



Interfaith Directory and History Greater Toronto Area



Directory of Current Organizations and Activities

An alphabetical listing of organizations and communities with current interfaith activities in the Greater Toronto Area (Canada).

Please send us any corrections or additions to the descriptions and contact data. Please also send us any additional listings to be included.

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Below, at the end of the Directory, you will also find a separate chronological history of events and groups involved in interfaith activities in the Toronto area over the years.

Anglican Church of Canada: “Canada is an increasingly pluralistic country, and more and more Canadians are living, working, and socializing side by side with people of other religious traditions. For Christians, there is a growing need not just for dialogue with people of other faiths, but for genuine relationships with them. Increased awareness of religious plurality, the potential role of religion in conflict, and the growing place of religion in public life all present urgent challenges that require greater understanding and cooperation among people of diverse faiths. The Anglican Church of Canada pursues formal dialogue with people of other faiths together with the other member churches of the Canadian Council of Churches.”

www.anglican.ca/faith/interfaith-dialogue/ bmyers@national.anglican.ca

Association of Progressive Muslims Ontario: “APMO & APMCanada are Muslim organizations established to develop connections between all faith groups, cultural organizations, communities, governments, law enforcement agencies and the diplomatic corps. They encourage dialogue and interaction through community outreach programs designed to promote respect, understanding and cultural integration. The goal is to have Islam and Muslims better understood and recognized as contributing citizens of the mainstream society who are helping to make Canada a safer and more secure environment to live, work and raise a family.” Programs include a Canada Day dinner, Taste of Asia, and Queen’s Park Eid luncheon. www.progressivemuslims.ca mobeen.khaja@videotron.ca

Brama Kumaris World Spiritual Organization: “We are a gathering of people from many parts Of the world, from many religious backgrounds, with all kinds of talents and qualities forming a family, a student body and a gathering of inwardly directed individuals who care about people and who are intensely interested in cultivating our connection with the Divine.” Participation in many

interfaith events www.brahmakumaris.org/canada Toronto@ca.brahmakumaris.org
www.facebook.com/BrahmaKumarisToronto

Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims (CAJM): “Our purpose is to bring members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in Canada closer together, to promote positive interaction, and to work together to counter problems faced by both communities. Our objectives are to learn, understand and jointly work together, in order to promote harmony between Canadian Muslims and Jews. We also discuss a broad spectrum of world issues which may impact our two groups in Canada.” <http://cajmcanada.org> shahid@cajmcanada.org

Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion – (formerly Canadian Council of Christians and Jews): “Extensive youth leadership training developed to tackle a wide range of issues related to diversity and inclusion, bias and discrimination in high schools. Temporarily ceased operations, 2013. As of January 1st, 2015, the Canadian Institute of Diversity and Inclusion (CIDI) has officially merged with the Canadian Centre for Diversity (CCD), becoming one sole organization, The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI). With this merger, the CCDI will now be comprised of two main focuses; promoting diversity & inclusion within place of work and places of learning. To address diversity & inclusion among our Canadian youth, the CCDI has launched the *See Different Movement*, comprised of a national survey, a national campaign and in-school programming.” www.seedifferent.ca mail@ccdi.ca

Canadian Council of Imams: “Been accepted as full member of the Inter-Faith Committee of Federal and Provincial Governments as well as Municipal one to provide Chaplaincy services in Correctional facilities and Hospitals.” Participates in many interfaith activities.
www.canadiancouncilofimams.com info@canadiancouncilofimams.com

Canadian Interfaith Conversation: “Gathers faith community representatives who believe that people of faith can contribute positively to the benefit of all people in Canadian society. The practice of religion and its impact on the identities of Canadians is an enduring feature of this country. We advocate for religion in a pluralistic society and in Canadian public life, believing that conversation is essential to doing so effectively.” Deep dialogue blog.
www.interfaithconversation.ca info@interfaithconversations.ca

Canadian Multifaith Federation (formerly Ontario Multifaith Council): “Committed to effective multifaith cooperation, dialogue, and research to promote the provision of the highest quality of spiritual and religious care, including those in government-operated or funded institutions. Dedicated to working with related agencies and organizations in order to promote timely provision of adequate and appropriate spiritual and religious care for persons in care.”
Chaplaincy, library, annual conference . cmfsrc.ca

Canadian National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee (NMCLC): “Brings together representatives from Muslim and Christian national organizations to discuss areas of sensitivity or conflict and issues of common interest. Meetings are held 4-5 times a year. NMCLC does not take official, representative policy positions and instead encourages participants to facilitate action within their respective organizations in the context of the committee's discussion and conclusions. Past committee projects have included "Families Meeting Families," which

encouraged pairs of Muslim and Christian families to build relationships through social engagement, and Recognition Dinners, which honor individuals who have significantly contributed to Muslim-Christian dialogue.”

http://interreligion.mafr.net/paliers_dialogue_national.html josephine.lombardi@utoronto.ca

Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA): “Was created in 2011 through the Amalgamation of the Canada-Israel Committee and Canadian Jewish Congress. The advocacy agent of the Jewish Federations of Canada. CIJA is a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of Jewish life in Canada by advancing the public policy interests of Canada’s vital and varied Jewish community. By building and nurturing relationships with target audiences in government, media, academia, and interfaith and ethnic communities, CIJA ensures greater understanding of the issues that impact the Jewish community. The Canadian Jewish Congress was involved in the Canadian Interfaith Conference in the early days. Represents the Jewish community in local interfaith dialogues and at national tables. “

www.cija.ca smcdonald@cija.ca

Centre for Spirituality at Work: “A network of about 800 people, based in Toronto, Canada, it includes those who are self-employed, in small to-large companies & organizations, volunteers and unemployed - locally, regionally & around the world. Our focus is on: growing our spiritual understanding, experience and connection, drawing on a deeper wisdom within/around us, finding practical ways to create real results in our work, and helping others to do the same. Has sponsored major conferences. Now focuses on monthly newsletters, online and in-person meetings, and promoting the work & programs of its members.”

www.spiritualityatwork.org info@spiritualityatwork.org

Bulletin board: <http://forum.spiritualityatwork.org>

Christian-Jewish Dialogue: “Religious diversity has become a permanent feature of the Canadian landscape, with the highest concentrations of ethnic variety in the Greater Toronto Area. This represents both an opportunity for social harmony and the potential for multi-faith enrichment. While wanting to preserve the unique relationship in dialogue between Christians and Jews, the Board of the CJDT also fosters dialogue with other religious communities.” Annual and topical events, dialogues, awards, programs and conferences.

www.cjdt.org info@cjdt.org

Danforth Interfaith Community: “Join us on a unique journey as we walk together annually From mosque to church to synagogue and welcome each other in our spiritual homes and make a pledge for peace and cooperation.

www.facebook.com/danforthmultifaith eastminster@bellnet.ca

Don Heights Unitarian Congregation: “A resilient, welcoming community of diverse individuals, promoting love, reason and freedom in religion, fostering lifelong spiritual growth and acting for social justice and the environment, freedom in religion, justice in action.” Involved with many interfaith activities, and hosting the monthly Spiritual Dialogue Circle.

www.donheights.ca office@donheights.ca

Durham Multifaith World Religion Day Committee: “Annual celebrations of World Religion

Day on the third Sunday of every January. This is an event that was inaugurated in 1950 and is now celebrated worldwide. Its goal is one of fostering the establishment of interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasizing the common denominators underlying the world's great religions." http://wrdd.org/?page_id=5 wrd.durham@gmail.com

Encounter World Religions Centre (Guelph): "Encounter is an educational center that teaches participants about the people, places, practices and philosophies of the world's religious traditions. The centre combines instructional classes with experiential visits to houses of worship to observe ritual and meet with community leaders. We cover a wide range of religions from the most populous (e.g. Hinduism, Islam) to the lesser known (e.g. Rastafari, Zoroastrianism). More than 70,000 people throughout North America have taken part in our programs.." www.worldreligions.ca encounter@worldreligions.ca

Etobicoke Lakeshore Faith Community Leaders Network: "Gathering in various places of worship, with conversations on shared social concerns in the community, including: shared housing values, protection of rental units, revitalisation of the community, South Detention Centre issues, and participation in Doors Open Toronto." ahharryo@hotmail.ca

Faith House Toronto: "Do you want to live in an intentional community and collective? Are you interested in inter-faith dialogue? Do you want to work on multi-faith projects? Faith House Toronto is a project of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Canada, an ecumenical, progressive and anti-oppressive organization that believes in fostering positive expressions of faith through education, dialogue and activism." faithhousetoronto@scmcanada.org
<http://toronto.craigslist.ca/tor/roo/4843922567.html>

Faith in the City: "A gathering of faith leaders and lay people from various religious traditions along with concerned City Councillors seeking to work together on issues of common social concern, for the betterment of the whole city. As we work together with committed people of various faiths to address social issues and advocate for the health and wholeness of the city, inter-faith dialogue happens as a natural bi-product, but it is not the focus of our efforts. Our goal is to identify and encourage opportunities for people of faith, and their organizations, to work together in service and advocacy around some of the serious social issues we face together in our city. The goal is Inter-faith Action! " Annual conference on social justice and social service at Toronto City Hall Council Chamber. www.faithinthecitytoronto.ca joe.faithinthecity@gmail.com

Faith in the Common Good: "As peoples of differing faiths and cultures, we affirm common values of justice, peace, participation, human rights, ecological inter-relationship, and compassion as cornerstones of a healthy society." *Greening Sacred Spaces* project, Youth Interfaith Network, Fossil Free Faith.
www.greeningsacredspaces.net director@faith-commongood.net
Green Rule Poster www.greeningsacredspaces.net/images/greenrule/greenrule-full.jpg

