



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Model “Crèche” scene of the Holy Family, the Shepherds, and the Magi offering gifts to the Christ Child erected at Society of St John the Evangelist, Cambridge, MA. On January 6, Hispanic New Yorkers and others around the world will celebrate “Día de los Reyes”.

Dear Friend,

All of us at **ICNY** wish you a Happy New Year. We are glad to be going into 2025 with so many friends and allies who come from so many different communities of faith and good will from all parts of New York City. We will need each other in the days and months ahead.

I recommend to you ICNY’s January 16th half-day consultation “**Faith Communities Against Mass Deportation**” at Union Theological Seminary in partnership with Jewish Theological Seminary. At this event you will hear from faith and legal experts alike, including ICNY Board Co-Chair Ruth Messenger, Episcopal Bishop of New York The Rt. Rev Matthew F. Heyd, NYCLU’s Donna Lieberman, and NYU Immigration Law Clinic Director Alina Das. In addition, there will be

opportunities to network and solidify neighborhood-based rapid response networks. **For further information, email brennan@interfaithcenter.org.**

“Faith Communities Against Mass Deportation” will help diverse participants form a united front facing the Day 1 Executive Order threats that seek to divide us. We will prepare to sound an alarm if New Yorkers in our neighborhood are deported—as we know from experience in 2016-2020, raids were stymied only in places where US citizens spoke out against ICE for separating families or deporting long-time tax paying residents.

In conclusion, we are deeply grateful for all of you who contributed to our Annual Appeal. We raised \$32,000 this giving season, which is \$3,000 short of our goal; please consider a gift today to help us start the new year strong. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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

[Donate](#)

2024 Annual Report



ICNY
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2024 Annual Report

Our annual report is [available online now](#); we would be honored if you shared it and this newsletter with others as we start the new year.

ICNY COSPONSORED EVENTS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS FIND YOUR VOICE

Faith Communities Against Mass Deportation

January 16, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway @ 121st Street

Keynote Panel:

*Rt. Rev. Matt Heyd, Episcopal Diocese of New York
Imam Musa Kabba, Masjid ar Rahamah
Ruth Messinger, Interfaith Center of New York*

Legal Panel:

*Alina Das, New York University School of Law
Donna Lieberman, New York Civil Liberties Union
Harold Solis, Make the Road by Walking*

**Plus Know Your Rights Workshops
and City-Wide, Multifaith Convening**



Deportation Education and Advocacy

**Know Your Rights, Find Your Voice: Resources for
NYC Faith Communities Standing Against Mass
Deportation**

Thursday, January 16, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Union Theological Seminary (Enter at 121st and Broadway)

Please join the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) and Union Theological Seminary on January 16th for a consultation designed to empower NYC's faith communities with the tools to know their rights and find their voice in the face of mass deportation.

This event will provide education and resources to over 90 diverse houses of worship, spotlight the experiences of West African faith leaders directly impacted by these issues, and build a mental and community map of available resources for deportation-related emergencies. Together, we will send a powerful message to city and federal authorities: faith communities stand in solidarity with and support new New Yorkers.

Registration will open soon. Meanwhile, contact ICNY's Associate Director for Migrant Outreach Brennan Brink at brennan@interfaithcenter.org with any questions.

[Click here to Note Your Interest or Ask a Question](#)

OTHER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Listing does not imply endorsement by the Interfaith Center of New York



Faith leader Action Opportunity

Day of Prayer & Action in Support of Immigrant Families on 1/13

Join an in-person faith leader action to support immigrant families facing the threat of mass deportations in Newark, NJ (location TBA) on Monday, January 13 at 12p ET, hosted by Cardinal

Joseph Tobin of the Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. This multi-faith event will anchor a *National Day of Prayer and Action in Support of Immigrant Families*, one week before the Inauguration.

[Click to Register](#)



Environmental Justice Book Launch

“Holy Ground” Book Launch with Catherine Flowers

Tuesday, January 28

5:30 pm

The Burke Library, Union Theological Seminary (Enter at 120th and Broadway)

Please join the Center for Earth Ethics for a book launch with Catherine Coleman Flowers, celebrating “Holy Ground: On Activism, Environmental Justice, and Finding Hope.” The event will take place in Burke Library Reading Room at Union Theological Seminary. Please enter at the 120th and Broadway entrance.

Catherine Coleman Flowers has dedicated her life to fighting for the most vulnerable communities—rural, poor, of color—who have been deprived of their basic right to a clean, safe and sustainable environment. A world-renowned environmental and climate justice activist, she has been a vice chair of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council, a MacArthur fellow, a member of the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force on Climate Change—and a senior fellow of the Center for Earth Ethics.

Please register using the link below. Books will be available for purchase.

[Click Here to Register](#)



NYDIS' FREE FALL 2024 TRAININGS FOR NYC RELIGIOUS LEADERS HOW READY ARE YOU?

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (MHFA)

THURS, SEPT. 26 @ NYDIS, 4W 43RD STREET, 9:00AM
THURS, OCT. 10 @ NYDIS, 4W 43RD STREET, 9:00AM
THURS, DEC. 05 @ NYDIS, 4W 43RD STREET, 9:00AM

In-person 1-day MHFA-certification training for community & faith leaders to learn how to help someone who may be experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge.

WRITING AN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PLAN FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

TUE, NOV. 19 @ VIRTUAL, 10:30AM-12:30PM

Virtual training for clergy & lay leaders to learn how to effectively communicate with staff, congregation members, and clients in an emergency setting and share critical information immediately after a crisis when lives & safety are at risk.

WRITING A CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS PLAN FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

WED, SEPT. 25 @ VIRTUAL, 12:00PM-2:00PM

Virtual Continuity Of Operations Planning (COOP) training for clergy & lay leaders. This interactive training will guide participants in writing a plan to ensure their congregation can continue to fulfill its vital community role post disaster.

DISASTER CHAPLAIN CERTIFICATION & RELIGIOUS LITERACY TRAINING

TUES-THURS, OCT. 29-31
@ NYDIS, 4W 43RD STREET 9:00AM

In-person 3-day training includes Religious Literacy and Competency in Crisis Settings & 2-days of chaplaincy training to prepare faith leaders or institutional chaplains to volunteer as disaster chaplains in mass-care settings.

HOW READY ARE YOU?



HOW PREPAREDNESS TRAINING FOR AN ACTIVE SHOOTER OR ARMED INTRUDER

WED, NOV. 06, 5:30PM-7:00PM
@ UJA FEDERATION OF NY, 130E 59TH STREET

In-person training for congregations and faith-based organizations to enhance awareness of and response to an active shooter event in a house of worship.

FREE Registration: <http://nydisnet.eventbrite.com>
QUESTIONS? LCUMMINGS@NYDIS.ORG



Training for Faith Leaders

House of Worship Ready

Free and Open to All

Various Dates and Locations

New York Disaster Interfaith Services (NYDIS) is offering a series of free trainings for faith leaders, through its Faith Sector Community Preparedness Program, a program created in partnership with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Office of Emergency Preparedness & Response.

The Faith Sector Community Preparedness Program hosts citywide trainings and risk communication exercises for House of Worship (HOWs) and faith-based organizations, to increase community resilience and build the Sector's capacity to prepare for and respond to emergencies through planning and the provision of relief and recovery support. HOWready Partners are New York City congregations, faith-based organizations, and religious judicatories located in all five boroughs. Join NYDIS at this fall's free trainings to 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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