



Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! We are in high gear at the Interfaith Center!

Highlights from the past month:

- We concluded our 6-week religious diversity education program for social workers!
- In partnerships with the New York State Unified Court System, we hosted a very successful Brooklyn Courts Roundtable for religious leaders about Custody, Foster Care and Adoption.
- Our Catholic-Muslim Social Services Project organized an interfaith Census training for food pantry volunteers from Catholic Charities and the Muslim Women's Institute for Research and Development who serve residents in the Highbridge neighborhood of the Bronx. Participants discussed Catholic and Muslim teachings on caring for the needy, the importance of the Census, and how to answer concerns that people raise, including issues of confidentiality and who needs to be included on the form. Read more blog about this event and other Interfaith Center projects at our blog, Interfaith Matters (<http://interfaithmatters.wordpress.com/>).

Below, we list programs offered by the Interfaith Center of New York in April. We also list additional upcoming events that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. A listing does not imply endorsement.

•FAMILIES AND FAMILY COURT

Date: Thursday, April 22nd, 2010 - 09:00am – 11:00am

Location: New York City Family Court, 60 Lafayette Street (11th floor) New York, NY 10013 (between Franklin and Leonard Street)

Hosted by The New York State Unified Court System and the Interfaith Center of New York, for Manhattan Religious and Community Leaders. This workshop will provide participants with tools to empower families to successfully navigate the complex Family Court. It will include an overview of the Family Court, how to begin a case, find a lawyer, and what to expect in the courthouse. Participants will receive a resource portfolio to take back to their communities. Speakers include Melissa M. Beck, Esq., Chief Executive Officer (LIFT), and Liv Johanson, Coordinator of Communications & Development (LIFT). RSVP at (212) 870-3515 or anushavan@interfaithcenter.org Please leave your name, address, telephone number, and email address.

*****CO-SPONSORED EVENTS*****

•COME CELEBRATE THE OPENING OF THE MICAH INSTITUTE

Date: Monday, April 12th, 2010 7-9pm

Location: St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 521 W 126th St. New York, NY

The Micah Institute at New York Theological Seminary is a prophetic, ecumenical center that educates religious leaders to organize for justice. Come hear inspired speakers like Dale Irvin, Ron Sider, and Serene Jones. Music by St. Mary's Gospel Choir and theatrics by Compagnia de Colombari. To register go to www.micahchallenge.us/action/events or call Peter Heltzel at 212-870-1252.

•GREEN TOUR OF HARLEM

Date: Thursday, April 22nd, 2010 Breakfast at 8:30am, Tour starts at 9am

Location: The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Dr

The Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice invite you to take a tour of Harlem to explore: Healthy Living Harlem-Green Mapping for Eco-Justice. Colleagues from West Harlem Environmental Action (WeAct) will introduce the newly created Healthy Living Harlem Green Map by taking faith and community leaders on a tour. Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice is a collaboration of diverse organizations, including the Interfaith Center of New York. To RSVP contact Sarah Sayeed at ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or 212-870-3519.

•TAKE THE DIABETES INITIATIVE'S PLEDGE AND SIGN UP FOR THE LISTSERV!

The Interfaith Center of New York has partnered with the Institute for Leadership on a New Diabetes Initiative. We are asking Faith Leaders to sign the "I Will Fight Diabetes" Pledge and the Listserv. In doing so you are pledging to fight the Diabetes epidemic that is the fourth leading cause of death in New York City. Over 1.8 million New Yorkers have been diagnosed with the disease with over 730,000 people who have yet to be diagnosed. Come partner with us to help make these numbers smaller and make New York a healthier city. Go to: <http://www.faithfightsdabetes.org/join/index.php> to sign the pledge now! If you have any questions or would like to now how to get more involved please contact Sarah Sayeed at ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or 212-870-3519.