First Interfaith Out of the Cold Program: "An emergency program that provides homeless persons with a hot meal and a warm, safe place to sleep in churches and other public buildings across Toronto. There are currently 19 Out of the Cold programs operating across the city during the winter months. For many of our guests, the invisibility and dehumanization of homelessness is a

degrading experience. Volunteers play a key role in reducing the physical and emotional risk to those who lack shelter during winter and those who are isolated and under-housed. We offer warm, safe and friendly human contact that for many is even more important than shelter and food.”

www.firstinterfaithoutofthecold.com/

The Focolare Movement: “An international movement of Catholic origin, was born in Italy in 1943. It is present in Toronto since 1969. It offers to Catholics, Christians of other denominations, faithful of other religions and all people of good will a spirituality of communion, a way of life based on mutual love. Living this spirituality supports members and friends of the movement to contribute to building a society where peace and harmony are fostered by fraternal relationships. Members of the movement began in the early 1980’s to be formally involved in interfaith organizations in the Greater Toronto Area and across Canada.”

www.focolare.org feidoone369@gmail.com

Fossil Free Faith: is a multi-faith consortium made up of passionate volunteers from around Canada supporting and engaging one another and our faith institutions about climate justice, fossil fuel divestment / reinvestment, and the role of bold faith in strengthening our shared future. Fossil Free Faith aims to be a source of support and resources for Canadian faith communities and their members who are committed to or considering climate action, especially around fossil fuel divestment and clean energy reinvestment.

www.fossilfreefaith.ca, christine@fossilfreefaith.ca

Greater Toronto Area Annual Interfaith Community Retreat: “Be with people of all faiths committed to the Golden Rule. Be with people who work towards a world of peace, justice and harmony. Music, reflection, sharing, song, laughter, dialogue, discovery. And the beautiful gardens of Eaglescroft Bed and Breakfast. Potluck meal. panajotoff9@gmail.com

Hamilton Interfaith Group: Provides education about various faith communities and encourages dialogue among those communities in our city. Open to new members of any faith. In 2012, the HIG changed its name to the Hamilton Interfaith Peace Group when it amalgamated with another west Hamilton interfaith group. We hold monthly meetings and organize one or two public events each year. Contact person (current chair): Dr. Anne M Pearson pearsonam@sympatico.ca

Heart to Heart: “Brings a group of twenty Israeli teenagers to Canada every summer. Half of these participants identify as Palestinian Israeli and half as Jewish Israeli. Upon arriving in Canada, the group spends two and a half weeks living together at Camp Shomria, an overnight summer camp near Ottawa. Daily activities include team-building workshops, camping trips, and facilitated dialogue about the narratives, politics, and power dynamics that participants face in their daily lives at home in Israel. The group also visits Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and spends four days living with Canadian host families while touring Toronto. Heart to Heart is intent on building a generation of leaders who will recognize the importance of creating a truly just and shared society and possess the skills they need to make it a reality. The Heart to Heart team also works throughout the year with youth and adult audiences in the GTA to facilitate dialogue sessions and interactive workshops based on the methods used with its youth participants.” www.heart-to-heart.ca heart2heart@campshomria.ca www.facebook.com/HeartToHeartCampShomria

Hindu-Roman Catholic Dialogue of Canada: “The Catholic-Hindu dialogue is the 11th official dialogue co-sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. In addition to the ecumenical dialogues between Christian churches, the CCCB is involved in interfaith dialogue with Muslims, Jews and now Hindus.” Semi-annual meetings. k.ferguson@cccb.ca
www.catholicregister.org/item/15823-catholic-hindu-dialogue-opens

Horizon Interfaith Council: “We are a non-profit, democratic organization of representatives from many religions and faith groups across the GTA. Our main purpose is to produce and air TV programs of our members' faiths and interfaith topics on Rogers Community Television. ... We encourage and co-ordinate the use of communication media by religions in the GTA on Rogers Cable. We aim to present the beliefs and traditions of our diverse religious community: to emphasize life values as addressed by religious beliefs; and promote harmony and understanding of our multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-racial community in our interfaith programs.” Annual Potluck Banquet and an annual Horizon Interfaith Concert.
<http://horizon-interfaith.com> exec@horizon-interfaith.com

Inspirit Foundation: (Funded from the sale of Vision TV.) “We are a national, grant-making organization that supports young people (aged 18 to 30) in building a more inclusive and pluralist Canada. One way we do this is by funding projects that foster engagement and exchange between young people of different spiritual, religious and secular backgrounds. We support, convene and champion powerful ideas — media products & platforms, activities, programs & events, research projects & publications — that foster learning, inclusion and collaboration.”
www.inspiritfoundation.org info@inspiritfoundation.org

Institute of Traditional Medicine (ITM): “Began interfaith projects in 2004 with 'The Prayer Festival' which brought together representatives from many faith and spiritual traditions who shared their teachings and ceremonies and invited community members to participate with them. ITM is a unique educational institution in the heart of North America’s most multicultural city. We are committed to the integration of the world’s traditional medicines and wisdom traditions with conventional and modern healthcare approaches. In addition to educational programs and community clinics, ITM plans and hosts interfaith events and provides a forum for spiritual leaders and healers to share with the larger community.” www.itmworld.org info@itmworld.org

