

Like-Minded Organizations in NJ

Compiled by Joe Ritacco

“May 1,000 flowers bloom, with some healthy cross-pollination.”

Name, Address (<i>acronym</i>)	Contact info., (<i>www.</i>)	Mission, Purpose (comments)
Monmouth County Center for World War II Studies and Conflict Resolution Brookdale Community College 765 Newman Springs Road Lincroft, NJ 07738 (in Bankier Library) (CWW2SCONRES)	brookdalecc.edu/fac/tlt/ww2 Director Paul Zigo PZigo@BrookdaleCC.edu 732-224-2029 Center 732-224-2099	The purpose of the Center is to educate today's generation about World War II and its significance by providing a range of programs and services to stimulate and foster the study of the political, social, and military aspects of the war and the its impact on world history. The ultimate goal of the Center is to utilize the lessons learned from the war to prevent the recurrence of global armed conflict in a world of sovereign states with divergent interests, wants and needs. (Ted J. Narozanick WW II Resource Center was dedicated in April 2007.)
Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education Center Brookdale Community College 765 Newman Springs Road Lincroft, NJ 07738 (in Tachmans House - TKH)	holocaustbcc.org/ holo-center@brookdalecc.edu Exec. Director Dale Daniels 732-224-2769 DDaniels@BrookdaleCC.edu 732-224-2074	The mission of the Center for Holocaust Studies at Brookdale Community College is to be a resource for: education about historical issues of the Holocaust and genocide; elimination of racism, antisemitism and all forms of prejudice that damage our society; and development of outstanding creative programs and activities regarding these crucial human issues. (In July 2008, name changed to Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education Center at Brookdale Community College)
Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought 1475 West Front Street Lincroft, NJ 07738 (in Universalist Unitarian meetinghouse) (MCWRET)	interfaith-mcwret.org 732-747-0707 Co-coordinators: Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) Congdon LizCongdon@comcast.net Dr. Stevi Lischin lischin@verizon.net	The principle purpose of MCWRET is to enhance the acceptance of religious and cultural diversity. The Center is committed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honor and enrich individual religious, spiritual and ethical practices; • Encourage interfaith listening and understanding; • Raise a common voice against injustice and intolerance; • Provide a center for the study of world religions and ethical thought; • Serve as a unique interfaith and intercultural meeting place. (MCWRET was established in 1994.)
Central New Jersey Network of Spiritual Progressives Attn: Lynn Dash 1475 West Front Street	www.spiritualprogressives.org (umbrella organization) Lynn Dash	CNJ-NSP is a local chapter of the Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP). NSP seeks to build a more compassionate, safe, peaceful and loving world. Toward these ends NSP will: foster a New Bottom Line of love, generosity & ecological sensitivity; foster a new global consciousness and solidarity;

