



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

December 2012 Interfaith Center of New York E-Announcements

Dear Friends,

As the recovery effort following Superstorm Sandy continues, New Yorkers are crossing faith lines to work together to help communities rebuild. From the Tzu Chi Foundation's distribution of debit cards through houses of worship, to the UNITED SIKHS partnership with churches like St. Marks-in-the-Bowery in lower Manhattan to distribute meals, the creativity and commitment New Yorkers of all faiths and no particular faith in the recovery effort has been inspiring. The work is far from over, however. In this newsletter, our opening section offers resources for supporting ongoing NYDIS efforts. Please also visit [our web site](#) where we post Sandy-related information as we receive it, but make sure to review the information below which includes:

- How to purchase supplies and volunteer for Occupy Sandy
- How to participate in NYDIS relief coordination conference calls M-W-F
- How to get trained in Disaster Chaplaincy and other recovery-related skills
- How to provide housing for volunteers

In addition, please note other upcoming ICNY sponsored and co-sponsored events including the **New York Interfaith Hunger Summit** and our **27th Rabbi Marshall Meyer Retreat on Transforming Homelessness through Faith-Based Service and Advocacy** taking place on January 30, 2013. Next week we will be sending you **ICNY's 2012 Annual Report** and information about how you can support our work.

Finally, please stay tuned for information about **Dec. 10th Human Rights Day** actions supporting City Council legislation introducing an independent Inspector General to provide oversight and accountability at the NYPD.

******* *Superstorm Sandy Recovery* *******

This holiday season, give to the recovery effort through the Occupy Sandy Registry

Basic supplies are still badly needed. Order them through Occupy Sandy's Amazon registry system <http://interoccupy.net/occupysandy/wedding-registries/>. Houses of worship in Brooklyn, Staten Island and New Jersey serve as distribution centers. Volunteers deliver supplies. To volunteer as an individual or as a group go to <http://interoccupy.net/occupysandy/volunteer/>

Join New York Disaster Interfaith Services relief coordination conference calls

New York Disaster Interfaith Servicehosts Monday-Wednesday-Friday 4pm relief coordination calls identifying needs and assets within the faith communities in an ongoing response to Hurricane Sandy. Call 401-694-1515 – PIN 41427# to join. These calls are open to NYDIS Members and NYC Congregations, Judicatories, faith-based organizations and their NVOAD partners. In addition, the NYDIS website <http://www.nydis.org/index2.html> includes information on multiple disaster recovery resources and topics as well as information about faith community-based disaster response.

Houses of worship needed to provide housing for Sandy recovery volunteers

Housing for volunteers coming in from out of town is needed. Complete a “Volunteer Housing Capabilities Form” (in either Microsoft Word or PDF formats below):

<http://interfaithcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/NYDIS-Volunteer-Housing-Form.docx>

<http://interfaithcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/NYDIS-Volunteer-Housing-Form.pdf>

and return it via email: info@nydis.org, or via fax: 212-354-8251.

Disaster Chaplaincy Services chaplaincy training (for ordained faith leaders endorsed by recognized denominations or judicatories)

Dates & Times: Tuesday, Dec. 18, 6:00 – 9:00 pm / Wednesday, Dec. 19, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Upper West Side in Manhattan (details provided upon registration).

Disaster Chaplaincy Services (DCS) is providing “Just in Time” training for faith leaders interested in providing spiritual care to those affected by superstorm Sandy. DCS is a multi-faith, multi-cultural, multilingual organization that assures skilled and appropriate spiritual care for all people affected by disasters in the New York tri-state area. DCS chaplains are directly deployed alongside the Red Cross, New York City’s Office of Emergency Management and other recognized agencies. Volunteer disaster chaplains must be willing to work with and respect people of any faith or those with no faith tradition. All volunteers sign a code of ethics that includes refraining from proselytizing and sermonizing, and must be willing to provide non-discriminatory spiritual care to all regardless of Fair Housing Justice Center nationality, race, religion, belief, gender expression, class, or sexual orientation. Contact Volunteer@dcs-ny.org for more information.

World Cares Center

World Cares Center (WCC) delivers disaster preparedness and response trainings to empower citizens, youth, seniors, and leaders in communities in the New York Tri-State area, throughout the United States, and abroad. World Cares Center is training, coordinating, and deploying volunteer teams to address the immediate recovery effort in the five boroughs of New York and New Jersey. Information is available through trainings online and in other formats, along with volunteer opportunities. World Cares has been working closely with NYDIS. Visit them online at www.worldcares.org for more information.