Inter-Church And Inter-Faith Team of the United Church of Canada, Toronto Southeast Presbytery : “The purpose of the Inter-church and Inter-faith Team is to provide a link between Presbytery and Conference and/or General Council Units and a resource to Congregations in dealing with activities and issues between the United Church of Canada and other Christian and Faith groups.” cynthiascott@rogers.com

Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI): “A non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote respect and mutual understanding among all cultures and faiths through partnership with other communities, cultural, religious and interreligious organizations by organizing educational and cultural activities such as seminars, conferences, discussion panels, luncheons, interfaith family dinners and cultural exchange trips. Frequent interfaith events, annual major dinner, home visits, Noah’s pudding. Youth art and essay contests, and University Chapters.”
<http://toronto.interculturaldialog.com/> www.facebook.com/IDIToronto gta@idialogue.ca

Interfaith Council of Halton: Created September 12, 2001, day after the tragic events of 9/11.

Discuss spiritual and educational issues of the community.

Stephen Wise rabbi.wise@sbe.ca

Interfaith Council of Peel (ICP): (Formerly known as the 905 Area Faith Community Leaders.)

“To build an inclusive community, becoming a community of spiritual neighbours in the Region of Peel, where people of all faiths co-operate based on the shared values of peace, compassion, social justice, equity and service. ... The Interfaith Council of Peel has a mission: a) To build an inclusive and co-operative interfaith community in the Region of Peel by openly and respectfully exchanging information regarding core values and developments in each faith community, and defining the values we share as a community of faith communities; b) Through dialogue and initiatives, to advocate, establish and promote common ground for people of all faiths in Peel Region to engage in common works that embody our shared values; c) To partner with public, not-for-profit or other community service providers in projects consistent with our shared values aimed at enhancing, among others, service delivery models of care for families, children, youth, seniors and newcomers in Peel Region.”

ZZG-BuildingHealthyCommunities@peelregion.ca d.mcbey@utoronto.ca

Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC): “A provincial network of faith groups working together for greater social justice. ISARC was born out of the hope that together a coalition of faith groups could contribute to new public policies based upon greater justice and dignity for Ontarians marginalised by poverty. Our coalition brings together representatives and members of faith groups to address public policies on issues of poverty, hunger, and homelessness in Ontario. ISARC meets and works with leaders from all political parties to support and develop legislation that will provide help to those most in need.”

www.isarc.ca coordinator@isarc.ca www.facebook.com/pages/Interfaith-Social-Assistance-Reform-Coalition-ISARC/231558400369833

InterLove Project: “INTERLOVE is a documentary photography and interview series that explores how people with differing faiths or beliefs come together in love and shared respect, through the compassionate lens of award-winning photographer Colin Boyd Shafer and his team. These stories will be on exhibit at Toronto’s Mackenzie House Museum. If you are in an interfaith relationship and live in Ontario register to participate at:

<http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/colin-b-shafer/interlove/> interlove.project@gmail.com
<http://interloveproject.com> <https://www.facebook.com/interloveproject>

International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF): (From the time of the first World Parliament of Religions in Chicago.) “The world’s oldest global inter-religious organization, for more than 100 years the IARF has stood for and worked towards cultural and interfaith understanding, justice, peace and religious freedom. We advocate and practise commitment to the fundamental right of religious freedom, and to understanding and mutual respect among persons of different religious traditions. ... The World Congress of IARF 1975 was held in dynamic Montreal with a theme of ‘Unity in Diversity’ where they created a ‘Manifesto of World Community, Disarmament and Ending Colonialism.’ It was again held in multicultural Vancouver in 1999 at UBC. ... Christine Johnston was V-P of the women’s section IALRW (International Association of

Liberal Religious Women) for 12 years. Toronto's Ellen Campbell has been President of the international body. Present President is a Moslem professor teaching in Indonesia."

<https://iarf.net/> Christine_Johnston@telus.net

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC): "Represents the fulfillment of a long held community vision; celebrating the unique culture, history, and legacy of Japanese Canadians for the benefit of all Canadians. Since 1964, the JCCC has served as a home for the community and a place for Japanese Canadians to share their heritage with the greater population. The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is recognized across Canada as an important and vibrant community institution. The JCCC is committed to building a strong and diverse community by providing a wide range of programming, activities, and special events that promote harmony, friendship and understanding. Open to everyone regardless of race, religion, sex or age, the JCCC brings the world stage to Canada allowing the entire community to experience never before seen performances and special exhibits." Has hosted many interfaith events.

www.jccc.on.ca/en/about/ Sid Ikeda ikeda.consultants@sympatico.ca

Kids for Peace: "International interfaith peace organization. Annually brings children from Israel, and sends them to summer camps. The Canadian hosts are the same composition of age, gender, and faith as those from Israel: four Christians, four Jews, four Muslims children; two boys and two girls in each faith; and all eleven years old." <http://kids4peace.ca> jphjph@web.ca