Lincroft, NJ 07738 (in Universalist Unitarian meetinghouse) <i>(CNJ-NSP)</i>	ldash@comcast.net cnjnsp@gmail.com	challenge the misuse of God & religion and; promote awe, amazement, gratitude and development of inner spiritual life. (CNJNSP chapter was formed in 2007. NSP was founded in 2005)
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Monmouth County, cont'd		
Institute for Global Understanding Monmouth University 400 Cedar Ave. West Long Branch, NJ 07764 (IGU)	monmouth.edu/institute_global_understanding Director: Dr. Rekha Datta rdatta@monmouth.edu 732-571-4438	The mission of IGU is to promote awareness of issues and challenges of our dynamic, interdependent world. Through academic programs, field experiences, service learning, and engagement in local and global communities, IGU fulfills Monmouth University's broad mission of promoting global understanding, diversity, and leadership. (IGU is an evolution of the Global Understanding Project that was formed in Spring 2001 as a grassroots effort.)
International Jain Sangh 42 Cotswold Circle Ocean, NJ 07712 (IJS)	ijsonline.org Naresh Jain NJain52253@aol.com (201) 933-8963 Ari Jain arijain@hotmail.com (732) 842-5805	International Jain Sangh (IJS) organizes spiritual, cultural and charitable programs; promotes nonviolence; honors all sects and religions; and maintains alliance and cooperation with other institutions of similar aims.
Monmouth County Pax Christi P.O. Box 6 Middletown, NJ 07748	NA Chapter Coordinator Antonia (Tonie) Malone ToniePax@aol.com 732-671-5522 toniepax@aol.com	Monmouth County Pax Christi is a local chapter of Pax Christi USA. (www.paxchristiusa.org), a Roman Catholic organization. It strives to create a world that reflects the Peace of Christ by exploring, articulating, and witnessing to the call of Christian nonviolence. This work begins in personal life and extends to communities of reflection and action to transform structures of society. Pax Christi USA rejects war, preparations for war, and every form of violence and domination. It advocates primacy of conscience, economic and social justice, and respect for creation. It is committed to peace education. Through the efforts of its members and with other groups, Pax Christi USA works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.
Other Counties - South		
Center for Peace, Genocide and Holocaust Studies Ocean County College College Ave. PO Box 2001 Toms River, NJ 08754-2001 (CPGHS)	NA VP of Academic Affairs – Frank J. Wetta fwetta@ocean.edu 732-255-0487 or Exec Asst Anne Lansing 732-255-0400 x-2034	The mission and goals of the Center are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage an understanding of peacemaking to eliminate hatred, racism and prejudice in Ocean County. ▪ Foster an understanding of the history, literature, and social context of the consequences of genocide and the Holocaust. ▪ Sponsor lectures and creative programs that engage OCC and the community in nurturing a better understanding between people of different backgrounds. ▪ Promote peaceful co-existence, conflict resolution, and peer mediation. ▪ (A new charter is being approved. Director to be appointed.)

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Other Counties - West		
Coalition for Peace Action 40 Witherspoon Street Princeton, NJ 08542 (<i>CFPA</i>)	peacecoalition.org Exec. Director Rev. Robert (Bob) Moore 609-924-5022 cfpa@peacecoalition.org	The Coalition for Peace Action (CFPA) is a grassroots citizens organization which brings together people of all ages, backgrounds, professions, and political persuasions in support of three goals: global abolition of nuclear weapons, a peace economy, and a halt to weapons trafficking at home and abroad. (CFPA has 16 chapters in NJ and PA.)
Counties – North & NW		
Holocaust Education Resource Center College of Saint Elizabeth 2 Convent Road Morristown, NJ 07960-6989 (in new Annunciation Center)	<u>cse.edu/index.php?id=198</u> Co-Directors: Sister Kathleen Flanagan kflanagan@cse.edu 973-290-4336 Dr. Harriet Sepinwall hsepinwall@cse.edu 973-290-4351	The Holocaust Education Resource Center provides a variety of programs, resources, and educational opportunities for study of the Holocaust. It aims to encourage remembrance of the Holocaust and to promote respect for diversity. By providing an opportunity for serious Jewish-Christian Theological dialogue, it is opening doors through which many are experiencing mutual respect and understanding. (Activities started in 1990. Center was established in 1994. In Oct. 2007, it was re-dedicated and moved to new Annunciation Center building.)
Center for Understanding Islam 19 Claremont Road, Suite 2C Bernardsville, NJ 07924 For mail: P.O. Box 124 Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 (<i>CUI</i>)	cuii.org (908) 672-1798 contactcui@cuii.org Pres. Mohammad Ali Chaudry	The Center for Understanding Islam seeks to present an enlightened understanding of Islam in America. Our focus is education and we emphasize the common humanity of people of all faiths, rather than taking sides on political issues. We urge everyone to distinguish between the true teachings of Islam as a faith and the diverse cultural traditions of Muslim societies. Moderate Muslims have an obligation to take back their faith from those who have hijacked it for their political purposes.
Interfaith Dialog Center 545 Interstate Place Carlstadt, NJ 07072 also 17 Academy St. Suite 701 Newark, NJ 07102 (<i>IDC</i>)	idcnj.org Director Levent Koc 201-672-0044 973-353-9333 Levent@idcnj.org infoidc@idcnj.org	Interfaith dialogue is one of the major medicines to overcome humanity's common ills that arise from unbelief. Our world's durability depends, to a great extent, on the promotion of interfaith dialogue. We also believe that establishment of dialog environments is a means to appreciate diverse opinions and eliminate the stereotypes often assigned to 'others'. In that respect, IDC educates non-Muslims about Islam and Muslims about other faiths to establish mutual understanding and tolerance. To achieve this end, we invite and encourage sharing of various perspectives, partner with other religious and inter-religious organizations and organize educational activities such as seminars, lectures and discussion panels, all of which inspire and illuminate us in our endeavor to fulfill our mission. (Founded by Turkish-American Muslims of northern New Jersey in 2003.)

