforts to prevent and address domestic violence.*

Space is limited! RSVP TODAY!

Breakfast will be provided.

ALL FAITH LEADERS ARE WELCOME! Click the button below to RSVP.

[RSVP](#)

The Episcopal/Jewish Dialogue Committee of the Ecumenical  
and Interreligious Commission of the Diocese of New York presents:

## A SERIES OF FIVE EDUCATIONAL FORUMS ON



(Gili Getz)

Recognizing and Understanding Interreligious Implications  
in the Revised Common Lectionary and Hymnody in the Church

**THURSDAY EVENINGS IN 2024:**

**JANUARY 18**

**FEBRUARY 15**

**MARCH 14 and 21**

**APRIL 18**

**7:00 - 8:30 pm On ZOOM Free of charge**

**Guest Speakers: Dr. ELLEN CHARRY and Professor MATTHEW GLANDORF**

**Interreligious Commission of the Diocese of New York**

## **A Series of Five Educational Forums on Facing Christian Anti-Judaism**

**January 18th, February 15th, March 14th & 21st, April 18th**

**7:00-8:30 P.M**

**Zoom Forum**

### **Session 2: Thursday February 15th, 2024**

#### **The Lectionary**

Orientation to the creation, structure, and intentions of the current lectionary. Moving from the theoretical to the practical — discussion of a specific problematic lection, conducted interactively.

### **Session 3: Thursday March 14, 2024**

#### **Sacred Music and Hymnody**

This session will focus on sacred music that directly or indirectly implies or advances anti-Judaism and supersessionism. The music we sing in our liturgies, whether hymns or anthems form us and are a reflection of our theology. However, poetry is not always as clear cut and sometimes affords us room for broader interpretation. Sometimes it does not.

### **Session 4: Thursday March 21, 2024**

#### **Preaching: John's Passion Gospel**

The impact of standard Christian preaching on Jews and Judaism. This session will include more Bible study, so please have your Bibles ready. We will focus on issues with the Gospel of John's Passion Narrative, which we hear on Good Friday every year.

### **Session 5: Thursday April 18, 2024**

#### **A Peace Proposal for Jews and Christians**

Dr. Charry is working on a new book — *a peace proposal for Jews and Christians*. She will introduce us to the themes of the book and her hopes in writing it.

Click the button below to register. These forums are free of charge.

[Register](#)



## Volunteer Opportunity/Educational Resource

### The Hotline for Israel/Palestine

*The [Hotline for Israel/Palestine](#) is recruiting volunteers to answer questions, research content for our newsletter, and help with communications and fundraising. We also welcome inquiries from individuals looking to utilize and share our service in their communities, and/or interested in consulting on best practices for conversations across difference.*

The Hotline for Israel/Palestine, a project of the [Institute for Multipartisan Education](#), is an educational initiative dedicated to transparent, multi-partisan, and dialogue-focused engagement with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We believe that lack of information and preconceived notions are barriers to nuanced conversations — barriers that can lead to hate on all sides — and that education and dialogue are the best ways to counter that hate. However, it's often hard to know where to start.

Through our texting hotline service and educational resources, we teach people how to educate themselves by answering questions, providing resources from many perspectives, and helping people develop their own informed and nuanced positions.

With volunteers from different religious, political, and national backgrounds, we have already answered over 300 questions. Each volunteer is trained in dialogue skills, as well as in how to provide a range of resources from multiple perspectives, to help people come to their own conclusions. We also put out a biweekly digest called Perspectives, which you can see archived [here](#), and list [FAQs](#) on the website. You can learn more about it on our [press page](#), and on social media

@hotlineforip. If you are interested in getting involved, please fill out this [form](#), click the button below or email [info@hotlineforip.com](mailto:info@hotlineforip.com).

Apply

*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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