Metropolitan United Church: "Metropolitan United, the largest church in downtown Toronto, welcomes people of any faith or orientation to join in our Sunday services and our community. Our services offer thought-provoking sermons, outstanding music and a worship experience that is rich and engaging. We have always been a progressive church, very much involved in social issues, and that commitment remains an essential aspect of our faith. ... In 1938 the Rev. Dr. Peter Bryce of Metropolitan led an interfaith march in Toronto in protest of the *Krystallnacht* program against Jews in Germany and Austria." Initiates and hosts many interfaith events. Annual World Interfaith Pride Fair.

www.metunited.org/jmv4 johnjosephm@metunited.org

MOSAIC Interfaith: Programs in various places of worship, annual "From Abraham 3 Faiths" interactive lecture, annual Peace Meal, also Anti-Poverty Initiative starting in 2015.

thisisfran@yahoo.com

Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold Program: "An independent organization that coordinates shelters for the homeless within York Region. Out of the Cold is a coalition of over 50 interfaith communities. Shelters are operated by 12 host communities."

www.miotc.ca www.facebook.com/mosaic.interfaith rsumar@rogers.com

Multifaith Alliance to End Homelessness: "We of different faiths are working together for the common purpose of ending homelessness in the City of Toronto and surrounding areas. With one voice we will persist in asking persons and institutions with the authority and resources, to act decisively in meeting the needs of people for decent affordable housing; in asking persons of goodwill to join their voice to ours in this common cause; and in partnering with others to improve housing conditions for people in need." Advocacy, resources, blog, speakers bureau.

<http://mfateh.ca>

coordinator@mfateh.ca

Multifaith Centre at the University of Toronto: “Accommodates a variety of spiritual and faith-based practices, and encourages interfaith dialogue and spiritual development as part of the learning experience for all students.” Used by many student groups and other organizations, hosted NAIN2013. Religious Diversity Youth Leadership Project, Religious Diversity Dialogue Certificate Training Program. Campus Chaplains Association.

www.multifaith.utoronto.ca

richard.chambers@utoronto.ca

Muslim-Catholic Student Dialogue: “The Muslim-Catholic Student Dialogue, supported by the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto and the Canadian Council of Imams, strives to foster mutual and deeper understandings of the Islamic and Catholic faiths. The dialogue supports uniting and life-giving friendships between Catholic and Muslim students through thought-provoking dialogues on topics related to both faiths and by living out these faiths through social service activities. Past themes have included suffering, violence and marriage.”

www.facebook.com/groups/muslim.catholic.sd

vkwok@archtoronto.org

Neighbourhood Interfaith Group: “Our mandate is to work toward ending bias, bigotry and racism in Toronto. We seek to achieve our mandate by encouraging interfaith dialogue, respect and understanding. Since its founding, the Neighbourhood Interfaith Group has grown and is now comprised of six churches, six synagogues, one Islamic organization and two schools.” Annual speaker event

<http://northtorontointerfaith.ca>

gposner_ca@yahoo.com

Noor Cultural Centre: “Our goal is to become a leading centre for Islamic learning and the celebration of Islamic culture, while respecting the diversity in peoples and religions: to promote the sharing of knowledge and wisdom in a spirit of humility and respect; to foster an appreciation of the diversity and beauty of the cultural heritages in the world of Islam; to provide a place for the community where mind and spirit can find peace and spiritual fulfillment; and to encourage understanding and amity between peoples by these means.” Host to many interfaith programs and welcoming to everything else besides (lectures, courses, cultural and religious events.)

www.noorculturalcentre.ca

info@noorculturalcentre.ca

North American Muslim Foundation (NAMF) Student Essay Competition: “NAMF is Determined to help children afflicted by a harsh and challenging environment to become positive members of society by providing them with growth opportunities and care. NAMF strongly believes in imparting dignity and respect to the underprivileged by providing opportunities for the acquisition of proper education and professional skills. Annual invitation to over 100 multi-faith schools to have students submit essays on issues relevant to Canadian society. “

www.namf.ca/new/speech.html

shaziakhan@namf.ca

Pan Am Buddhist Temple and Museum: “The Pan Am Buddhist Temple and Museum represents the Buddhist community at several major forums including the Parliament of World's Religions, UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, RCMP Commanding Officer's Diversity Council, the Canadian Interfaith

Conversation with the Canada Council of Churches, Rogers Horizon Interfaith Council and Toronto Area Interfaith Council among others.” Zenji Acharya zenji@namaha.ca

Religious Diversity Youth Leadership Project, University of Toronto: “ This project Provides opportunities for young adults across the GTA to cultivate civic responsibility, community engagement and leadership as they dialogue about religious diversity and work against the forces of exclusion and marginalization in the multicultural Canadian context. Programs include seminars, community research workshops, youth leadership training in religious diversity and the placement of youth in community organizations.”
<http://rps.chass.utoronto.ca/rdyl.htm> richard.chambers@utoronto.ca

