



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

Dear Friends,

We are excited to share with you some of the highlights of the past month.

- Last month, the Interfaith Center of New York joined with Rev. T.K. Nakagaki of the New York Buddhist Church, United Sikhs, and other organizations to remember the victims of 9/11 through the 9th Annual Floating Lanterns Ceremony, held at Pier 40.
- We partnered with Muslim Consultative Network and Union Seminary to host the 10th Annual Interfaith Ramadan Program to discuss hunger and food justice in New York City. Speakers included Rabbi Maurice Appebaum, Ahavas Israel, Nurah Amatullah, Muslim Women's Institute for Research & Development, Anju Bhargava, Convenor, Hindu American Seva Charities, Jeanne McGettigan, Coordinator, Emergency Food Services, Catholic Charities Community Services, Archdiocese of New York and Muslim Women's Institute for Research & Development.
- Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice convened for breakfast to address key food and health disparities threatening the most under-resourced areas of our city, during which Dr. Nick Freudenberg shared his findings in a recent study of New York City food policies and their connection with public health crises in the poorest neighborhoods of our city.

We will keep you updated about future events and look forward to your continued interest and participation.

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

- **FINDING FREE AND RELIABLE LEGAL ASSISTANCE: TIPS FOR WORKING WITH AN IMMIGRANT POPULATION**

Date: Thursday, September 30th, 2010, 9:00am - 11:00am

Location: New York City Civil Court, 111 Centre Street, 8th Floor Board Room (Entrance on White Street, between Centre & Lafayette) New York, NY 10013

The New York State Unified Court System, the Interfaith Center of New York, and LawHelp.org/NY invite Manhattan religious and community leaders to a training session. Problems or questions about immigration are incredibly sensitive, so community members often turn to religious leaders for assistance. Due to the complexity of immigration cases, providing people with complete legal information is essential, as is making a referral to a reliable and licensed legal aid provider. In addition, immigrants often have problems— with eviction, child

support, and name changes—that they are hesitant to address because of their immigration status. This training will demonstrate the interactive forms that the courts have developed to assist people with these issues. This workshop will provide participants with the tools to assist low-income community members with legal problems by teaching community leaders to use the LawHelp.org/NY website to find expert-written information on the legal rights of immigrants, to use LawHelp/NY’s directory of nearly every free legal service provider throughout New York State, and to find information on navigating New York’s court system. All participants will be provided with multilingual fliers and brochures. Leah Margulies, Esq., Project Director, and Molly Coe, NYC Outreach Coordinator, will be presenting. RSVP at (212) 870-3515 or to anushavan@interfaithcenter.org. Please leave your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

- **THE 24TH RABBI MARSHALL T. MEYER RETREAT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN BRICKS AND MORTAR**

Date: Thursday, November 4, 2010, 8:30am-5:00pm

Location: Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY

This fall’s Marshall Meyer retreat will be a day long program held here in NYC and will explore how houses of worship are organized in different faith communities, as well as the range of meanings these spaces may have in different communities. We will also learn about the practical steps communities can take to build new houses of worship, and to save existing ones that are in disrepair or need to be expanded. How, we will ask, can religious communities partner effectively with government agencies and community organizations to create the spaces they need to thrive? Please join us on November 4th to discuss these issues, and learn from the experiences of religious leaders, community board members, landmarks preservationists, city planners, and other experts. In preparation for this program, we would like to ask you to submit two-three photos of your place of worship’s interior and exterior. To submit your photos, share experiences or ideas, or ask questions please email ssayed@interfaithcenter.org. We will also be sending out formal invitations to religious leaders in upcoming weeks.

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

- **THE 411 ON FAITH PANEL SERIES**

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2010, 6:00 pm

Location: Huguenot Library, 830 Huguenot Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10312

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 conversations with local religious leaders about their faith traditions and experiences in the city. Come out to your neighborhood public library and meet your neighbors from diverse religious traditions. Hear their New York stories and learn how they’ve built communities to contribute to the life of the city. Speakers will include: Imam Tahir Kukiqi of the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center, the Venerable Heenbunne Kondaña of the Staten Island Buddhist Vihara, and the Reverend Richard F. Michael of Trinity Lutheran Church.

