



Dear Friends,

All of us at the Interfaith Center would like to wish you and your loved ones a very Happy New Year!

Among the joys of our work at the Interfaith Center is an opportunity to interact with an amazing variety of religious communities in our city. Even more special is the chance to bring along young people, the next generation of New Yorkers and Americans, to connect with that diversity. In our recent collaboration with Explorations Academy, a public high school in the Bronx, the Interfaith Center accompanied a group of 10th grade students to Queens, to visit The Hindu Temple, Muslim Center of New York, and the China Buddhist Association, all located a few blocks from each other in Astoria. Josh Adland, their teacher at Explorations, produced a short video about the trip, including students' [testimonials](#). The students had many positive things to say about their experience, which was a rare chance for them to visit places of worship and meet communities with whom they would have otherwise never interacted. You can also read a blog post about the trip, written by Dr. Henry Goldschmidt, Program Associate, "[Buddhists Have to Shave Their Hair and Muslims Have Normal Lives!](#)"

This coming month, we will continue our educational programs in New York Public Libraries. In addition, as we approach the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., we will have panel discussions at two schools: religious leaders will speak at the Hackley School in Westchester about Interfaith Perspectives on Social Justice (January 12th), and at Seton Hall Preparatory School, focusing on Muslim Catholic Perspectives on Social Justice (January 19th).

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

- **411 ON FAITH PANEL: MULBERRY STREET**

Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2011, 6:00pm

Location: Mulberry Street Library, 10 Jersey Street, New York, NY 10012-3332

Join us for the fifth in the *411 on Faith* panel series. In partnership with the New York Public Library – and in conjunction with the library's "Three Faiths" exhibit of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim texts – the Interfaith Center of New York offers a series of moderated conversations with local religious leaders about their faith traditions and experiences of the city. Come out to your neighborhood public library and meet your neighbors from diverse religious traditions. Hear their New York stories, learn how they've built communities, and see how they are working to contribute to the life of the city. For the second panel in the series, speakers will include: **Judy Chen**, a lay leader of the American Buddhist Confederation, Saddharma Cakra Buddhist Association, and Buddhist Council of New York; **Imam Khalid Latif**, executive director and chaplain of the Islamic Center at New York University, and a Muslim chaplain for the NYPD; and **Monsignor Donald Sakano**, pastor of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral.

- **411 ON FAITH PANEL: ST AGNES**

Date: Thursday, January 13, 2011, 5:30pm

Location: St. Agnes Library, 444 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10024-5506

For the sixth panel in the series, speakers will include **Rabbi Jeremy Kalmanofsky**, the rabbi of Congregation Anshe Chesed; **Rev. Heidi Neumark**, the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan; and **Imam Syed Z. Sayeed**, the chaplain of Columbia University's Muslim Students Association, and Islamic Religious Life Advisor for the Office of the University Chaplain. Listen to religious leaders speak about their faith traditions speak about their experiences in New York at your local public library.

- **MANHATTAN COURTS ROUNDTABLE: RESOURCES FOR PARENTS GOING THROUGH A SEPARATION OR DIVORCE**

Date: Monday, January 24th, 2011, 9.30am to 11am
Location: Manhattan, TBA

Certified professionals will provide information to help separating or divorcing parents better understand the effects of their breakup on their children and to give them information and ideas about how to make the new family situation easier and more livable for themselves and their children. Please contact Anushavan Margaryan, Program Associate to RSVP or for additional information: anushavan@interfaithcenter.org or 212 870 3515.

- **SOCIAL WORK AND RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY**

Dates: Starting Friday, February 11th, 2011, 9am-1pm
Location: UJA-Federation, 130 East 59th Street, 7th Floor

The Interfaith Center of New York invites all social work students and practitioners to join us for a free course on social work and religious diversity. The course has three objectives, including to help participants (1) understand their clients' religious beliefs, practices, and values; (2) discuss the role of religion in the lives of individuals, families, and communities; and (3) learn from scholars, clergy, activists, and each other. All sessions meet on Fridays from 9am-1pm, with lunch served at noon. Dates are as follows: Feb. 11th- Judaism; Feb. 18th Christianity; Feb. 25th Afro-Caribbean Religions; March 4th-Islam; March 18th-Hinduism and Sikhism; April 1st-Buddhism; April 8th-Student Initiated Panels on Topics of Choice. For information and registration, contact Amanda Glassman at aglassman@jbfcs.org, or 212-632-4500. Sponsored by The Interfaith Center of New York, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, UJA-Federation, and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, in partnership with with CAUSE-NY/JCRC, Columbia U. School of Social Work, Fordham U. Grad. School of Social Service, Hunter College School of Social Work, NYU School of Social Work, Touro College, and the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University.

