



The Interfaith Center of New York connect educate learn change manage participate tolerate interact

Dear Friends,

June was an exciting and busy month, with our Annual Gala Dinner held at the Capitale, the 21st Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat on Immigration, the Courts Roundtable on Hate Crimes & Immigration, and the launch of our James Parks Morton International Fellows Program. Sixteen interfaith visitors from Barcelona and Glasgow spent 10 days with us in New York City, visiting religious and cultural sites and city agencies. In the coming years, we will have interfaith delegations visiting Barcelona (2010) and Glasgow (2011). To learn more about the delegates, the sites they visited, and their reflections, please read our new blog, [Interfaith Matters](#).

This weekend a half-hour program on the Asian Immigrant Experience Channel will feature some of these international leaders from Scotland and Spain. It will be aired Saturday July 4th at 7pm and Sunday, July 5th at 3:30pm in Queens, New York on Time Warner cable/Queens Public Television/Channel35/56. It will also be aired on Verizon on fios 84/85/86. For more information about the program see the [QPTV website](#).

Other exciting news: Program Director Matthew Weiner's article, "Religion in the Public Schools: A Story about Civics in the Bronx and Queens," was published in the [Huffington Post](#) on June 29th. Please read and comment!

Also, Religion & Ethics News just posted an excerpt of an interfaith women's panel moderated by Sarah Sayeed, Program Associate. Held on May 21, 2009, the program was sponsored by the Moroccan American Cultural Center and the American Jewish Committee on the occasion of a visit by the Mourchidates of Morocco. The Mourchidaat are women religious counselors who are trained to serve alongside imams, or traditional male religious leaders; they are assigned to mosques and communities across Morocco to provide spiritual instruction, guidance and support, particularly to women, teens, and children. In the program titled "Women's Spiritual Voices: Crossing Continents, Finding Common Ground." panelists explored the roles of women religious leaders in Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Panelists included Fatima Zahra Salhi, Nezha Nassi, and Ilham Chafik, who are "mourchidates" or religious counselors; Mahara't Sara Hurwitz, a member of the rabbinic staff at the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, New York; Rabbi Stephanie Dickstein, spiritual care coordinator at the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services in New York City; and the Reverend Elizabeth Garnsey, associate rector at the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York City. Watch the excerpt at the [Religion and Ethics News](#) website.

Photos from our Gala are posted on Mary Bloom's website:
http://web.me.com/littlebrowndog/Interfaith_Dinner/Mary_Bloom_Photos.html

Below is a list of upcoming programs for The Interfaith Center of New York, followed by announcements of additional events in the New York area. The Interfaith Center announces programs that may be of interest to religious leaders in New York. A listing does not imply endorsement.

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

INTERFAITH NETWORK FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Date: July 8, 2009, 10:00am-12:00 noon

On June 25, 2009, the White House convened a bipartisan meeting on immigration. This meeting reaffirmed President Obama's commitment to moving comprehensive immigration reform as a top priority for this year. To help President Obama fulfill this promise, religious leaders of New York are invited to join the efforts of the New York State Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform. The next meeting is Wednesday, July 8: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in New York City. The New York State Interfaith Network is a network of individuals and organizations representing or connected to diverse faith communities in New York State that has formed for the purpose of advocating for passage of just and humane immigration reform as soon as possible. If you are interested in learning more or joining the NY State Network meeting, please contact Sarah Sayeed at ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or (212) 870-3519.

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

BLUE TALES, OTHER NARRATIVES AND BEYOND: THE ART OF KHALID KODI, NEW WORKS OF STORY TELLING

Date: Saturday July 11, 2009 from 3-7PM

Location: Church of the Covenant, 310 East 42 Street, between 1st and 2nd, next to Tudor Hotel

Darfur Rehabilitation Project and Cutting Edge Art & Culture Works present Blue Tales, Other Narratives and Beyond: The Art of Khalid Kodi, New Works of Story Telling. The exhibition is open to the public and features small- and large-scale paintings, drawings and mixed media on paper. Sudanese food and music will be shared for this very special inaugural benefit/art sale. A portion of the proceeds will support Darfur Rehabilitation Project and Cutting Edge Art & Culture Works. Khalid Kodi, long recognized as a prolific Sudanese American master artist, has emerged as a central figure working on multi/cross-cultural concepts. He uses contemporary themes for traditional story telling with references to magical realism, intricately layered in textures, symbols also figures, and by synthesizing colors/rhythms.

