



# Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Archives  
Brooklyn Public  
Library's  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle  
Online  
(1841-1902)

 

April 16, 2016



Archives  
Brooklyn Eagle  
(2003-present)

## Community News



Read about  
Brooklyn Eagle  
and Contact Us

### The First Estate: June 1, 2011

by Francesca Norsen (firstestate@brooklyneagle.net), published online 06-01-2011

- Categories
- Main page
- RSS Channels
- Bay Ridge
- Atlantic Yards
- Photo Galleries
- Brooklyn Today
- Brooklyn People
- Brooklyn Cyclones
- Courthouse News & Cases
- Brooklyn SPACE
- Features
- Crime
- Sports
- Street Beat
- Brooklyn Inc
- Brooklyn KIDS
- Editorial viewpoint
- OUTBrooklyn
- Brooklyn Woman
- Art
- Up & Coming
- Hills & Gardens
- Auction Advertiser
- On Food
- Historically Speaking
- Health Care
- Get A LifeStyle
- On This Day in History

#### Dialogue Project Teach-In Emphasizes Healing And Resolving Conflict

Healing from the scars of 9/11, continued Islamophobia and reactions to the death of Osama bin Laden were launching topics of The Dialogue Project's 9th annual City-Wide Teach-In, featuring many Brooklyn religious leaders and teachers. This year's event was hosted at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, because of its proximity to the World Trade Center. Widad Hassan of BMCC's Muslim Student Association welcomed the gathering.



Brooklynite Marcia Kannry founded The Dialogue Project in early 2001, months before 9/11 happened, to promote encounters and active listening among new immigrants and long-time residents of diverse faiths and ethnicities. One of the Dialogue Project's main series is the annual Teach-Ins. Although scheduled months beforehand, the May 2011 Teach-In took place shortly after the US military located and killed al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, and this development was raised during the keynote speakers' dialogue.

Keynote speakers Joshua Stanton (at left) and Haroon Moghul found common ground discussing safe space and courageously opening discussion on sometimes uncomfortable topics.

Keynoters were Joshua Stanton, director of Religious Freedom USA and founding co-editor of the Journal of Interreligious Dialogue at Auburn Theological Seminary; and Haroon Moghul, executive director of The Maydan Institute, and former director of public relations at the Islamic Center at New York University where he served from 2007 to 2009. The Arabic word maydan refers to a public square or gathering center.

1/2

<<first < previous next> last>>

See them succeed

**DONATE NOW**

**helen** *eller*  
services for the blind

- Obituaries
- Community Boards
- Stars and stripes
- Community News
- Brooklyn Yellow Pages

**Contact Us**

If you'd like to contact us [click here](#)

Read about Us [HERE](#)

**Business:**

salon

**Location:**

brooklyn,ny

Search

- Blinds
- Buffet
- Cabinets
- Clothing
- Condos
- Curtains
- Deli
- Frozen Yogurt
- Gift Baskets
- Gift Shops
- Greeting Cards
- Home Decor
- Home Repair
- Home Security
- Home Theater
- Lamps
- Mens Clothing
- Nanny
- Nursery
- Party Supplies
- Pet Stores
- Preschool
- Shoes
- T Shirts
- Theater

Also offering remarks were Dialogue Project founder Marcia Kannry, the Rev. Chloe Breyer, an Episcopal priest and executive director of the Interfaith Center of New York City, and Samir Selmanovic of Faith House Manhattan, who introduced himself as a Dialoguer and member of the International Council of Churches. Breyer recalled last summer's vitriolic exchanges over the building of the Park51 Islamic Cultural Center in lower Manhattan. "It was a reminder to all of us that the trauma and fear that infected our city a decade back had not gone away, and that the fear of that event had raised its head in a surprising and somewhat ugly way. It was a particular challenge for those of us who do interfaith work: 'Had anything that we had done over the past decade made a difference?' It showed us how much work we have to do."

