

Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought
www.interfaith-MCWRET.org

Annual Report March 27, 2013

What an exciting year it has been. Board members continue to share their own stories, their spiritual journeys. We visited the Siddhachalam, a Jain Temple as well as Tirth (a pilgrimage place) in Blairstown, NJ. A painting hanging in the East is a beautiful reminder of the visit. We are planning a visit to the Sikh Temple in Bridgewater, NJ. We are adding depth to the website. We have been invited to participate in several events such as:

Joe Ritacco, Lynn Dash, Madhav Phadke, and Jim Whyte staffed a Monmouth Center, a Hindu, and a Baha'i table at the *Monmouth University Interfaith Fair* on March 6, 2013.

Joe Ritacco, Lynn Dash and Naresh Jain will participate on an interfaith panel on *Earth-Care* at Monmouth University's Global Understanding conference on April 8, 2013.

Esmat Mahmoud, Stevi Lischin and Robert Smith plan to speak on "A Model of *Interfaith Understanding Through Interfaith Organizing*" at Drew Theological Seminary on April 25, 2013

Public programs between September 2012 and May 2013 included:

Two Non-Political Perspectives on Mormonism with Gary Anderberg, Ph.D. and Scott Johnson, Bishop of the Freehold Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Tuesday, October 2, 2012

The 13th Shanti (Peace) Lecture, "*Twenty-First Century Inter-Religious Engagement: New Strategies*," Speaker: Rev. Eric Cherry, Director of the International Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Sunday, October 14, 2012

United We Sing, Sunday, November 18, 2012

Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance *Selma: Yesterday and Today*, Speakers: Reverends Gil Caldwell and John Licitra, Saturday, January 21, 2013

Black History Month Read In at the Quinn Chapel AME, Atlantic Highland, Sunday, February 2, 2013

Annual Meeting and *Middle East Adventures in Dialogue*, Speaker: Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon, Co-coordinator, MCWRET and Senior Pastor, the First Baptist Church of Trenton

Film showing *Education Under Fire* about persecution of Baha'i in Iran co-sponsored with the UUCMC Social Action Committee. Discussion leader: Patty Whyte on Sunday, May 19, 2013

We are happy to report that the number of programs and the number of participants have been increasing over the last three years. We greatly appreciate the hospitality and support of the UUCMC.

Respectfully submitted,
Co-coordinators

Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon

Dr. Stevi Lischin