•HOST A LAWHELP WORKSHOP FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

If your community needs legal education about their rights, consider hosting a LawHelp workshop in your place of worship. LawHelp.org/NY helps low and moderate income people find free legal aid programs in their communities, and answers questions about their legal rights related to housing, work, family, bankruptcy, disability, immigration and other topics. The

Interfaith Center of New York is working with LawHelp to schedule community education workshops to provide legal information. If you would like to host a workshop, please contact Anushavan Margaryan at (212) 870-3515 or anushavan@interfaithcenter.org

*****OTHER EVENTS IN THE NEW YORK AREA*****

A SCREENING OF "NINE MOONS"

Date: Wednesday, March 31st, 2010, 6pm-9pm (doors open at 6pm); Screening at 7pm, followed by panel discussion.

Location: The Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center 3940 Broadway (@ West 165th Street)

Nine Moons is a project created with the intention of motivating dialogue between the Jewish, Muslim and Catholic cultures, and promoting greater proximity, respect and tolerance in the world. Why women? Because within their creative roles, they have the potential to originate a new social space, in which prejudices are diminished and a greater interest in communication and cooperation among cultures could result There is a \$5 Admission.

•ASK YOUR MAMA: "HELP US HELP HAITI"

Date: Thursday, April 1st, 2010 8pm

Location: The Rose Theater, Jazz at the Lincoln Center

All proceeds from this performance will be donated to Partners in Health and The Clinton Haiti Fund to benefit Haiti in its time of need. Music by Laura Karpman, Text by Langston Hughes, and performances by: Jessye Norman, The Roots, Nnenna Freelon, de'Adre Aziza, Orchestra of St. Luke's, George Manahan, Dance Theater of Harlem, Michael Eric Dyson. Go to www.askyourmama.com or <http://www.jalc.org/concerts/details309a.asp?EventID=2273> for more details and to buy tickets.

•CPHS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: Monday, April 5th, 2010 6:30pm

Location: Urban Justice Center, 123 William St, 16th Flr Conference Room

The next Commission on Public Health Services (CPHS) membership meeting is coming up. Members of CPHS come from diverse communities, with a wide range of ideas, skills, education, and experiences. Whether you work in the health care system or simply use it, your concerns, your opinions, and your experiences need to be heard. The guest speaker will be Dr. Andrew Goodman, Deputy Commissioner Health promotion and Disease Prevention, city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Services. For more information call 212-246-0803

. •WORLD PREMIER: "CHAPLAINS UNDER FIRE!"

Date: Tuesday April 6th, 2010 6:30pm

Location: Film Society of Lincoln Center, Walter Reade Theater, 165 West 65th Street, upper level between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave.

Filmmakers Lawrence and Nickelson spent three months in Afghanistan and Iraq to examine the complex world of military chaplains. This new independent documentary examines not only how chaplains help soldiers cope but also the moral and political controversies triggered at home and on the battlefield. There will be a Q&A with the filmmakers, editor Andrea Hull and Charles Haynes, Senior Scholar at the First Amendment Center after the screening, followed by a reception in the Furman Gallery. Tickets are \$12 General Public, \$8 Seniors/Students, \$7 for Members. You can buy them online at <http://www.filmlinc.com/wrt/indie/chaplains.html> or at the box office.

•SECULARISM, ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY: MUSLIMS IN EUROPE AND THE WEST

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2010 at 7:30pm

Location: The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 7 East 7th St, NYC

The event is co-sponsored by Cooper Union, AAUP, ACLU and the Slate. The featured speakers include: Dalia Mogahed, Tariq Ramadan, Joan Wallach Scott, and Jacob Weisberg. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 for PEN/ACLU Members and Students with valid ID. Tickets are available through www.smarttix.com or (212) 868-4444. They may also be purchased at the door. For Member discount code, please contact Lara Tobin at lara@pen.org or (212) 334-1660 ext. 126.