ANNUAL ARAB-AMERICAN AND NORTH AFRICAN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Date: July 11, 2009

Location: Great Jones Street, Between Broadway & Lafayette in the Village, New York City
(Subways: N, R, W at Prince St. 6 at Bleecker St. F, V, at Broadway-Lafayette)

Come out to celebrate our rich and diverse cultural heritage! Vendors will line the street offering a variety of foods, exhibiting original crafts, displaying Arabic literature, and playing regional music. In between all the shopping and the food, take a time out at the Arguileh cafe, and enjoy the truly unique cultural performances running all day! Visit www.naaponline.org/ny/streetfair09.asp for more details. This event is part of the 5th Arab American Heritage Week - New York City, taking place on July 9th-18th, 2009. For information about other events, visit <http://arabheritagenyc.net/events>

COMMISSION ON THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Date: July 13, 2009, 6:30pm

Location: Urban Justice Center, 123 William Street, 16th Floor Conference Room.

The agenda will include: report from the Peoples Budget Coalition for Public Health on the city budget and possible state "in"-action budget impact and the latest on National Health Reform and the impact on the under- and uninsured, medically underserved communities, and the health care safety net. Religious leaders are invited to come with your information and ideas about these issues. For additional information, please contact 212-246-0803, and visit www.cphsnyc.org

HINDU TEMPLE OF FLUSHING SUMMER DAY CAMP

Date: July 14th-August 14th, 2009

Location: Queens, P.S. 24 & Sri Chinmoy Center

The theme of the Camp is, "Know your Heritage: Know Yourself: Know your world". The Camp is spread over 5 weeks and each week will have a different theme, as follows: community service, sports, fun and creativity, leadership and academic enhancement. During the Summer Day Camp, we will also be exposing our young campers to various careers. During the Sports week, the NY Knicks and NY Liberty teams will pay the campers a visit. The camp is a project of the Hindu Community Outreach, an initiative of the Hindu Temple in Flushing, a not for profit organization, that provides social, educational and cultural services to the community members without regard to religion, race, color, national origin, gender, age (except as mandated by law), disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family life. The Camp is OPEN TO ALL. For more information, call (718) 795-3603.

LAUGHTER AND TEARS: THE ECSTASY AND AGONY OF BIRTH

Date: July 11, Sat 5 pm

Location: Intersections, 274 Fifth Ave, between 29th and 30th

Join Rabbi David Ingber and members of Romemu for an end of Shabbat, Havdalah service focused on "birth" in the Jewish traditions and in our own lives. Rabbi David will share scripture, rabbinic and hassidic stories about birth, his own journey of preparing for the birth of his first-born child this summer, and invite us to share our stories. Through song, stories and the havdaah elements, we will remember tears of longing, ways of praying and breathing to soften the birthpangs, and the raw laughter and love that God brings forth in the ecstasy of creating new life. This is part of Faith House Manhattan's Living Room Series. For information about Faith House visit <http://www.faithhousemanhattan.org/>

“WE ARE NEW YORK”

An initiative of Mayor Bloomberg, “We are New York” is a television show that airs on channel 25 on Saturdays at 4pm. The series is designed to help immigrants learn to speak English and learn about valuable city services. The show is beautifully done, highlights different ethnic and religious communities, and also covers topics such as domestic violence, financial literacy, and health care access. "We Are New York" is a new way to learn English on TV with stories of hope, love, family and friends that will win your heart - and help thousands of New Yorkers from all over the world learn the English they need to make their way in their new homeland. For additional information, please visit <http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/home/home.shtml>

JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD HUNGER

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR) is a once in five year opportunity to set rules and funding levels for the major school-based nutrition programs, including the School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Summer Food Service Program, and other important federal food programs such as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for women, infants and children (WIC). The 2009 Reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act can help us accomplish the following goals: achieve the Obama Administration's goal of ending child hunger and food insecurity; ensure a generation of healthy, productive, nutritionally-aware children; reduce energy use and pollution; create jobs; and stimulate economic activity. Groups in New York City representing varying interests have formed an alliance to advocate for changes to the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization. Please contact Kristen Mancinelli (City Harvest) at (917) 351-8706 or visit <http://sites.google.com/site/nycallianceforcnr/> to learn how you can join the campaign, mobilize your community, or propose your own recommendations to your elected officials.

BE A COURT INTERPRETER - DISCOVER THE OPPORTUNITIES

The New York State Unified Court System has launched a recruitment campaign to expand the court system's roster of foreign and sign language interpreters. Courts throughout the state have part-time, full-time and freelance court interpreting opportunities. Languages for which there is currently a shortage of interpreters include: American Sign Language, Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Burmese, Farsi, French, Fulani, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese. However, all candidates with fluency in another language are encouraged to apply. The New York State Courts offer interpreting services in over 100 languages, providing

assistance to New York's diverse population of court users, many of whom have limited English proficiency. In addition, the court interpreting exam for Spanish is scheduled for September 12, 2009. Applications are currently being accepted for this exam. Information about court interpreting career opportunities and a detailed brochure is available at <http://www.nycourts.gov/courtinterpreter/careers.shtml>

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