

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

Annual Report 2015

During 2015 the Board agreed to conduct business in one hour and dedicate the other hour of the monthly meetings to interfaith dialogue. We continue offering public programs, along with advocacy. Together this seems to be resulting in deepening relationships and a deepening sense of community. Public programs in 2015 included:

An evening with the author (and Board Advisor) Uma Swaminathan and Annual meeting were held on 4/30/15. The book is entitled “Herbal Transformations, Ancient Wisdom Revealed for Health and Longevity.”

Dr. Tonie Malone gave the 16th Shanti (Peace) Lecture, “On Care for Our Common Home: Laudato Si’,” on 10/3 at the UUCMC and will repeat the lecture on 1/28/16 at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan.

Frankie Hutton, author of “Rose Lore,” lectured on “Unveiling Some of the Secrets of the Rose” on 11/5.

The well attended 15th *United We Sing*, was held on Sunday, 11/22. We cosponsored the *Multi-faith Vigil for Climate Justice* held at the United Methodist Church in Red Bank on 9/20 where people of faith and conscience could stand for a fair and compassionate global climate agreement. The vigil was organized by Lynn Dash. We also cosponsored the CFPA annual conference

The Garden State MOSAIC (Mobilizing Our Students for Action to build Interfaith Community) has over 30 students this year. With leaders from a Steering Committee made up by volunteers from the MCWRET Board and the *Monmouth Human Relations Commission* we meet on ten Sunday afternoons at each other’s places of worship. Leadership development and community service project planning augment the religious presentations provided by the youth. We often tour the facility as well. Dinner follows. The first year 28 teenagers from 7 different faiths participated in Sunday afternoon meetings at 7 different houses of worship. We learned about each faith, our diversity and in values discussions talked about our similarities and differences. Together the youth chose and implemented a community project. The first year it was a “Midnight Run” to NYC with food and clothing for the homeless. The second year we served three dinners to homeless families in the *Family Promise* network. This third year we have over 30 participants from 9 different beliefs. We have responded to requests for resources for duplicating MOSAIC in other areas of NJ. More information is on www.GardenStateMOSAIC.org

The MOSAIC TAI (Teens Against Intolerance) presented a skit at the *Center for Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Education (CHHANGE)* Annual Colloquium “Survivors Empowering Voices for Tomorrow” at Brookdale Community College on 5/13.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-coordinators

Rev. Elizabeth B. Congdon

Dr. Stevi Lischin