•THE HEART OF CONFLICT: BECOMING STUDENTS OF PEACE

Date: Thursday, April 8, 7-8:30 p.m

Location: West End Collegiate Church, West End Avenue at 77th Street in New York City

Part of the West End Lecture Series hosted by Intersections International. Features international peacemakers Acmad Macarimbang from the Philippines and Lady Mandalika of Jakarta, Indonesia. The West End Lecture Peace Series panelists discuss various aspects of conflict transformation from people all around the world who have lived through conflict and come through on the side of peace, justice and reconciliation. For more information, contact rsvp@intersectionsinternational.org

•DISASTER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION FOR CHAPLAINS AND FAITH LEADERS

Date: Saturday, April 10th and Saturday, April 17th from 9am-5pm, registration begins at 8:30am Continental breakfast and light lunch will be provided (Halal food will be served).

Location: Imam Al-Khoei Islamic Center, 89-89 Van Wyck Expressway, Jamaica, NY, 11435

Imam Al Khoei Center, Muslim Consultative Network, and National Disaster Interfaith Network present a two day training session that prepares faith leaders or institutional chaplains to volunteer as disaster chaplains in mass care settings or to serve as disaster chaplains within their house of worship, religious community or professional institution. Each registrant must be

endorsed for this training and/or currently serve as a professional chaplain and/or credentialed religious leader. Attendance at both sessions is required to obtain a certificate. For more information concerning requirements, prerequisites, and fees go to http://n-din.org/ndin_trainings/Scheduled_Training_12.php. The deadline to register is Wednesday, April 7th. Submit the registration form to Ruth Wenger by: Fax: 347-284-0054 OR, E-mail: rwenger@n-din.org OR Mail: 4 West 43rd Street, Suite 604, New York, NY 10036.

•THE MUSLIM IDENTITY CRISIS: LECTURE BY KHALID LATIF

Date: Saturday, April 10, 2010 between Magrib and Isha
Location: Madina Masjid, 401 E. 11th Street, corner of 1st Ave.

Organized by the Madina Masjid Youth Programs Committee. Khalid Latif is Executive Director and Chaplain (Imam) for the Islamic Center at New York University (NYU) and the Muslim Chaplain for the NYPD. Program is open to women and men, dinner will be served. For additional information, please contact Br. Tanim, madinayouthprograms@hotmail.com or (212) 300-6204.

•PART TWO OF THE MUSLIMS IN THE MIRROR OF RADICALISM SERIES: “DENIAL AND DISTORTION- THE CHALLENGES”

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2010, 6 PM-8 PM
Location: Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York 3041 Broadway at 121st Street, New York, NY 10027

Muslim Consultative Network (MCN) presents a panel and community forum with: Yale Chaplain Omer Bajwa, Haroun Moghul of the NYU/Maydan Foundation, Rutgers Prof Karima Bennoune, Mauri Salakhan of Peace & Justice Foundation. This panel is a follow up to: “Muslims in the Mirror--Confronting the "Other"--Youth, Media, Hype, Threat--& the At-Risk Brother: A Conversation on the Internet, Radicalism, Responsibilities” that was held on February 24, 2010. This event was covered by Channel 11. For more information call Adem Carroll (ED, Muslim Consultative Network) at 646-251-0402.

•FILM FORUM: “HAVE YOU HEARD FROM JOHANNESBURG?”

Date: April 14-27, 2010
Location: 209 W. Houston St, New York, NY 10014

Produced and Directed by Connie Field this documentary was filmed throughout the world for 10 years to capture the complexity of the worldwide effort to destroy the South African apartheid. Her epic 7 films has been divided into 3 parts that will stand as the final word on how violent, racist, intractable government was destroyed by men and women working on both the outside and inside of South Africa. Go to www.filmforum.org for more information or call the box office at 212-727-8110.

•MCN'S SPRING PICNIC FOR SISTERS: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY OF WOMEN IN ISLAM

Date: Sunday, April 18, 12:00pm-3:00pm

Location: 86th St., Entrance of Central Park West, B/C Train to 86th St.

