



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Pictured at Multifaith Mondays from left to right Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility's Rev David Schilling, Susana McDermott, Mary Hiebert, Courtney Wicks, Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, and Josh Zinne

Dear Jonill,

This time last September, ICNY and its partners were hard at work packing and distributing backpacks for immigrant students entering NYC schools.

2025's September brings far greater challenges, as we find our city struggling against the threat of increased ICE presence - and the fear that courthouse disappearances will be replicated across other sensitive sites.

When it comes to the protecting the basic freedoms of Americans, we welcome today's [ruling](#) by Federal District Court Judge Charles Breyer that President Trump has "exceeded the limits of federal laws that generally prohibit the use of the military for domestic law enforcement." Meanwhile, Cities like Chicago and LA are taking steps to [make sure immigrant students are protected as they return to school](#), and New York City is following suit.

To that end, ICNY continues to bear witness through our **Multifaith Mondays** gatherings (sign up below), where we recently heard from the **Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility**. Similarly, we hosted a vigil at Delany Hall Detention Center in Newark, New Jersey to call for access to clergy visits for detainees, which was highlighted in this [Religion Service News article](#). For a similar opportunity to help bring change at Delaney Hall, please join me and other priests and ministers in New Jersey on September 14th for a 9 AM Eucharist outside the Detention Center.

September 21st is a busy day as it marks **UN International Peace Day** and the first day of **Campaign Nonviolence and the Catholic Nonviolence Days of Action**, which will begin with a silent vigil outside St. Patrick's Cathedral that Sunday morning from **10 AM to noon**. Later that day I will be sharing photos and testimony from the Interfaith Peace Pilgrimage to Japan on the **80th Anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**. To see photographs from this peace pilgrimage to Japan you can click [here for a presentation](#), or join me starting at 3:30 pm for the **UN International Day Peace 2025 Interfaith Peace Gathering for Inner and Global Harmony** on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 3:30 PM at the Tenri Cultural Institute at 43 West 14th St.

Please read on for other September events. To be included in future newsletters, head to [this section](#) of our website.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer
ICNY Executive Director

Donate

ICNY PROGRAMS & EVENTS



ICNY
Interfaith Center of New York

Scan to learn more!



INTERFAITH CIVIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Transformative Training for Diverse Faith Leaders and Change Makers



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN TO JOIN OUR 7TH COHORT OF ICLA FELLOWS

Paid Training for Faith Leaders and Change Makers

Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy

Applications due by Friday, October 24

Throughout New York, diverse faith leaders are creating positive change for their own communities and the city as a whole. ICNY's **Interfaith Civic Leadership Academy** gives them the tools they need to make a difference.

Our ICLA fellows are diverse clergy members, lay leaders, and faith-based activists working to improve the lives of New Yorkers. In a series of evening workshops in lower Manhattan, they build relationships across faith lines while learning effective strategies for community leadership, organizing, and advocacy. Fellows then use these skills to create community projects addressing social justice issues. Each fellow receives **\$500 in grant funding** for their project, as well as a **\$500 personal stipend** to honor their commitment to the program.

We hope you'll apply to join the seventh cohort of the Leadership Academy, or share this opportunity with colleagues and community members! Learn more and apply now at interfaithcenter.org/icla. Contact henry@interfaithcenter.org with questions.

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





People of all faiths and none, join us for prophetic resistance and community-building in a time of deep division and threat to our shared democratic values.



Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/multifaith-mondays to learn more, join our email list, or express interest in speaking at a vigil.

Make Your Voice Heard

Multifaith Mondays: Moral Witness for Democracy

Every Monday, 5:30 - 6:00 pm

Columbus Circle (gather at the USS Maine Monument on the SW corner of Central Park)

Since Monday, March 3rd, faith leaders and community members have gathered each week at Columbus Circle, to stand in solidarity and bear moral witness for democracy. Each vigil, held from 5:30 to 6:00 PM at the USS Maine Monument on the southwest corner of Central Park, is hosted by a different faith community or interfaith coalition. Through prayer, song, and collective presence, we affirm the power of spiritual resilience in the face of challenges to democratic values.

These gatherings serve as a space for reflection, connection, and public witness, reminding us of the shared moral responsibility across faith traditions to uphold justice and human dignity. If your house of worship or community organization would like to host a Monday vigil, [please sign up here](#). We invite all to join in this weekly call for unity and action.