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto – Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs: “To promote the goals of the Roman Catholic Church in its pursuit of Christian unity and interfaith understanding and cooperation within the Archdiocese through prayer, dialogue and teaching and to represent the Archdiocese in ecumenical and interfaith events.” Fr. Damian MacPherson was the founding President of the Toronto Area Interfaith Council, and has hosted its meetings ever since, and also organized interfaith worship services. dmacpherson@archtoronto.org
[www.archtoronto.org/about-us/departments-\(a-n\)/Ecumenical Interfaith Affairs](http://www.archtoronto.org/about-us/departments-(a-n)/Ecumenical_Interfaith_Affairs)

Ruah - An Eco-Centred Community of Faith: “An inclusive spiritual community, rooted in eco-spirituality, informed by and evolving from our lived experience and the wisdom traditions that inform our imaginations. Committed to nurturing our personal and communal spiritual growth in the context of contemporary spiritual writers such as Thomas Berry, Matthew Fox, Brian Swimme, Joanna Macy, John Seed, Starhawk, and others who are working to develop different ways to understand and act for an Earth in danger. Seeking to celebrate our amazing home on this Earth and in this universe, and to deepen our love and care for Earth and all her creatures through story, ritual, reflection and action. Co-creating a hospitable space in which to journey together as we seek to celebrate creation and live justice in openness to the spirit. It is our desire that our community be a safe and healing place where we listen to Ruah, the breath of God, in silence and in dance, in song and in story, and in community, drawing on the wisdom of many traditions. A visible and active presence of compassion and hope in the world.” All welcome.
<http://www.ruahtoronto.org/> info@ruahtoronto.org

Scarboro Missions Interfaith Department: “Scarboro Missions is a Canadian society of Catholic priests and laity. Motivated by the Spirit, we dedicate ourselves to the person, teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, who said: ‘I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.’ (John 10:10)” “There are many ways to do interfaith dialogue. In our interfaith work, we have attempted to include not just experts, academics and key spiritual leaders of various faiths—we have also worked to include rank-and-file members of the many religions. So ours is very much a grassroots effort. And, in tune with the goals of Scarboro Missions, our interfaith work has also included an emphasis on social justice.” Panels, dialogues, high school retreats, online educational materials, videos, Golden Rule Ambassador Awards.
www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith_dialogue interfaith@scarboromissions.ca
Golden Rule Poster: www.scarboromissions.ca/Golden_rule/poster_order.php

Scarboro Missions World Religions Workshops for High School Students: “Using play,

creativity, the arts, music, media, movement and meditation, these workshops expose high school students to the wisdom, culture and symbols of the world's religions. Each year, 5,000 students from the GTA participate in this day-long program. One of the many goals of these workshops is to engender character education, exposing students to the transformational wisdom of the various religions and to the Golden Rule. This educational model has been adapted for use with various youth and intergenerational audiences in the larger community. Members of the public are welcome to observe." View a video of the workshop:

www.scarboromissions.ca/Golden_rule/animating_gold.php#movie_featuring_youth_kathymurtha83@gmail.com

Scarboro Missions Youth Interfaith Project: "Promoting information-sharing and networking among youth and young adults engaged in interfaith work in the GTA. Youth Interfaith Directory (see below), a Facebook page and efforts to bring young people of various faiths together for dialogue and community service. Promoting collaboration among organizations committed to youth interfaith dialogue." www.facebook.com/scarborointerfaith hectoracero@gmail.com

Shema & Iqra', The Jewish-Muslim Text Project: "A grassroots initiative that brings communities of Muslims and Jews together using classical religious texts as a springboard for dialogue to explore issues of mutual concern, including gender and religious leadership, environmental ethics, and creative expression. Past projects have included:

- When Beruriah Met Aisha, a text-study group for Jewish and Muslim Women
- Seeds, Sprouts and Scriptures, an interfaith planting workshop
- Beyond Calligraphy, a Muslim-Jewish art show, featured in several venues around the GTA."

shari.golberg@gmail.com

Sisters of our Lady of Sion: "We are an international Congregation of vowed women, both contemplative and apostolic, who are rooted in the Scriptures. Whatever our ministry, we keep before the Church the awareness of God's faithful love for the Jewish people and the biblical requirement "to do justice, to love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" Mic - 6:8. We are women set out "To Heal a Fractured World" by building bridges of understanding among Christians, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions; by working for justice, peace and love among the people of the world; and by choosing life, including all creation in all that we do. In the GTA, the Sisters of Sion are engaged in Biblical formation; retreat and spiritual direction; social justice outreach and interfaith work (in particular, Jewish-Christian relations) at Scarboro Missions and in various parishes." www.sistersofsion.net/ www.notredamedesion.org

Sr. Lucy Thorson lucythorson@gmail.com

Soul of the Mother - Seeds of the Spirit: "An Indigenous spiritual community at Six Nations Grand River Territory south of Toronto offering healing to transform the lives of individuals and inspire communities. Kahontakwas Diane Longboat and a team of Spiritual Warriors of Peace conduct ceremonies for the revitalization of First Nations and for the spiritual renewal of those of all faith traditions seeking to understand the essence of spirit. The Natural Laws of Mother Earth and the Spiritual Laws of the Creator are paramount to building a new humanity." Often asked to open interfaith events in the Toronto area.