- **FOOD, FAITH & HEALTH DISPARITIES SUMMIT: UNITING TO DESIGN A MORE JUST AND HEALTHY CITY**

Date: Friday, October 29, 2010, 7:00pm – 8:30pm and Saturday, October 20, 2010, 8:30am – 7pm

Location: The Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10027

The New York Faith & Justice and Mission & Social Justice of The Riverside Church of New York in partnership with Faith Leaders for Environmental Justice will convene for the “Food, Faith, and Health Disparities Summit.” In 1740 the South Carolina legislature established a law forbidding slaves from raising livestock. This new law stated that all existing livestock owned by slaves was heretofore forfeited. Articles in local newspapers quoted the then Governor as stating: “They will eat what we give them.” Today, absent a law such as this, our communities are being told the same thing: “You will eat what we give you.” The goal of this event is to bring together community members, food advocacy groups, and faith communities to collectively address key food and health disparities our communities are facing. This two day summit has been designed to not only voice our concerns but to establish working groups that will enforce the best of our recommendations in the coming year.

- **THE 411 ON FAITH PANEL SERIES**

Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 6:30 pm

Location: Countee Cullen Library, 104 West 136th Street, New York, NY 10030

Join us for the second in the *411 on Faith* panel series. Listen to religious leaders speak about their faith traditions speak about their experiences in New York at your local public library. The speakers at the second panel in the series will include: Dr. Thelma C. Davidson Adair of the Mount Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church, Aisha al-Adawiya of Women in Islam, and Maria Terrero of the Dominican music ensemble Kumba Carey.

*******ADDITIONAL EVENTS IN THE NEW YORK AREA*******

- **CHAUTAUQUA AT GOVERNORS ISLAND: “REFLECTION ON SACRED SPACES: A CHAUTAUQUA 2010 THEME”**

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2010, 1:00-5:00pm

Location: Governors Island, New York City Harbor

Chautauqua Institution and World Monuments Fund invite friends to a FREE event at Governors Island on Saturday, Oct. 2, 1-5 p.m. Titled "Reflections on Sacred Spaces: A Chautauqua 2010 Theme," six participants in Chautauqua's Week Seven 2010 season will lead Governors Island participants with talks and discussions about the following topic: What makes space sacred? Legendary religious destinations? Natural or created beauty? Is sacred space defined by what happened there? In a reprise of Chautauqua's 2010 Week Seven (Aug. 8-14) and again in partnership with the World Monuments Fund, we will explore the confluence of religion,

architecture, history, geography and culture. Lecturers will speak about the sacred spaces of the Abrahamic traditions, the communal spaces that define civilization, and the sacred in the personal that provides peace amid chaos. Speakers include: Bonnie Burnham, president & CEO of World Monuments Fund; Ori Z. Soltes, professor at Georgetown University; Amy Freitag, program director of U.S. World Monuments Fund and executive director of the New York Restoration Project; Jeffrey Simpson, historian and author of [American Elegy: A Family Memoir and Chautauqua: An American Utopia](#). For more information, click [here](#).

- **AMIKAEYLA PROUDFOOT GASTON: THE KICKOFF OF CONVERSATIONS AS MELODIES CONCERT**

Date: Saturday, October 2, 2010, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Location: Intersections, 274 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10001

Intersections International is pleased to present Iraqi Voices Amplification Project artist Amikaeyla Proudfoot Gaston, who will perform at the kickoff Conversations as Melodies concert. Proclaimed as one of the "purest contemporary voices..." by National Public Radio, Ami embraces the best of many types of music. Originally from the Washington, DC area, Ami began her musical training at an early age, studying classical piano. Her later training included viola, western and Indian flute, and a multitude of percussion instruments from around the world including tabla, timbale, bata, conga, & djembe. Her Music as Medicine - Healing with an Artful Purpose programming has taken her around the world to Cuba, China, Taiwan, Africa, and India to work with at-risk youth and children. She has been to Israel and Palestine helping Palestinian refugees to alleviate the pain and trauma caused by the war through joyful music, dance and drumming. Last fall Ami traveled to Lebanon, Jordan and Syria as part of Intersections' Iraqi Voices Amplification Project and will share her IVAP experiences with the audience. To RSVP contact rsvp@intersectionsinternational.org.