Church World Service webinar on long term recovery basics

Dates & Times:

Tuesday, December 4, 2012

2:00-3:15 pm "Getting Started;" 3:30-4:30 pm "Getting Organized"

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

2:00-3:15 pm "Disaster Case Management & the Long Term Recovery Committee;" 3:30-4:30 pm "The Heart of Recovery"

Church World Service presents the webinar "Long Term Recovery Basics," covering best practices, and important steps to remember as you form a Long Term Recovery group. There will be a special emphasis on concerns that Hurricane Sandy has brought to our attention. There will be two sessions on each day, lasting approximately 60-75 minutes, with a 15 minute break. This webinar is free, and open to the general public. Register today! To register, go to <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/198142154>.

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

***** *Upcoming Interfaith Center Events* *****

27th Rabbi Marshall T. Meyer Retreat for Social Justice: Transforming Homelessness Through Faith-Based Service and Advocacy

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Time: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Dining Rooms C&D, Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive (entrance also on Claremont, between W. 120th and 119th). Close to #1 train, 116th Street, Columbia University station

Each night more than 50,000 New Yorkers experience homelessness. An even more shocking statistic is that nearly 40%, or 20,000 of the homeless individuals are children. The number of homeless New Yorkers in shelters has risen by more than half over the past decade. Join a diverse group of New York's religious leaders as we learn and discuss the causes of homelessness, and who is typically most at risk. Learn about how faith leaders can get involved in the service and advocacy options to transform homelessness. This is an informational and networking program for clergy, grassroots lay leaders, faith-based service providers and advocacy leaders concerned about homelessness in New York City. Please RSVP early as space is limited- registration is required. Questions may be directed to ssayeed@interfaithcenter.org or (212) 870-3519. To register online, please complete the [RSVP form](#).

***** *ICNY Co-Sponsored Events* *****

NYC Interfaith Hunger Summit 2012

Date: Thursday, Dec. 20

Time: 10:00 am through 4:00 pm

Location: Sockman Lounge, The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive (at 120th Street), New York, NY 10115

The New York City Interfaith Hunger Summit will bring together a diverse cross-section of faith leaders, congregants, and concerned New Yorkers to discuss ways in which we can all take action to lessen hunger and poverty in our community. In addition to creating greater awareness of the city's hunger and poverty crises, the summit will promote concrete solutions by having participating leaders issue a "Call to Action" which asks elected officials to create jobs and reduce poverty, strengthen the social safety net, and make healthier food more available and affordable in low-income neighborhoods. This conference is co-sponsored by the Interfaith Center of New York and Episcopal Charities of New York. RSVP is required- please sign up at the New York City Coalition Against Hunger website:

<https://www.nyccah.org/civicism/event/register?id=19&reset=1>. For follow up questions, please contact 212-825-0028 ext 212, or email Theresa Hassler thassler@nyccah.org.

***** *Additional Events in the New York Area* *****

World AIDS Day - prayer service and educational program for the Muslim community

Date: Saturday, Dec. 1

Time: 4:30 pm (Salaatul-Magrib)

Location: The Mosque of the Islamic Brotherhood, 130 West 113th Street (corner of Saint Nicholas Ave) in the Village of Harlem, NY 10026

Following Salaatul-Magrib, we will offer supplications for Muslims who are living with HIV/AIDS throughout the world or those whom we have known who have passed away from the disease. Imam Al-Hajj Talib 'Abdur-Rashid (Executive Director, The African- African American Muslim Commission on HIV/AIDS) will make a powerpoint presentation on the Global Jihad Against AIDS being promoted by the International Muslim Leaders Consultation on HIV/AIDS, as well as a look at the AIDS pandemic's impact on New York City neighborhoods. The first M.I.B. HIV/AIDS quilt will also be exhibited. This event is sponsored by the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS & The African - African American Muslim Commission on HIV/AIDS. For more information, email mibsec@aol.com.

Harlem Holiday Kickoff

Date: Monday, Dec. 3

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: The Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Dr. at 120th Street

Experience the "Spirit of Community: Art & Activism" exhibition, a glimpse into art from the 1950s through today, featuring the remarkable talents of 15 visual artists and illustrating the timeless role that arts continue to play in shaping, informing and documenting culture. Enjoy

jazz performed by the musicians of the Manhattan School of Music. Participate in a silent auction offering art, artifacts and Harlem treasures. All proceeds will support Community Matters NYC exhibitions, performances and workshop programming. Free and open to the public. Please RSVP to (212) 459-1854 or qc@communityworksnyc.org.