*******CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMS*******

- **DOMESTIC CRUSADERS EAST COAST BOOK TOUR & CULTURAL SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA**

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 6:30 pm to 9 pm
Location: The Nuyorican Poets Cafe, 236 East 3rd Street Between Ave B & C, New York, NY

The Nuyorican Poets Cafe, McSweeney's and The Before Columbus Foundation proudly present, in association with Asia Society: The Domestic Crusaders East Coast Book Tour + Culture Show Extravaganza! Come celebrate the publication of McSweeney's first play and one of the first major plays about American Muslims! This culture show/art celebration/party/talent show also features live performances, spoken work, music, poetry and more. Tickets are \$10, and can be purchased online <https://secure.gigmaven.com/events/4297/orders/newSee>

- **MASS MEETING FOR LIVING WAGES**

Date: Thursday, January 13, 2011, 6:30 pm

Location: Convent Ave. Baptist Church at 145th St. & Convent Ave. (Take 1, A, B, C, D to 145th St.)

Over 40 years ago Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rallied striking sanitation workers and their supporters in Memphis, TN saying, "It is a crime for people to live in this rich nation & receive starvation wages." Today in NYC, the rich continue to get richer while the poor get poorer. The top 1% captures 45% of the City's income (up from 15% in 1980) while 2 million people (a quarter of the population) are living on food stamps. The economic policies of Mayor Bloomberg are replacing family-supporting jobs with low-wage, no-benefit jobs in malls such as the new East River Plaza in Harlem. The city gave that mall hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax breaks yet the workers at the brand new Target are only being paid \$8.50 an hour. The new jobs created with city subsidies have to be good jobs paying a living wage. We are asking the City Council to call a hearing on the Fair Wages for New Yorker's Act which will guarantee that all workers in taxpayer subsidized developments are paid at least \$10 an hour plus benefits or \$11.50 without. On January 13th, before Dr. King's birthday, we will pack Convent Ave. Baptist Church and continue Dr. King's legacy of fighting for economic justice. All City Council members will be invited and we must show them through our massive numbers that the people of New York will not stop until a Living Wage is won.

*******ADDITIONAL EVENTS/INFORMATION FOR THE NEW YORK AREA*******

- **ADD MORE PLAY STREETS FOR KIDS**

Play Streets needs your help once again! To sign on to a letter to the Mayor's Office to increase the amount of play streets available to our inner city youth, please send your name, title, and organization to julia@transalt.org by January 7, 2011. Play streets are a low-cost, high-impact way to provide safe, engaging play spaces for our City's children. Despite their positive benefits, administrative permitting hurdles can make it difficult for community groups to get play streets approved. To ease the permitting process and to demonstrate their positive benefits to City leaders, we are advocating that play streets be included in PlaNYC 2.0, to be released in April 2011. PlaNYC 2.0, an update to PlaNYC 2030, will outline top priorities for the Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability (MOLPS) as it strives to make New York City a healthier, more sustainable place to live. We encourage you to add your organization's name to the letter asking MOLPS to include play streets in PlaNYC 2.0. By signing onto the letter, you will help demonstrate the far reaching support play streets have as a means to increase access to open spaces and places for kids to be active. Along with this letter we will send our report Harvest Home Play Streets: A Case Study of Play Streets in East Harlem and the South Bronx to demonstrate our successes this summer. For additional information, contact Julia De Martini Day at Transportation Alternatives, julia@transalt.org or 646-873-6026.

- **BECOME A LEADING LADY: WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATOR TRAINING**

Become aLeadingLady...The Leading Ladies program is designed to build skills among women in the mosque to educate others on topics including women's health, women's empowerment and health decision making. Sign up today for the SISTA project, a 5 session group including: interactive discussions, lectures and role-playing, activities to empower women and reduce new HIV infections. Upon completion of SISTA you will be a Leading Lady and able to train others. Participants who complete SISTA will receive a financial incentive. Dates: Saturday, January 15th, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm, Saturday, January 29th, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm Saturday, February 5th, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm at Mount Hope Masjid, 24 Mount Hope Place, Bronx, NY 10452. Contact Ms. Maryam Fofana 718 683-7086 or hafo1515@optonline.net to register.