- **AMERICAN MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS *INSIDE ISLAM: WHAT A BILLION MUSLIMS REALLY THINK***

Date: Sunday, October 3, 2010, 2:30pm - 5pm
Location: Scarsdale Library, 54 Olmsted Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583

Inside Islam: What a Billion Muslims Really Think is a documentary film based on the Gallup Poll of Worldwide Muslim Public Opinion. A panel discussion will follow with Rabbi Jacobs, Rev. Carol Huston, Dr. Hassan and Daniel Tutt. Light refreshment will be provided. For more information please contact Sr. Shahida at (914)747-6845, Sr. Shahana at (914)725-0873, or email us at mail@amwa.us.

- **ST. FRANCIS, ANIMAL CARE, AND YOU**

Date: Monday, October 4th, 2010, 1:00pm
Location: Hostos Community College, CUNY Room B-412

Hostos Community College, CUNY is honored to have Professor Millie Rabry speak on St. Francis, Animal Care, and You. This was one of the most successful talks from last term. The event is for all animal lovers, and is part of a workshop to honor St. Francis. Anyone is welcome to come.

- **COEXISTENCE OF FAITHS IN OUR SOCIETY**

Date: Monday, October 4th, 2010, 7:00 pm

Location: Masjid Bait-uz-Zafar, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, New York Chapter, 188-15 McLaughlin Ave, Holliswood, NY 11423 (Take Grand Central Parkway, Exit 188th Street, and go straight on McLaughlin Ave, Mosque is on the left.)

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community cordially invites you to an open dialogue on the theme of coexistence of faiths in our society. The guests gracing this occasion will be the Clergy, Civic, and Community leaders of various faiths. Neighbors of Holliswood are most welcome.

Refreshments will be served. For more information, please visit the website at:

www.alislam.org or email: info.newyork@ahmadiyya.us

- **INTERSECTIONS INTERNATIONAL WITH PARLAGRECO PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS *NO PLACE CALLED HOME***

Date: October 6th - 31st, 2010

Locations: [The Wild Project](#), New York City, Oct. 6th - 10th

[3-Legged Dog](#), New York City, Oct. 13th-17th

[Monroe Theater Center](#), Hoboken, Oct. 20th-24th

[the cell](#), New York City, Oct. 27th-31st

Intersections International with Parlagreco Productions in collaboration with Aaron Louis and 3-Legged Dog, the cell, Mile Square and Wild Project, presents *No Place Called Home*, a new play with music. Written and Performed By Kim Schultz, directed by Sarah Cameron Sunde, and with music by Amikaeyla Gaston. Kim Schultz was traveling to the Middle East with others to interview Iraqi refugees and hear their stories. Falling in love with one of them was never part of her plan, but Omar changed all that. *No Place Called Home* is that unexpected story--a story about an American woman and an Iraqi man, a story about one refugee out of 4 million, a story that wasn't supposed to be a love story. This play is produced as part of the Iraqi Voices Amplification Project (IVAP) to call attention to one of the most pressing and under-reported social justice crises of our time: the displacement of more than 4 million Iraqis as a result of the military intervention in Iraq. Since 2006, an estimated 2.2 million Iraqis have fled their country, living as illegal migrants abroad – unable to work, access health or social services, or obtain an education for their children, with another 2 million displaced internally. A recent Op-Ed in the New York Times describes the gauntlet Iraqis face when trying to come to America.