Holiday Town Hall

Date: Tuesday, December 4

Time: 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Alwan for the Arts, 16 Beaver Street, 4th Floor (Between Broadway and Broad Street). Subways: 4 5 to Bowling Green, J Z to Broad Street, N R to Whitehall St, 2 3 to Wall St

Who Will *You* Meet at Town Hall? Make unexpected, enriching and inspiring connections at this cornerstone event of NYC's arts community. Join in for a special Holiday Party Town Hall! Come down to Alwan for the Arts to help us celebrate a fantastic 2012 and share your favorite holiday sweets at a potluck. Don't miss it. No two Town Halls are the same! All are welcome. It's a potluck - bring something to share. If you're unable to contribute food or drink, we ask that you make a small monetary donation when you arrive to go toward next month's potluck. If you wish to make a 1-minute pitch or a 4-minute performance, include a one sentence description in your registration. [RSVP here](#).

Call-In Day to urge Governor Cuomo to state his support of NYS TAP (State Tuition Assistance) for undocumented youth

Dates: Tues, Dec 4 and Tues, Dec 11

Times: All Day

The New York State Dream Coalition (including the Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform) has organized these call-in days to urge Governor Cuomo to state his support of extending NYS TAP (state tuition assistance) to undocumented youth in his January 9th State of the State address. We hope you'll be able to take a few minutes and make the call. Leave a message such as, "Hi. My name is ____ and I am calling to ask that Governor Cuomo state his support for extending TAP/financial aid to undocumented youth in his State of the State address on January 9th." For more information, contact Diane Steinman, Interfaith Network Director at steinmandiane@gmail.com.

Islamophobia, Empire, & US Politics: What are its roots? How do we respond?

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 5

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Assembly Hall at Judson Memorial Church, 239 Thompson Street (south side of Washington Sq. Park)

Last year, Jews Against Islamophobia Coalition held a panel with a number of leaders from the Muslim community who spoke about ongoing challenges of Islamophobia and ways each of their groups was addressing these challenges. To continue to build from those discussions, we are

sponsoring a three-part series of presentations and discussions that we hope will lead to meaningful action. Panelists include Deepa Kumar, Elly Bulkin, & Madiha Tahir, moderated by Abdeen Jabara. For more information go to www.jewsagainstislamophobia.org.

Yangsi – Film Premiere

Date: Saturday, Dec. 8

Times: 12:00, 3:00 and 6:00 pm

Location: Rubin Museum of Art, 150 W. 17 St., NYC 10011

An intimate portrait of a young Tibetan boy who is recognized as the **reincarnation of Dilgo Khyentse Rinpoche**, one of the most revered Tibetan Buddhist masters of the twentieth century. He is known as The Yangsi, “the one who has come again into existence”. This film is a coming of age story with universal themes, made over a fourteen year period by Mark Elliott, an acclaimed film maker (*The Lion’s Roar and Bodhisattva*) and longtime student of Tibetan Buddhism, who will be present for all three screenings. See <http://www.rmany.org/pages/load/322> for complete schedule.

Call and Response: How American Catholic Sisters Shaped the Church Since Vatican II

Date: Tuesday, December 11

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Pope Auditorium, Lincoln Center Campus, Fordham University, 113 West 60th Street

Catholic sisters have exercised a dramatic influence for generations, building a vast parochial school system, pioneering higher education for women, and founding hospitals and social services that allow the Church to reach millions each year. Responding to Vatican II’s call for renewal in the 1960s, they expanded beyond these ministries -- embracing social activism and missionary work, exploring fresh currents in spirituality and theology, and championing human dignity and rights. Co-sponsored with the Francis and Ann Curran Center for American Catholic Studies. Free and open to the public. Please RSVP to crcevent@fordham.edu or 212-636-7347. For more information, go to www.fordham.edu/ReligCulture.

Art + Social Justice

Date: Thursday, Dec. 13

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: The Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center 3940 Broadway New York, NY 10032

For the final 2012 Human Rights and Social Justice Lecture, Women in Islam, Inc. is proud to announce a new cultural initiative. Art + Social Justice is a multi-event series where art is the platform for critical thinking and positive change in society. Art + Social Justice: The Power of Words will highlight and inspire grassroots creative activism, showcasing talented and conscious lyricists performing to inform. Join us for what promises to be an inspiring evening. RSVP to

rsvp@womeninislam.org. For more information, contact info@womeninislam.org or (212) 576-8875.