Breyer expressed her hope and expectation that "as New Yorkers we owe it to ourselves and to our country to do a better job this summer than we did last summer, and make it not which Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs Fatima Shama called it: another 'summer of intolerance.'" [Fatima Shama was a 2010 Dialogue Project keynote speaker.]. Breyer said that the object of the day's Teach-In is not agreement or transformation, but providing a "true model" for New Yorkers of listening to each other.

Alana, a member of the Peace of Heart Choir, which sang at the Teach-In, described its mission. "Just as you believe in talking as a method of healing, we believe in music as a method of healing," she said. A New York born-and bred volunteer choir, The Peace of Heart Choir was founded in response to 9/11. Peace of Heart rehearses once a week, presenting concerts throughout the year, with a fundraiser coming up on June 12.

One of the most poignant moments of the keynoter dialogues was an interchange between Haroon Moghul and Joshua Stanton, who each shared their experiences with 9/11 and the news of bin Laden's death. "I think it's a very important gesture in dialogue to create safe space, where people can say things," said Moghul. "A lot of time people react to things, not because they logically or rationally want to react that way, but that's the way they react." Giving as an example, bin Laden's death, he said, "What I found interesting is that, I obviously felt relief as a New Yorker here in the city when it happened. But as I heard people chanting things like 'USA!', I immediately wondered, 'Was I part of that, or am I excluded from that?' All of a sudden the reaction that I expected to have was not the reaction that I was actually having."

Stanton remembered being "totally conflicted" when it happened — "rejoicing really in the prowess of the US military to be able to pursue somebody who inflicted such pain and harm on our country. But it felt really confusing to me to be ever celebrating someone's death." He gave a Biblical example: Miriam's song following the Exodus from slavery in Egypt. "Is she celebrating the great act of God — not the death of the Egyptian army?... I wonder if there might be a lesson for us here as we contextualize Biblical topics, in what we celebrate the strength of our country, we celebrate our ability to defend ourselves. But we do not actively try to rejoice in pain and suffering of others, even those we have to bring to justice."

Moghul recalled raising the issue of bin Laden to one of his advisors, who in turn offered an unexpected response. The advisor had been in the first tower when the plane hit on 9/11, was knocked unconscious and woke up at a triage center. Said Moghul, "It also shows what happens when you open up a door... This is something I never would have known about the individual, or had a chance to know, had I not been comfortable opening up a conversation that initially made him feel emotionally and spiritually out of whack."

Joshua Stanton closed with a vignette from when he spent a year studying in Jerusalem — "with a dear Palestinian friend of mine, and we were eating sushi together. Seemed like the natural thing to do." They were five blocks from an Orthodox neighborhood, one which made him — as a Reform Jew — feel great discomfort and insecurity. "And during a connection over sushi, and over a discussion of who's moderate, who's fundamentalist, who's a Jew? Who's a Muslim? Who's a Christian? What does it mean in this city in which so much of that is tied together, I want to hope for transcendency." Stanton said, that at the Teach-In, "we have an incredible hope for dialogue."

The four speakers effectively instilled a mood of calm attentiveness that lasted the entire afternoon, as participants listened during the table Teach-Ins. Among the Brooklyn-based teachers and leaders at the Teach-in were Rabbi Serge Lippe of the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Rabbi Simkha Weintraub, Rabbinic Director of the New York Jewish Healing Center and the National Center for Jewish Healing; Sally MacNichol, anti-violence activist and advocate for victims of domestic violence and their families; Geoffrey Shugen Arnold, abbot of the Zen Center of NYC-Fire Lotus Temple in Brooklyn; Imam Khalil Abdur-Rashid, imam and executive director of the historically Turkish Iqra Mosque in Brooklyn; and the Rev.



**Daily Cover**



**Weekly Cover**



**Real Estate Brooklyn**



**Bay Ridge Eagle**

Canon Petero A.N. Sabune, the Africa Partnership Officer for the Episcopal Church (USA).

\* \* \*

### **Dialogue Project Seeks Volunteers For English Conversation Program**

The Dialogue Project organizes another component, "COFFEE & CONVERSATION," for which volunteers are being sought.