Recognizing that art has the power to evoke compassion, build understanding and initiate the human transformation necessary to motivate social action, Intersections led a delegation of 8 American artists on a 3-week immersion trip in the fall of 2009 and talked to hundreds of refugees at community centers and in their homes. Upon their return, the artists began creating a series of artistic pieces designed to humanize the crisis and give voice to the millions of refugees

whose plight has yet to enter broad public consciousness. No Place Called Home is one such piece. Tickets are \$20-\$30 - call SmartTix for tickets at 212.868.4444 or visit www.smarttix.com. For groups of 10+ call 646.723.7824. There are volunteer opportunities! To learn more, contact Jeremy at KarafinJeremy@gmail.com.

- **MONTHLY NYC-DR ROUNDTABLE BREAKFAST - RESTORING CIVIL DIALOGUE IN A POLARIZED WORLD**

Date: Thursday, October 7, 2010, 8:00 am

Location: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, 899 Tenth Avenue (at West 59th Street), Room 630, NYC

The Association for Conflict Resolution of Greater New York and The CUNY Dispute Resolution Consortium at John Jay College invite you to a panel, with speakers including: Rev. Chloe Breyer, Frank Fredericks, Claudia Maffettone, and Sarah Sayeed, PhD. In this age of polarization, where civil dialogue seems a rarity, these professionals have committed to working to facilitate constructive communication among people with different perspectives. Prompted by the recent activity around Park51, though not in any sense restricted to it, ACRGNY and John Jay have put together a program to help dispute resolvers identify pathways they might pursue in the restoration of that civil dialogue, based on the experience of these panelists. If you have any questions, please email us at acrgny_questions@acrgny.org or call us at (212) 760-4773. If you would like to attend, please register online [here](#).

- **MEDIATION SETTLEMENT DAY KICK-OFF CELEBRATION 2010**

Date: Thursday, October 7, 2010, 4:30pm – 7:00pm

Location: New York County Lawyers' Association: 14 Vesey Street, New York, NY (Between Church and Broadway Avenues)

Mediation Settlement Day is sponsored by FINRA Dispute Resolution, the New York State Unified Court System and a coalition of over 100 alternative dispute resolution programs, bar associations, community based programs, schools, public and non-profit organizations concentrated in the New York City area and extending to upstate New York, New Jersey, Illinois, California and Washington, D.C. Representatives of the participating organizations will be present at the celebration event to provide information about the mediation programs offered by their organizations. The New York City Police Commissioner, Hon. Raymond W. Kelly, will be the keynote speaker, and Margaret L. Shaw, Esq. will be the 2010 Frontline Champion Award Recipient. For more information, contact: shthomas@nycourts.gov or click [here](#).

- **LIVING WAGE WEEKEND**

Date: Friday, October 8th - Sunday, October 10th

On the Living Wage Weekend, help in the struggle for economic justice in our city by supporting the Passage of the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act. Congregations are encouraged to do 3 things: Worship, Write and Work. Worship: Use the Tool Kit, which can be found [here](#). Identify

a low wage worker in your congregation that can give a testimony on their everyday challenges trying to make ends meet, or ask us for a guest speaker: a member of the Retail Action Project or one of our partner community organizations like NWBCCC, GOLES, etc. Write: Have your congregants fill out post cards to their city council members. Even if your council member is on board, they will appreciate knowing that they have support in the community. Work: Invite your council member and the press to attend your service. You can use the provided form letter. To identify your city council member and their mailing address go [here](#). Please fill out the Commitment Form which can be found [here](#) to register your worship service with us and return this form to Ava Farkas by fax: 212-779-2809.

- **FREE IMMIGRATION CLINIC**

Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2010, 6:30pm – 9:00pm

Location: St. Lucia Community Center, 438 E. 49th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Brooklyn Center for quality Life, The St. Lucia House Foundation, & Churches United to Save & Heal (CUSH), in partnership with The New York City Immigrant Advocacy Initiative, invite you to a free immigration clinic. Free, confidential consultations with immigration attorneys from the New York Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Bring your immigration questions and concerns, and all your relevant documents – passport, green card, I-94 card, correspondence from the Immigration Service, etc! Space is limited, so please RSVP to: (718) 284-1097 or flatbushevents@gmail.com.