Sponsors Include: **The Interfaith Center of New York | Union Theological Seminary | The Jewish Theological Seminary | Episcopal Diocese of New York | The Riverside Church | T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights | The BeaconNYC**

[Click Here to Fill Out Interest Form](#)

NEW YORK
THEATRE
WORKSHOP

AfterWords

Exploring Interfaith & Identity



Micah Bucey



Philip Calabro



**Iya Rev. DeShannon
Barnes-Bowens**



Rev. Ryan Hill



Daniel Leyva



**Rabbi Marisa
Elana James**

Thurs, Sept 4
Post-Show



Interfaith Theater Event

Join ICNY for Interfaith Night at the Theater

Wednesday, September 4

7:00 pm

79 East 4th Street New York, NY 10003 (Between Bowery and 2nd Avenue)

You're invited to a special **Interfaith Night** at New York Theatre Workshop for a performance of *Saturday Church* on **Wednesday, September 4 at 7:00 PM**, presented in partnership with the **Interfaith Center of New York**.

After the show, stick around for **AfterWords**, a powerful post-show conversation where faith leaders will take the stage to reflect on the play and share their wisdom, stories, and insights. Panelists include ICNY partners Iya Rev Deshannon Barnes-Bowens, Ilera; Rev. Ryan Hill; Daniel Leyva, Latino Commission on AIDS; Rabbi Marisa Elana James, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah as well as Michah Bucey from Judson Memorial Church and Philip Calabro from Parents, Families and Friends of LGBTQ+ People (PFLAG).

As a friend of ICNY, you can use the code **INTERFAITH** to save **30%** on your ticket. Visit NYTW.org or call 212-460-5475 for more info and to purchase tickets.

We hope to see you there for an evening of theater, conversation, and community!

[Saturday Church](#) tells the story of Ulysses—New York City kid, devoted son and the fiercest tenor at his aunt's church. A chance encounter on the subway introduces him to the world of Saturday Church, a sanctuary for LGBTQ+ youth. Caught between two worlds, Ulysses wrestles with family and faith as he strives to find the place where he can love and be loved—in all his fabulousness. This new musical captures the joy of embodied liberation and the profound power of faith, with a score that soars from the transcendence of gospel to the exhilarating vibrations of house music and pop. *Saturday Church* boldly asks, "is faith only for the Holy?" and, more importantly, "are there any queens in the house?!!!!!"

Directed by Tony Award nominee **Whitney White**, *Saturday Church* features a book and additional lyrics by Emmy Award nominee **Damon Cardasis** & Pulitzer Prize winner and Tony Award nominee **James Ijames**, with music and lyrics from Grammy Award nominee and pop icon Sia and additional music by Grammy Award winner **Honey Dijon**.

For more information, email Danielle Williams at danielle@interfaithcenter.org.

[Click Here to Buy Tickets and Learn More](#)

OTHER PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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



First Analysis Institute of
Integrative Studies

WHAT DO OUR FAITHS DEMAND? **THE TRI-ABRAHAMIC DIALOGUE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS**



THIS WEBINAR IS A FORUM FOR CREATION CARE LEADERS AND GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS TO ANALYZE THEIR COMMUNITIES AND STRATEGIC AUDIENCES IN THE CONCRETE SITUATION OF 2025. PANELISTS WILL EXPLAIN HOW *LAUDATO SI*, *AL-MIZAN*, AND OTHER TEXTS SET THE FOUNDATION FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION FOR THE CLIMATE THAT IS BROAD-BASED, COMPASSIONATE, AND AT SCALE TO THE CRISIS, IN LIGHT OF THE WISDOM OF THE ABRAHAMIC FAITHS.

F E A T U R I N G
RABBI JENNIE ROSENN
FR. JOSHTROM KUREETHADAM
DR. IBRAHIM OZDEMIR

M O D E R A T E D B Y A S H L E Y K I T I C Y A

MODERATED BY ASHLEY KITISYA

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 AT 10:00 AM CENTRAL

Register & More Information
parliamentofreligions.org/blog/tri-abrahamic

Launch Webinar Event

The Tri-Abrahamic Dialogue on Climate Crisis

Monday, September 8

11 AM EST (10 AM Central)

Registration Link Below

[*What do Our Faiths Demand? The Tri-Abrahamic Dialogue on the Climate Crisis*](#), will be a launch webinar event hosted by the **Climate Action Task Force** of the **Parliament of World Religions**. September 8 launch webinar of the “Tri-Abrahamic Dialogue on the Climate Crisis,” an important program of the **Parliament of the World’s Religions** and the **First Analysis Institute of Integrative Studies** celebrates the wisdom and calls to action of the Abrahamic faiths. Panelists will reflect on the core wisdom found in *Laudato Si’*, *Al-Mizan*, and central Jewish texts. Together they will consider the absolute ethical demands of the Abrahamic faiths in regards to the ecological crises and our obligations to all living creatures.