"COFFEE & CONVERSATION" is a neighbor-to-neighbor English language program that helps language-learners practice their new skills. Participants team up with native English speakers to engage in weekly phone or in-person conversations. Students will benefit from English practice; and the Dialogue Project hopes that new friendships and understanding can develop. The next "COFFEE & CONVERSATION" kick-off is on June 9, hosted at The School of International Studies on Baltic St. Those wishing to commit to this program may obtain more information through The Dialogue Project at 718-768-2175.

\* \* \*

### **Interfaith Breakfast Offers Healing For Families with Domestic Violence**

"Communities of Faith Respond to Domestic Violence," is the theme of the Healing Center & CONNECT's annual Interfaith Breakfast, this Friday at the Brooklyn Public Library.

Guest speakers are Reverend Nancy Bernacet of Precious Pearls Ministry; and Debra Gonsler Vinik, Ph. D., producer of I Believe You: Faiths' Response to Intimate Partner Violence, excerpts of which will be shown at the breakfast. Patrice C. Queen, a survivor of domestic violence who uses the arts to heal, will conduct an interactive drum circle.

The breakfast runs from 10 a.m. to noon on June 3 at the Business Library, in the Brooklyn Heights branch at 280 Cadman Plaza West. This notice arrived after the May 27 RSVP date; those wishing to attend should contact The Healing Center at 718-238-5138 or via email: [info@thehealingcenter.org](mailto:info@thehealingcenter.org).

\* \* \*

### **Plymouth Church Hosts Nursing Center's Centennial**

Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims will host a centennial celebration this Saturday for the New York Congregational Nursing Center.

Founded in 1911 as The Congregational Home for the Aged on Linden Boulevard in Brooklyn, The New York Congregational Nursing Center has become one of the leading nursing facilities for the elderly in New York City. Plymouth Church's bond with NYCNC exists from the onset, as the landmark church was one of 70 New York-based Congregational churches that helped create the center.

James Waechter, a longtime Plymouth member who has served on NYCNC's board for 25 years, said that he originally joined the board with the idea that his own parents might one day need assistance. "There are a lot of people in that position today, who need help for their parents, or are looking towards their own future needs. The New York Congregational Nursing Center is one of the best options in the city for this."

\* \* \*

### **Catholic Charities Holds Senior Appreciation Day**

Catholic Charities' Sheepshead-Nostrand Supportive Services Program (Naturally Occurring Retiring Community—NORC) will honor and celebrate the senior citizens in its Sheepshead Bay community this Friday.

More than 200 seniors are expected to attend this outdoor event on June 3 (11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) filled with performances, dancing, games, food and good company. This is an opportunity for older adults to learn about the services offered at Catholic Charities while enjoying the festivities.

\* \* \*

### **Prophecy Points to Concern For The Environment**

On a recent Sunday 1,816 persons rejoiced at the revealing of what they believe God's Kingdom will bring to this earth, including an end to corruption, and the



healing of natural resources and the earth, as part of the Jehovah's Witnesses District Convention in Brooklyn.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe the findings of scientific experts that humankind's survival could be in grave danger due to the damage that people have done to this planet, naming as examples destruction from oil spills, nuclear accidents and chemical poisons, and worsening natural disasters. Jehovah's Witnesses adherents stand in contrast to some Christian groups that deny both the existence of climate change and the need to protect the environment.

During the District Convention, nine new members were baptized, including one man who had undergone a tracheotomy due to throat cancer. Being completely immersed in water, as is the custom among Jehovah's Witnesses, would very dangerous for him. Not deterred, however, the man he took precautions, and he and his wife were baptized to the joy of his friends and family.

\* \* \*

Questions? Comments? [Sound off to the Editor](#)

-----

(c) Brooklyn Daily Eagle 2011 All materials posted on BrooklynEagle.com are protected by United States copyright law. Just a reminder, though -- It's not considered polite to paste the entire story on your blog. Most blogs post a summary or the first paragraph,( 40 words) then post a link to the rest of the story. That helps increase click-throughs for everyone, and minimizes copyright issues. So please keep posting, but not the entire article. arturcatt at gmail.com

---