- **COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF RESOLUTION 1325:
NEW PERSPECTIVES ON PEACE AND SECURITY AT THE UN**

Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2010, 11:30-3:00pm

Location: United Nations

Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security will be presented on its 10th anniversary. Reconciliation Leadership and a Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service will be presented as a resource for 1325 to address post-9/11 community, institutional and global challenges with respect for human rights, peaceful settlement of disputes, ethics, values and systems that will secure greater ecological integrity, economic and social well being. Speakers include Jelena Pia-Comella, Director of Programmes, WFM-IGP, Former Diplomat, Mission of Andorra, Respondent; Dr. Sarah Sayeed, President, Women in Islam, Inc. and Program Associate, New York, New York Interfaith Center; Elisabeth Scheper, Policy and Mediation Division Department of Political Affairs, United Nations, Respondent, and Virginia Swain, Director, Institute for Global Leadership and co-founder, Center for Global Community and World Law. Agenda includes 11:30am Luncheon Delegates Dining Room (meet at the UN at 11:15); 1:00-3:00 pm Speakers, Respondents and Interactive Discussion in the NGO Resource Center Conference Room. Tuition: \$95, including luncheon in the Delegates' Dining Room. RSVP with payment by Thursday, October 7 at 508-753-4172. Make check payable by 10/7 to Institute for Global Leadership, 210 Park Avenue, Worcester, MA 01609. Visit www.global-leader.org for additional information on the Institute.

- **AFRICAN/CARIBBEAN DIASPORA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Date: Friday, October 15, 2010, 8:30am - 3:00pm, and Saturday, October 16, 2010, 9:00am - 2:00pm

Location: The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

Join the Institute for Diasporan and African Culture, the United Methodist Church, the New York Theological Seminary, and the Center for World Christianity for a conference on African/Caribbean leadership in the Diaspora. On October 15, hear discussions on the wider African and Caribbean Diaspora, exploring such issues as leadership, religion and the practice of ministry. Panelists include Professor Mercy Amba Oduyoye, Professor Kofi Asare Opoku, Dr. Emilie Townes, and Bishop F. Herbert Skeete. Participate in workshops both October 15th and 16th focused on the marketplace of Diasporan ministry in leadership. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Sauls at jannie831@gmail.com.

- **LATIN WOMEN IN ACTION, INC: SECOND ANNUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: Our Lady of Sorrows 104-11 37th Avenue, Corona, NY 11368

When you're partner/ husband hits you... When you're scared to go home... When you feel the persons temper taking away your desire to live... When you're child says "mom/dad don't hit me"... When you want to say 'enough' and don't dare to... it is time to attend. A campaign drive has been spearheaded by N.Y. Melon Bank to collect clothes, shoes, and other items to be donated to domestic violence survivors and members of their household on the day of the event. Attendance is required to receive the donations. Food and refreshments will be available. PLEASE RSVP by: October 10, 2010 (718) 478-2972, Sgt Villafañe (646) 879-5127.

- **AFRICAN SACRED TRADITIONS IN THE SPANISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN**

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: Union Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway at 121 Street, New York, New York, 10027

Please join us for a presentation and panel discussion with Dr. Marta Moreno Vega, President, Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute and Rev. Dr. Samuel Cruz, Assistant Professor of Religion and Society, Union Theological Seminary. Please confirm your attendance by Monday, October 18 by emailing us at confirm@lpacministries.com. A dance demonstration will follow.

- **PEACE BE UPON YOU: AN INTERFAITH CONVERSATION WITH ZACHARY KARABELL**

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 6:30 pm - Light Supper and 7:00 pm - Presentation

Location: Plymouth Church Reception Room, 75 Hicks Street (between Orange and Cranberry Streets), Brooklyn Heights

Zachary Karabell discusses his book "Peace Be Upon You: Fourteen Centuries of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Conflict and Cooperation." Reviewing a rich and textured history of coexistence that has all but disappeared from our collective memory, Karabell will lead a thought-provoking conversation on the past, present and future of religious tolerance. Book signing follows the presentation. Admission is free and open to the public. Please join us!