The event will be moderated by **Ashley Kitisya** of the **Laudato Si Movement**. Panelists will include:

Rabbi Jennie Rosenn, Founder and CEO of Dayenu, a movement of American Jews confronting the climate crisis with spiritual audacity and bold political action

Rev. Dr. Joshrom Isaac Kureethadam, coordinator of Ecology and Creation at the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Dr. Ibrahim Ozdemir, Vice President for Academic Affairs at the American Islamic College and a member of the drafting team of *the Islamic Declaration for Global Climate Change*

[Register Here](#)

B | Ballet Hispánico

Celebración
LATINA

**55 YEARS CELEBRATING
CULTURE, SABOR, AND SWING**

ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

12:00PM - 4:00PM

West 89th St. between Columbus & Amsterdam Aves.

Free performances, dance classes,
music, food, and more!



Annual Block Party

Ballet Hispánico for Celebración Latina

Sunday, September 14th, 12 - 4 PM

West 89th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Aves

Sunday, 9/14, 12–4 pm, join Ballet Hispánico for *Celebración Latina*, its annual block party (West 89th Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Aves) honoring 55 years of celebrating culture, sabor, and swing. Enjoy free performances, dance classes, music, food, and more. Open to all. More information, contact info@ballethispanico.org or call 212-362-6710.

UN International Day Peace 2025
Interfaith Peace Gathering
for Inner and Global Harmony

Join us at 3:30pm
at 43 W. 13th Street
NYC!!!

HEBRA Peace and Reconciliation
Foundation of New York

Date & Time: Sunday, September 21, 2025

3:30PM Hiroshima & Nagasaki Reflection

Peace Pilgrimage Tour to Japan 2025 (8/1 - 8/11)

Keynote Address: H.E. Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury

(Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations and Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace)

Peace Messages from Hiroshima and Nagasaki

4:30pm Inner peace building, and cultivating compassion

Interfaith Prayer for Peace

5:30PM Peace Walk to the Union Square

(Gandhi statue area)

Suggested Donation \$10

(Covering Renting Cost)

Thank you!

Place: Tenri Cultural Institute

43 W. 13th St. (between 5th Ave & 6th Ave), NYC 10011

Subway: #F, #M (14 St./6 Ave. Station)

or #4, #5, #6, #N, #Q, # R, #W (14 St - Union Sq)

This event is organized by Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York, and supported by Interfaith Center of New York, Interfaith Center of USA, NPO Gentle Earth, Origami Therapy Association, Unity in Harlem and World Yoga Community.

Sanctuary, Immigration & Refuge

QUAKERS RESPOND TO THE CRISIS



DR. SOPHIE GONICK



**COUNCIL MEMBER
ALEXA AVILES**





Free Public Event

Sanctuary, Immigration and Refuge: Quakers Respond to the Crisis

Sunday, September 28

1 to 4 PM

Fifteenth Street Friends Meeting, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003

This free public event, with lunch at 12:30, gathers leading activists and scholars to address escalating anti-immigrant policies, family separations, and ICE raids affecting immigrant communities. Speakers include anthropologist Linda Rabben, immigration advocate Nuala O'Doherty-Naranjo, pardoned immigrant rights leader Ravi Ragbir, and New York City Council Member Alexa Aviles who serves as the Chair of the Committee on Immigration, hosted by Dr. Sophie Gonick of NYU. Sponsored by the 15th Street Meeting's Speaker Events Committee, the gathering highlights humanitarian, legal, and activist responses rooted in Quaker traditions of peace and justice.

For more information and to reserve your free ticket, click the Eventbrite link below.

[Eventbrite Link](#)

In Observance of the
UN International Day
for the
Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

You are invited to an
Interfaith Gathering



Friday, September 26th, 2025
at 12:30 PM
The Gazebo at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
E. 47th Street & Second Avenue, Manhattan, NYC

Bring a prayer, poem, reflection, or hymn for the abolition of nuclear weapons or, more generally, for peace. Everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to share from your faith tradition. There is no formal program; we *are* the program. Let us know you are coming. Contact: nypaxchristi@gmail.com.

All are Welcome!

Annual Gathering

**Interfaith Gathering in Observance of the UN
International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear
Weapons**

Friday, September 26

12:30 PM

Gazebo @ Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, E. 47th Street btwn. 1st & 2nd Avenues,

Manhattan

This is an annual gathering in observance of the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. All are welcome to bring a prayer, poem, reflection, or hymn for the abolition of nuclear weapons or, more generally, for peace. Everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to share from your faith tradition, but no one is required to do so. There is no formal program; we are the program. No RSVP required. Questions, contact nypaxchristi@gmail.com.

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