- **PLYMOUTH CHURCH INTERFAITH MOVIE NIGHTS**

You are warmly invited to join us for the return of Plymouth's Interfaith Movie Nights: 3 award-winning films on Wednesday nights in January and February. This year's series - The Power of Women - brings stories of women from several cultures who find their own paths of influence in their lives, their families and their communities. Please hold these dates: Wednesday, Jan. 19 at 7:00 - Amreeka; Wednesday, Feb. 9 at 7:00 - Pray the Devil Back to Hell; Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 7:00 - Arranged. Plymouth Movie Nights are free of charge and open to the public; our audiences are diverse. Prior to each film, a light supper is available at 6:30 (to which you're welcome to add side dishes or drinks). The movie begins at 7:00, and there's opportunity for discussion afterward. RSVPs are welcome but not required. For directions to Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights, go to <http://www.plymouthchurch.org/directions.php> Please join us for films, food and conversation!

- **FREE INFORMATION SESSION FOR WOMEN**

Date: January 29, 2010, from 10am – 2pm
Location: 143-30 38th Avenue, Suite 1C, Flushing, New York, 11354

Enjoy Cooking? Sewing? Making Jewelry? Babysitting? Other Household Activities? Want to make use of your skills? Want to learn a new skill? Come learn how we can help you earn money. Please stop by at anytime during our session. Organized by Wishwas. Our mission is to empower women in South Asian communities and lead them on the path to self-reliance and independence by providing vocational skills training, support, and guidance. For more information, please call 917.882.5945.

- **NEW YORKERS FOR BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS**

Neighborhood and Community Associations please make note that if you have a great idea for a community improvement project, please consider applying for a New Yorkers for Better Neighborhood Award. Citizens Committee for New York City awards grants of \$500 to \$3,000 to volunteer-led groups to work on community improvement projects. Application Deadline: January 31, 2010 For more information, contact Arif Ullah at 212 822 9580 or aullah@citizensnyc.org

- **POST-MASTER'S CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AT NYU: SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIAL WORK**

This certificate program explores contemporary issues in spirituality and social work. It examines the importance of spirituality in addressing presenting issues and demonstrates the importance of spirituality in the clinical setting. Specific spiritual methods and interventions will be highlighted and applied to practice. Spirituality will be viewed as a dimension in the bio-psycho-social assessment and treatment planning process. The program utilizes didactic and experiential components which will include role playing, narratives, storytelling and other pragmatic methods. The program provides 40 CEUs and meets weekly on Friday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from January through June for 20, two hour sessions. There will be a compendium of readings. For more information and to register please visit [the NYU social work website](#).

- **RIDER REBELLION: PUTTING THE PUBLIC IN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

New Yorkers are being asked to pay more for less. On top of two decades of passing the buck, Albany lawmakers cut \$118 million in dedicated transit funds in 2010. Riders were handed the bill: two subway lines and 38 bus routes lost, fare hikes and service cuts citywide. It's time for transit riders to unite and say Enough! The Rider Rebellion is the voice of every fed-up transit rider. If elected officials won't stand up for riders, then to rescue transit, riders must stand up to elected officials. Join the Rider Rebellion by signing the Transit Rider Bill of Rights today! Visit RiderRebellion.org for more information and to sign the Transit Rider Bill of Rights!

- **CAUX ROUNDTABLE: MOUNTAIN HOUSE INTERFAITH STATEMENT ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMY**

The Caux Roundtable, an organization of senior business leaders from around the world that promotes global standards for organizational integrity and responsibility. In September, it released an interfaith statement: [Repairing Our Stewardship of Creation: Abrahamic Social Thought and the Global Economic Crisis](#). This statement was the product of a round table discussion by scholars of theology and corporate responsibility.

- **FREEDOM SUNDAY, FREEDOM SHABBAT**

Faith communities are invited to participate in the Freedom Sunday and Freedom Shabbat, initiatives of the Not for Sale Campaign. Not For Sale is a Campaign of students, artists, entrepreneurs, people of faith, athletes, law enforcement officers, politicians, social workers, skilled professionals, and all justice seekers united to fight the global slave trade and end human trafficking. The Campaign aims to recruit, educate, and mobilize an international grassroots social movement that effectively combats human trafficking and slavery through "Smart Activism". It deploys innovative solutions for every individual to abolish slavery -- in their own backyards and across the globe. Not For Sale believes that everyone has a skill to contribute that can free an individual living in bondage, and together we can stop human trafficking and end slavery in our lifetime. For additional information, please visit <http://www.freedomssunday.org/> or <http://freedomshabbat.org/>

- **NEW BOOK: GREEN DEEN- WHAT ISLAM TEACHES ABOUT PROTECTING THE PLANET**

"Deen" means belief, creed, path or way in Arabic. Christianity is a Deen. Judaism is a Deen. Buddhism is a Deen. A "Green Deen" is the choice to practice your religion while affirming the synergies between faith and the environment. To learn more about the book Green Deen, visit <http://www.greendeenbook.com/>