- **ENERGY STEWARDSHIP 101: STRATEGIES FOR HOUSES OF WORSHIP AND HOUSEHOLDS**

Date: Sunday, October 24, 2010, 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Park Avenue United Methodist Church, 106 East 86th Street, New York, NY 10028

For the average religious institution, energy expenses are the second highest fixed cost—second only to personnel costs. Our energy use causes air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, and toxic waste from nuclear power plants. GreenFaith's research shows that the average religious institution can cut energy use by close to 20% with investments that pay for themselves in less than 18 months – a large environmental and economic benefit. At this workshop, GreenFaith staff will review 12 priority steps for energy conservation, based on data gathered through energy audits conducted at diverse houses of worship. Many of these steps are no cost, and can be implemented immediately. Many of the steps that houses of worship can take to reducing energy use, while improving comfort and building performance, are supported by financial incentives and technical support from the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA). Solar One's NYSERDA Energy Smart Communities Coordinator will review these programs in detail and will also discuss opportunities to involve congregation members in the greening process by connecting them to information and resources for increasing the energy efficiency of their own homes. Finally, Solar One's Education Coordinator will discuss ways to engage youth of all ages in environmental education activities. Learn new and exciting ways to include the youngest members of your congregation in the greening process of your space. Not only can kids be part of a community wide energy awareness campaign, but they can participate in creative and fun hands on activities such as building solar race cars, learning about local wildlife, and making recycled art. RSVP is required: 732-565-7740 ext 303. For more information, please click [here](#).

- **NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK**

Date: October 24-30th, 2010

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, with the support of the Office of Minority Health, is inviting all houses of worship to participate in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (NLPPW). The week is an opportunity for you to raise your congregation's awareness of childhood lead poisoning. Lead poisoning is a serious environmental health hazard facing children in the United States. Recent research shows there is no safe blood lead level (BLL). In 2009, 1,634 New York City children ages 0-18 were

newly identified with blood lead levels greater than 10µg/dL and another 12,039 NYC children had a BLL between 5-9µg/dL. Young children living in deteriorated housing are most at risk of lead poisoning. Your involvement can be as simple as making an announcement during a service or hosting a group discussion during an already scheduled meeting or event. If you are interested in participating, you can contact Charlene Gordon, NLPPW Coordinator, at 212-227-4781 or email: cgordon@health.nyc.gov. For more information on the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, you can visit www.nyc.gov/lead.

- **SCREENING OF *OUT OF CORDOBA: AVERREOS AND MAIMONIDES IN THEIR TIME AND OURS***

Date: Monday, October 25, 2010, 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew, NE Corner of West 86th Street and West End Avenue (Entrance on West 86th St. between Broadway and West End Ave.)

Out of Cordoba is an 80 minute documentary by Jacob Bender about the legacy of Cordoba and its meaning for our times. The film explores the dramatic life stories of the two leading personalities, a Muslim and a Jew, of medieval Islamic Spain, as well as their relevance to contemporary interfaith relations and the struggle against religious extremism and xenophobia. A discussion with director Jacob Bender will follow the screening. For more about the film, visit www.outofcordoba.com.