As part of Immigrant Heritage Week, MCN will be hosting a picnic for sisters of ALL AGES in Central Park. It's a potluck, so please bring a dish to pass to share with other sisters. If you are able to contribute, please contact Sr. Megan at megan.m.putney@gmail.com to let her know what you plan on bringing. Bring any outdoor equipment that you have. (ie. Frisbee, kite, ball/glove, volley ball net, badminton supplies, etc)! Representatives from many of NYC and NJ Muslim organizations, many of them specifically Muslim women's organizations, will be present to share with us their missions and current activities. So come sisters for fun filled day of sun, food, games and good conversation! Please feel free to invite your friends. The event is in conjunction with Turning Point and Khadijah's Caravan.

•UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS TRAINING

Date: Monday, April 19, 2010, 10:00am – 11:30 pm

Location: Queens Borough Public Library (Flushing Library), 41-17 Main Street, Flushing, NY 11355

Are members of your community missing out on \$42,000 in benefits that they might be qualified for? The great recessions of 2009 has put more New Yorkers out of work than the 9-11 attacks. Far too many are not taking advantage of unemployment benefits that they have earned. The New York Unemployment Insurance Coalition is offering a free training to make sure community leaders, organizers, and service providers have the tools they need to assist community members who are facing unemployment in today's tough economy. This training will give you what you need to know about the rules. The city's leading experts in the program will be there to answer your questions. Who Should Attend: Community leaders, organizers, service providers at CBOs. Free lunch will be served after the training. Public Transportation: 7 train or LIRR to Main Street. RSVP required via email by Wednesday, April 14 to Grace Cho, MinKwon Center for Community Action at gracecho@minkwon.org For more information, contact Grace Cho, at the above email or (718) 460-5600.

• MARSHALL ENGLAND MEMORIAL PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS GALA

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010, 6:00-8:30pm

Location: Orensanz Cultural Center on the Lower East Side

Gala for the Commission on the People's Health System. Honoring very special Public Health Heroes and Sheroes (in alphabetical order): Maha Attieh, Arab American Family Support Center, LaRay Brown and Marlene Zurack, the Health and Hospitals Corporation, State Senator Tom Duane, Chair Senate Health Committee, Barbara Edmonds and Wanda Williams, DC 37, Lisa Sbrana, Legal Aid Health Law Unit, Dr. Jaime Torres, Latinos for National Health Insurance.

Contact Commission for the People's Health System for additional information,
ladyhealth@cphsnyc.org

•COMBATANTS FOR PEACE AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NYC WHY DIALOGUE,
NOT WAR, WILL SOLVE THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 11am-5pm

Location: United Nations

Combatants for Peace is an organization of Israeli soldiers and Palestinian fighters who have decided to lay down their arms and to realize their vision of resolving the conflict by dialogue and other peaceful means. With Elik Elhanan, 30, formerly a soldier in an IDF combat unit and Bassam Arramin, formerly with Fatah. Visit <http://www.combatantsforpeace.org/> for additional information. Also with Donna Perry, Founder, Israeli-Palestinian nurse education initiative at Massachusetts General Hospital & Virginia Swain, Institute for Global Leadership. Program concludes with Reflection in the Dag Hammarskjold Meditation Room.

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/dag/meditationroom.htm> A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Combatants for Peace. For more information and to RSVP contact Virginia Swain, Institute for Global Leadership, 210 Park Avenue, #299, Worcester, MA 508-753-4172 vswain@global-leader.org.

•BRIEFING & DISCUSSION: THE UN DECADE OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2010, 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Location: United Nations

Briefing on the Initiative for a UN Decade of Interreligious by Sr. Joan Kirby, Steering Committee Member, The Initiative for a UN Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, Understanding and Cooperation for Peace <http://faithdecadeforpeace.net> followed by lunch and discussion in the Delegates Dining Room with Virginia Swain, Institute for Global Leadership. Conclude with Meditation and Reflection in the Dag Hammarskjold Meditation Room, <http://157.150.195.10/Depts/dhl/dag/meditationroom.htm> RSVP by April 15 with payment to Institute for Global Leadership, 210 Park Avenue #299, Worcester, MA 01609 or credit card calls to 508-245-6843. Email vswain@global-leader.org for additional information.