Facilitator Grants Available to Support Spring 2013 Adult Reading and Discussion Programs

Date: Spring 2013 (application deadline Dec. 14)

New York Council for the Humanities is offering grants to support new NYC tax exempt organizations interested in hosting 4-6 reading discussion programs. Your designated "Scholar Facilitator" receives \$150 per session. You pay \$25 per session (you can apply to have this fee waived). Themes are: Growing & Aging, Muslim Journeys, Lincoln on the Civil War, Making Sense of the Civil War, Serving, and Working. Sign up for a free one-hour webinar that will take place Monday, December 3, 2 – 3pm. <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/295121249> or read online: http://www.nyhumanities.org/discussion_groups/adults/index.php. To learn more, contact Program Officer Leah Nahmias: [lnahmias@nyhumanities.org/](mailto:lnahmias@nyhumanities.org) or (212) 233-1131.

Practical Peacebuilding: Skills and Spiritual Practices for Conflict Transformation

Date: January 9 - 12, 2013

Time: All Day

Location: Desmond Tutu Center, General Theological Seminary, 440 W. 21st Street, New York

Cost: \$495

Conflict is simmering within congregations and communities, yet it can be the catalyst for positive change. General Theological Seminary and Candler School of Theology are co-offering Practical Peacebuilding, a four-day program in January 2013 that will teach you how to engage conflict constructively, strengthen your skills to facilitate a conflict transformation process, and guide you in spiritual practices and resources vital to sustaining this work. Continuing Education Units are available. To learn more and register (Nov. 15 deadline), click [here](#).

Fair Housing Justice Center

This non-profit civil rights organization promotes fair housing on a regional basis throughout New York City and the seven surrounding New York counties of Dutchess, Nassau, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester. Since opening in April 2005, the FHJC program assists individuals with housing discrimination complaints (all services are free and there are no income tests); pro-actively identifies and challenges systemic housing discrimination; promotes policies that foster more open, accessible, and inclusive communities; increases public awareness about fair housing rights; and upgrades enforcement of fair housing laws. To date, FHJC's activities have led to enforcement actions that have opened up thousands of housing units to populations previously excluded and resulted in the recovery of millions of dollars in damages, penalties, and costs. On the policy side, the FHJC produced a national report promoting mixed-income housing development. The FHJC worked with other non-profit organizations to secure

passage of a prohibition against housing discrimination based on source of income (including housing subsidies) in New York City. You can contact, Dathan B. Williams, the Outreach Coordinator, directly at (212) 400-8225 or dbwilliams@fairhousingjustice.org to discuss what opportunities exist for us to make a presentation to your staff or members and you can learn more about our program and read about our recent cases by visiting our web site at www.fairhousingjustice.org.

***** *ADL Calendar of Observances for December 2012* *****

December 1	Saturday	WORLD AIDS DAY International day of action on HIV and AIDS.
December 2	Sunday	ADVENT • Christian Advent is a season of spiritual preparation in observance of the birth of Jesus. In Western Christianity, it starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. In Eastern Christianity, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.
December 3	Monday	INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DISABLED PERSONS Raises awareness about persons with disabilities in order to improve their lives and provide them with equal opportunity.
December 8	Saturday	BODHI DAY • Buddhist Also known as <i>Rohatsu</i> , it observes the spiritual awakening (bodhi) of founder Siddharta Gautama, the Buddha, ca. 596 BCE. Celebrated on the eighth day either of December or the 12th month of the lunar calendar.
December 9-16	Sunday-Sunday	CHANUKAH • Jewish Eight-day “Festival of Lights”, celebrating the rededication of the Temple to the service of God in 164 BCE. Commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek King, Antiochus, who sought to suppress freedom of worship.
December 10	Monday	HUMAN RIGHTS DAY On this day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
December 12	Wednesday	OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE • Christian Celebrates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary (by her title, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of Mexico and the Americas) before Juan Diego, an indigenous convert to Roman Catholicism, on the Mexican hill of Tepeyac in 1531.
December 15	Saturday	BILL OF RIGHTS DAY Commemorates the signing into law of the ten original amendments of the United States Constitution in 1791.
December 22	Saturday	WINTER SOLSTICE In the northern hemisphere, the shortest day of the year. It marks the first day of the season of winter.

December 25	Tuesday	CHRISTMAS • Western Christian Commemorates the birth of Jesus.
December 26- January 1, 2013	Wednesday- Tuesday	KWANZAA A seven-day celebration honoring African American heritage and its continued vitality. “Kwanzaa” means “first fruits (of the harvest)” in Swahili.
December 29	Saturday	WOUNDED KNEE DAY On December 29, 1890 more than 200 Lakota Sioux were massacred by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in South Dakota.

###