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North & NW, cont'd		
Summit Pax Christi c/o K. O'Leary 255 Morris Ave. Summit, NJ 07901	paxsummit.blogspot.com/ Kathy O'Leary Chapter Coordinator kathy-wargo@comcast.net 908-273-0751	Summit Pax Christi is a local chapter of Pax Christi USA. (www.paxchristiusa.org), a Roman Catholic organization. For complete description of Pax Christi, see Monmouth County Pax Christi entry above. (Kathy O'Leary is focal point for communication with NJ PAX Christ chapters which number at least 8.)
Spiritual Unity Network 2115 Millburn Ave Suite 100-3 Maplewood, NJ 07040 (<i>SUN</i>)	spiritualunitynetwork.org Dr. Barbara Velazquez Velazqba@comcast.net 973-762-6722 spiritualunitynetwork@gmail.com	To assist in the reorientation of human consciousness from that which focuses on the individual to that which embraces the needs and interests of humanity. To facilitate exchange and collaboration amongst groups attempting to accomplish those goals. To assist in ushering in a modern day renaissance involving a transformation of social and cultural patterns. Such a transformation will result from a revolution of human values and consciousness. Our activities are aimed at assisting an evolving humanity in its next step forward, and inspiring a sense of personal responsibility for human and planetary wellbeing.
Taskforce for Humanity Coalition 2115 Millburn Ave Suite 100-3 Maplewood, NJ 07040 (<i>THC</i>)	taskforceforhumanity.org Dr. Barbara Velazquez Velazqba@comcast.net 973-762-6722 taskforceforhumanity@gmail.com	We are a community of progressive organizations united in vision and values whose goal is to cultivate a more enlightened, peaceful and compassionate world. Our purpose is to raise awareness of the existence of a growing, powerful yet peaceful community united in ideals and dedicated to inspiring a worldwide renaissance. Our aims and activities include the following: For the progressive community to express its common values as an increasingly recognized force for change; To explore and develop effective ways to promote selfless service to humanity and the planet as a way of life; To encourage cooperation on projects that would otherwise be too large for a single organization or individual to undertake; To exchange ideas that increase the effectiveness of the progressive community as a whole; To begin to archive our work and accomplishments as a legacy to those who come after us, as well as a means to influence the mainstream community.
Fund for an OPEN Society 14 South Orange Ave. South Orange, NJ 07079 (<i>OPEN</i>)	opensoc.org Barbara Heisler Williams Executive Director info@opensoc.org 973-821-4198 Fax: 973-313-9712	Fund for an OPEN Society (OPEN) is America's only national nonprofit whose sole purpose is working to promote thriving racially and ethnically integrated communities. We believe that integration benefits everyone: by living in community together, we take full advantage of the power inherent in America's rich diversity. At OPEN, we are committed to enabling our nation to break from its past of racial and ethnic separation as an organizing principle of our economy, politics and social circles. We envision a better America, where equality is created and sustained in community through equal access to good schools, housing, and economic opportunity.

Corrections or additions, to Joe Ritacco, jritacco@comcast.net, 732-739-5282, 3 Edgewood Drive, Holmdel, NJ 07733. (version: 11/14/08)