- **IRAQI REFUGEE ARTISTS IN SYRIA FEATURED IN EXHIBIT IN NYC**

Date: Tuesday, October 26, 2010 - Saturday, November 13, 2010

Location: Second Presbyterian Church, 96th Street at Central Park West, NYC

An art exhibit “Artists in Exile: Forgotten Iraqi Refugees in Syria,” organized by the New York City non-profit Common Humanity, features artists who have fled from the war in Iraq and are now living in Syria. The exhibit features 27 new paintings from many of the refugee artists whose works were in previous exhibits as well as works from 7 new refugee painters. The paintings will be sold by silent auction, concluding with the highest bids received by 6 pm Nov. 13. Each painting in the exhibit has been purchased directly from the Iraqi artist by Common Humanity. The sale of those paintings will enable Common Humanity to return to Syria to purchase a new round of paintings and thus to continue contributing to the livelihood of these courageous refugee artists and their families. Mel Lehman, Director of Common Humanity who traveled to Damascus to obtain the paintings, said, “Visitors to this exhibit will get a rare chance to see something of the heart and soul of several of the 1 million Iraqi refugees in Syria who have been largely forgotten by us. This exhibit presents a unique opportunity to see Middle East artists who were influenced by their own ancient artistic heritage, by their study of modern Western art in school and also by the recent U.S. invasion of their homeland.” Common Humanity seeks to build friendship, understanding and respect between the United States and the Arab and Muslim world. Common Humanity believes that the road to peace in these dangerous times is by moving past the clichés and stereotypes that separate us and instead by making new efforts to gain a deeper understanding of our shared common humanity. For more

information, contact Mel Lehman at ML9612921@aol.com or (212) 865-6115, or visit CommonHumanity.org.

- **SYMPOSIUM ON THE LIBERIAN TRC PROCESS: REFORM, REDRESS, & RECOVERY**

Date: Friday, October 29, 2010, and Saturday, October 30, 2010,

Location: Friday: New School - Tishman Auditorium, 66 West 12th Street, NY, NY, and

Saturday: Staten Island, NY 10304

African Refuge, Inc. (AR), in collaboration with the New School, the International Trauma Studies Program, and several civil society organizations, will host a two-day symposium to reinvigorate the interests of both the international community and Liberians at large in the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Report. Leading scholars, practitioners, and other experts will engage in discussion sessions grouped into three tracks focused on the themes of Reform, Redress, and Reconciliation: The Pathway to Sustainable Peace, Security, and Development in Liberia. The two-day symposium will seek to address the following questions but not limited to: Why has the international and national response to the TRC Report and the implementation of the TRC recommendations been lukewarm and indifferent? What reception has the TRC Report received and what are its major strengths and weaknesses? The Chairman of the TRC Commission, Hon. Jerome Verdier, is expected to give the keynote address. The symposium will finish on Staten Island with a workshop, an indigenous Liberian art exhibit by the Liberia Peace Crusaders and a Liberian dinner. The Peace Crusaders will also stage a live benefit concert to benefit the Liberian culture and peace village project in Liberia. AR was created in 2003 in direct response to the diverse needs of Liberian refugees, mostly victims of the Liberian Civil War who resettled in Staten Island, as well as other low-income members of the surrounding community. Since opening its doors, AR has provided over 10,000 men, women and children with various services, including psychosocial counseling, case management, academic support, recreational programs for children and youth, immigration assistance, job counseling, assistance with resume preparation, public benefit referrals, and health screening, counseling, and referrals. For more information about AR and the symposium, please visit us at www.africanrefuge.org or contact Ms. Jonatta Moore at jonatta@africanrefuge.org / (718)701-4055.

- **ADVOCATE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE SHERIDAN EXPRESSWAY**

Join the Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance in their efforts to take down the Sheridan. The Sheridan is only 1.25 miles long and causes problems in the community such as air pollution from trucks. We can use the land to build a better community! We are an alliance of community based groups that are working to take down the Sheridan and replace it with 1200 units of affordable housing, park space along the Bronx River, space for local business and 700 jobs, reconnected streets and cleaner air. The Department of Transportation will decide in early 2011 whether it will remove the Sheridan. This gives us time to pressure NYSDOT and our elected officials to look at the whole picture. They must consider the community's plan. Join the campaign and have your voice be heard! To learn more about the Community Plan, please visit:

southbronxvision.org. To join this campaign, please contact Ashwin at 718-328-5622 x 16 or ashwin.sbrwa@gmail.com.