www.soulofthemother.org

Spiritual Dialogue Circle: “Please join us to listen deeply and learn from others. You are invited to share your experience of aligning your personal inner wisdom with your practices – religious, spiritual or otherwise – in your day-to-day life. Ultimately, our goal is to foster peace within ourselves and, as a result, our world.” Monthly discussion group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpiritualDialogueCircle/> michelle_singh@rogers.com

Sri Chinmoy Centres, Canada: “*The World Humanity Run* actively promotes interfaith events. Coming from different countries and religious backgrounds, the runners have brought the *Peace Torch* to many places of worship, carrying the message that Peace, Love and Harmony begin in the hearts of each one of us. In turn they seek blessings at the diverse religious institutions by participating in the worship and proceedings. The hosts of each institution join the Peace Team in holding and passing around the Torch, which symbolizes the eternal flame of humanity’s inner longing for a world of harmony and peace, and walking or running together to continue this global harmony. The Sri Chinmoy Centre of Toronto has also offered music and songs of universal appeal at multifaith events in the city.” Also offer free meditation classes.

Shivaram Trichur shivaramgi@yahoo.com

www.peacerun.org <http://ca.srichinmoycentre.org/centres/toronto>

Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park & Surrounding Communities Interfaith Dialogue Group:

“To work together to build bridges of understanding, respect and collaboration among diverse faith communities in Thorncliffe Park and surrounding areas. Community dialogues will be organized to enable different faith groups to get to know each other and recognize points of similarity and difference and to provide a forum for the discussion of community issues in the context of diverse religious perspectives. Participants will also be given an opportunity to share their own religious practices, beliefs and community traditions.”

www.thorncliffe.org/interfaith/ interfaith@thorncliffe.org

Toronto Area Interfaith Council (TAIC): “An organization of representatives of faith Communities and groups in the Toronto area. TAIC is dedicated to affirming the importance of ethics, spirituality and faith in daily life and to the promotion of understanding, harmony, respect and acceptance among the faith communities of the Toronto area.” Represents faith groups, organizes discussions and events, sponsors and supports events organized by other groups. Breakfasts with Toronto Mayor or Mayoral Candidates, first one in 2007.

www.torontointerfaithcouncil.ca bob@bri.ca

Ummah United: “A group of university students brings together youth in an active learning experience about religion, philosophy, and spirituality. Workshops, research in efforts to build a bridge of understanding and co-operation between various communities, while providing an educational platform for people to share and discuss faith-related topics. In 2014, Ummah United organized an inter-faith conference that examined the beliefs and practices common to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.” <http://ummahunited.co> sidra.786@hotmail.com

United Church of Canada: “The United Church participates in interfaith dialogue and action through local, national, and global organizations. Significant resources, including group study guides, are available on whole world ecumenism, United Church-Jewish relations, United Church-Muslim relations, United Church-Hindu relations. ... Since 1936 the United Church has been

committed to living respectfully with people of different religions. ... In various documents members of the United Church are urged to join with neighbours of different faiths to seek justice and resist evil for the sake of mending the world.”

www.united-church.ca/partners/relations/interfaith gallan@united-church.ca

Universal Oneness Spiritual Center: “We nurture our unique paths through life by teaching one another and celebrating the common roots of human spirituality. We welcome people of all faiths, and those with no faith to participate in special events that honour the beliefs of each individual. We seek to share wisdom, create harmony, enhance understanding and foster love, which is the universal oneness of all life. Our goal is to break down the barriers that have created religious intolerance by demonstrating that we all follow the same spiritual paths. While the words and names may be different, the beliefs are amazingly similar. The series of presentations and services in the upcoming year will explore the common underlying themes, central in so many of the world’s spiritual systems.” www.uoufc.org

Universal Worship Service: “Celebration – Reflection – Devotion. These words reflect the essence of the Universal Worship Service. We light candles for the world's religions to celebrate their greatness and their attempts to remove darkness from daily life. We read from the holy books of each religion and sing their sacred music, bringing devotion into our hearts and into the Service. We continue this devotional spirit by reciting prayers to God and all the Prophets. We have an opportunity to be silent, to allow the blessings created by the service to penetrate our beings, and to reflect on the message created during the Service. “ Monthly service. Annual Festival of Lights service in December, presented by members of many faith groups.

www.soitoronto.org/concentrations/universal_worship uw@soitoronto.org

University of Toronto Campus Chaplains Association: “We are a multi-faith organization reflecting the multi-ethnic/multi-faith complexion of the University of Toronto. We help make the connections between an intellectual understanding of spirituality and living the reality of faith. We are there at critical moments to facilitate rites of passage – weddings, funerals, memorial services. We offer spiritual support from a holistic perspective. ... We are committed to helping people (students, staff and faculty) grow to wholeness through a search for meaning in life, an exploration of spiritualities and an examination of moral and ethical issues.”