•BRONX FOOD SUMMIT: "LET'S TALK FOOD"

Date: Saturday, May 1, 2010 —9am- 5pm

Location: Hostos Community College, 500 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY

Just Food, Why Hunger and the Baum Forum invite you to: Let's Talk Food! The Bronx Food Summit will mobilize forces to address the lack of fresh, healthy food choices and to challenge the dietary habits of our community. Bronx residents have the power to create change. This event will provide the forum where that change begins. Please visit www.bronxfood.org to register online and learn more! For more information on becoming a sponsor or partner organization,

facilitating workshops or becoming a volunteer, please contact Regina Ginyard, General Coordinator, at bronxfoodsummit@gmail.com .

•FARM THE LAND, GROW THE SPIRIT: A MULTI-FAITH PEACE INTERNSHIP

Date: July 6-31, 2010

Location: Stony Point Center, 17 Crickettown rd, Stony Point, NY

You must be 18 to 28 years of age. Live in an intentional multifaith residential community, study nonviolence and faith-based community organizing, plant and tend CLT gardens, enjoy hiking, kayaking, drumming, ropes courses, big puppet making and good food. Interns will co-create their time together with elders from each tradition and will support CLT's Multifaith Family Peace Camp. Please contact Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb at lgottlieb@stonypoint.org.
www.stonypointcenter.org

•AMERICORPS INTERNS FOR HIRE

Date: September 2010-August 2011

Available: Full-time, college-grad interns to work in direct-care addressing any of a variety of community needs. Starts Sep 2010, ends mid-Aug 2011. These are AmeriCorps members, pre-screened and highly qualified, who are relocating to NYC to work toward social justice and human rights through service. Worksites pay \$24,000 for the entire year of full-time work. No other overhead or costs to worksites. Health insurance, housing, and food are covered by the sponsoring program: www.NewYorkInternProgram.org, a ministry of St. Mary's Episcopal Church-Manhattanville. For further info: Sarah Nazimova-Baum: Nazimova-Baum@earthlink.net or NewYorkInternProgram@gmail.com.

•NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (NILI)'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING TRIP TO JORDAN, ISRAEL, AND PALESTINE

The Interfaith delegation of American Jewish, Christian and Muslim Religious Leaders traveled, prayed together and met with Jordanians, Israelis, and Palestinians. What they learned and witnessed has given them a new sense of urgency to press the U.S. government to pursue peace in these areas. They called for active, fair and firm U.S. leadership in the New Year to restart negotiations for a two-state solution, involving an end to occupation and security for Israel and Palestine. Read more of the statement by visiting http://www.nili-mideastpeace.org/downloads/2009_12_NILI_Trip_Statement.pdf or contact Ron Young at usicpme@aol.com or at 425-327-7545.

•SIGN MTA PETITION TO KEEP STUDENT METRO CARDS

Urban Youth Collaborative Student Union is asking for New York City residents to sign a petition to stop Mayor Bloomberg from rescinding Student Metro Cards. You can help by using your Facebook account to share the "Save the MTA" petition to Mayor Bloomberg: Share the MTA petition on Facebook. If students lose their school MetroCards, they might have to start

looking for work just to afford the trip to school. We don't want that to happen, and there's still time to stop it. Please help us out, and thank you again for supporting NYC students.

•CORNELL UNIVERSITY COOPERATE EXTENSION’S TWO NEW FREE FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Cornell Cooperative Extensions has two FREE programs for the New York City area: The “Nutrition and Health Program”, and The “Eat Smart New York! Emergency Assistance Program: Making the Most of Food”. Each program offers classes to educate, equip and train New Yorkers to eat better and live a healthier lifestyle. To learn more, please contact Cornell Cooperative Extension at (212) 340-2900 or Jannie Wolff at (212) 219-9340 or jsw273@cornell.edu.

•BE A COURT INTERPRETER, DISCOVER THE OPPORTUNITIES

The New York State Unified Court System is seeking to expand its roster of foreign and sign language interpreters. If you are fluent in English and another language, join this diverse group of professionals. For more information visit: www.nycourts.gov/courtinterpreter or call: 646-386-5670.