



MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT  
**SCOTT M. STRINGER**

*Presents*

*The First Annual*

 **IFTAR DINNER**

*In Honor of the Blessed Month of Ramadan*

*Honoring:*

**BARBARA NIMRI AZIZ**

Author and Executive Producer, RadioTahrir.org

**MIKA'IL DEVEAUX**

Vice President, Citizens Against Recidivism, Inc.

**AZIZ HUQ**

Deputy Director, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University

**NEW YORK DISASTER INTERFAITH SERVICES (NYDIS)**

**WOMEN IN ISLAM, INC. (WII)**



Wednesday, September 10, 2008

The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz

Memorial & Educational Center



**SCOTT M. STRINGER** was sworn in as Manhattan's 26th Borough President in January of 2006 after serving 13 years in the New York State Assembly, where *The New York Times* credited him as having "a sterling reputation as a catalyst for reform." During his first year in office, Borough President Stringer helped breathe new life into Manhattan's Commu-

nity Boards, ensuring that every neighborhood will have a strong voice in decisions that impact local resident's lives. He revamped the Borough President's Land Use Division and effectively weighed in on crucial development projects that will shape Manhattan's future. His continued advocacy for development that reflects neighborhood values has resulted in victories for local residents from Battery Park to Washington Heights.

Borough President Stringer worked to secure a \$900,000 grant from the federal Justice Department in order to crack down on domestic violence in Northern Manhattan and followed through on his pledge to create the Manhattan Borough President's Youth Sports league which serves more than 1,000 children across the borough by providing much needed after school activities. Since taking office Borough President Stringer has emerged as one of the City's leading voices on the need for comprehensive transportation reform and he has continued his career long fight for affordable housing by conducting the first ever borough-wide survey of vacant lots and abandoned buildings to identify sites for the creation of more affordable housing in Manhattan.

In 2006, the Borough President authored a number of ground-breaking policy reports on issues of importance to every New Yorker including parental involvement in our public schools, nursing home emergency preparedness, public safety and transportation. During his thirteen years in the State Assembly, Mr. Stringer authored landmark legislation to protect victims of domestic violence, led the fight against repeal of the commuter tax, voted against every attempt to weaken rent regulations and sponsored legislation that ended "empty-seat voting" in Albany.

Mr. Stringer was born in Washington Heights where he graduated from local public schools and went on to graduate from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. ■



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**P R O G R A M**

Masters of Ceremony  
DALIA MAHMOUD & MAHMOUD IBRAHIM

Athan (Call to Prayer)  
IMAN

Salat-ul Maghrib  
IMAM SULAIMAN KONATE

Iftar (Breaking of the Fast)

Recitation of Qur'an  
ISMAIL ATIQ

Ramadan Reflections  
IMAM KHALID LATIF

Nasheet (Islamic Praise Songs)  
SHAIKH ISMAIL AYYAS

Presentation of Awards  
MANHATTAN BOROUGH PRESIDENT SCOTT M. STRINGER

Closing Remarks  
SARAH SAYEED

Acknowledgements

Closing Dua

## THE HONOREES

**BARBARA NIMRI AZIZ** is an anthropologist and journalist; she was awarded her PhD in Social Anthropology by the U. London, England. For 18 years, Aziz focused her training, passion, and curiosity on Tibetan and Himalayan societies, literature, and history, publishing several books and hundreds of articles based on her research, receiving international respect in her field. For the past 18 years, Aziz has been committed to highlighting voices and accomplishments of her own Arab peoples and history. Aziz is a proud activist journalist, firm in her conviction that “everything is political”. This view stems from her grasping of the dynamics of ‘orientalism’ and the historical political role of British and American anthropology. Aziz writes and broadcasts a great deal about Iraq. Author of numerous, widely published articles on Iraqis and Palestinians, she has also produced an unparalleled body of radio productions on those subjects. Aziz is a veteran producer and radio host at Pacifica-WBAI-NY ([www.wbai.org](http://www.wbai.org)) where she also trains young Arab women and men in radio journalism. A major feature of her radio work is Aziz’s interviews with Arab writers. Completing her directorship of The Radius of Arab American Writers Inc. ([rawi.org](http://rawi.org)) which she founded in 1992, Aziz turned her attention to “Swimming Up The Tigris: Real Life Encounters in Iraq”, published in October 2007. In 2007-2008 Aziz was awarded a Fulbright Professorship which she took up in Algeria. She is preparing a book on Algeria, while she returns to her radio productions. Her new web page [www.RadioTahrir.org](http://www.RadioTahrir.org), features rare interviews from Iraq, a blog, reviews, and articles.

**MIKA’IL DEVEAUX**, grassroots organizer and advocate Citizens Against Recidivism, Queens, NY Conversions to Islam have become particularly prevalent among incarcerated African Americans. Many incarcerated and formerly incarcerated Muslims attribute their positive behavioral changes to their involvement with Islam; the Muslim community, however, has no formal reentry programs or policy positions. Mika’il DeVeaux will advocate within and on behalf of this community on issues regarding incarceration, reentry, and civic responsibility; link the Islamic community with broader community- and faith-based reentry movements; and encourage Muslims to develop positions and policies that will enhance the reentry opportunities of Muslims returning from prison. DeVeaux received a BA in Business Administration from Bernard M.

Baruch College (CUNY), an MA in Professional Studies from the New York Theological Seminary, and an MA from The College at New Paltz (SUNY). DeVeaux has published papers in *New Directions in Evaluation: A Publication of the American Evaluation Association*, *The Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, and *Crescent International*. He has presented papers at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology and coauthored a paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Public Health Association. DeVeaux has published a chapbook of poems and has had several poems featured in various publications. He was released from prison following 25 years of incarceration in New York State maximum-security prisons. Currently, DeVeaux is vice president of Citizens Against Recidivism, Inc. and a data analyst for Philliber Research Associates.

**AZIZ HUQ** directs the liberty and national security project at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. He is counsel in several cases concerning detention of citizens and non-citizens without due process, including a group of US citizens detained in Iraq and Ali Al-Marri, the only person detained as an “enemy combatant” in the United States. He has written numerous *amicus* briefs in national security and civil rights cases. Before coming to the Brennan Center, Mr. Huq clerked for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for Judge Robert D. Sack of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He teaches a seminar at NYU Law School on “Just War Theory and Terrorism,” was in 2006 awarded a Carnegie Scholars Fellowship. His book *Unchecked and Unbalanced: Presidential Power in a Time of Terror*, co-authored with Fritz Schwarz, was published in March and was called “necessary reading” by Michiko Kakutani in the *New York Times*.

**NEW YORK DISASTER INTERFAITH SERVICES (NYDIS)** is a faith-based federation of service providers and charitable organizations who work in partnership to provide disaster services. Our Mission is to develop and support faith-based disaster readiness, response, and recovery services for New York City. In preparation for and in response to disasters, NYDIS convenes its leadership to network with local, state, and national agencies involved in disaster management to facilitate the delivery of services, resources, and information to religious communities, underserved victims, and impacted communities. We provide services through three principal program areas:

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