Directory at : www.multifaith.utoronto.ca/Campus-Chaplains-Association.htm#A
richard.chambers@utoronto.ca

University of Toronto Religious Diversity Youth Leadership Project, University of Toronto:

“ This project provides opportunities for young adults across the GTA to cultivate civic responsibility, community engagement and leadership as they dialogue about religious diversity and work against the forces of exclusion and marginalization in the multicultural Canadian context. Programs include seminars, community research workshops, youth leadership training in religious diversity and the placement of youth in community organizations.”

<http://rps.chass.utoronto.ca/rdyl.htm> richard.chambers@utoronto.ca

Vedanta Society of Toronto: “The Ramakrishna Order, one of the largest and most respected

religious orders in India today was inspired by the great Bengali saint, Sri Ramakrishna. His foremost disciple, Swami Vivekananda [who electrified the first World Parliament of Religious in 1893] founded the Ramakrishna Order in 1897.” Frequent interfaith events.

<http://newsite.vedantatoronto.ca/aboutus.shtml> society@vedantatoronto.ca

Vedic Cultural Centre, Arya Samaj Markham: “The primary object of the Arya Samaj is to do good to the whole world i.e. to promote physical, spiritual and social progress of all humans.” Has held many events with interfaith leaders from many faiths.

www.vedicculturalcentre.com amarerry@gmail.com

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary: “Our students discover the best of all worlds -- the close-knit social community of a small college, the rich diversity of a dynamic city, and all the amenities of a world-class university. Our ecumenical, multifaith and inclusive practice creates a diverse and vibrant community.” Interfaith dialogue, semiannual Abrahamic Faiths service and forum.

<http://legacy.wlu.ca/seminary> bbalmer@wlu.ca

World Association for Christian Communication (WACC): “An international ecumenical non-governmental organization, moved its general secretariat to Toronto in part for its diversity, multiculturalism, and interfaith context. WACC has three global networks with which it interacts. Its members come from over 120 countries throughout the world, representing different cultural backgrounds and faith traditions. Its project partners work at the local as well as national levels to implement communication initiatives aimed at advancing social justice, gender equality, and interfaith dialogue among disempowered and marginalized peoples and communities. Strengthening interfaith dialogue remains a key concern of WACC in finding common ground for recognizing and building on those rights that enable people to express themselves individually and collectively by all means of communication.”

www.waccglobal.org/ pl@waccglobal.org

World Interfaith Harmony Week: “We are committed to creating a world characterized by peace, social justice and a sustainable environment by cooperating with efforts around the world to bring about interfaith cooperation and intercultural dialogue. Mission: To create and widen awareness of World Interfaith Harmony Week within the GTA, and to help plan, conceptualize, facilitate and coordinate its events.” Interfaith activities throughout first week of February every year. The eight 2015 Toronto activities won third prize out of over 90 submissions globally, sponsoring two of the Steering Committee members to the award ceremony in Jordan.

www.interfaithtoronto.ca/index.html iaccountant@sympatico.ca

World Religions Conference (WRC): “This annual conference is organized in Guelph, Ontario by the *Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada* with the cooperation of several cities, academic institutions, faith based associations, student clubs and numerous other organizations. The objective of the event is to promote mutual understanding and respect between the followers of various faiths. Scholars of various religions express the beauties of their respective faiths, in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere of love and brotherhood. Faith groups present spiritual poems and songs.”

www.youtube.com/user/WorldReligionsConf (View 4.5 hours of the 2014 Conference.)

khalidd6@gmail.com

Youth and Interfaith Dialogue - A Directory of Organizations: “ This compilation of

Organizations – all of them currently engaged in youth and interfaith work in the Greater Toronto Area – was created as a networking tool to facilitate and empower communication between local interfaith initiatives. In addition to the main directory, you will find educational resources, potential global partners, and other useful information. Through this document, and through ongoing field research, we hope to reach out to initiatives we have not yet encountered. This directory is an effort of Scarboro Missions Interfaith Department. Through this youth listing we hope to contribute to the creation of a sustainable network, fostering interreligious collaboration amongst youth in our city and around the world.” hectoracero@gmail.com

www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith_dialogue/interfaith_directory.php



Sponsored by the Toronto Area Interfaith Council (TAIC)

Updated July, 2016 (74 Directory, 83 History,)

Contact Leslie Gabriel Mezei leslie@barberry.ca 416-226-9872

This two part Directory of Groups (above) and History (below) is now available online, thanks to the Scarboro Missions:

www.scarboromissions.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Toronto-Interfaith-History-and-Directory.pdf?v=3e8d115eb4b3

Below: Please see the Interfaith History in chronological order



Interfaith Directory and History Greater Toronto Area



History of Interfaith Organizations and Activities

*The following chronology charts the history of interfaith activity in the Greater Toronto Area (Canada). It includes a listing of events, organizations and communities, with an indication when each began interfaith activities. **Please send us any corrections. Also please send us any additional listings to be included.***

Leslie Gabriel Mezei leslie@barberry.ca 416-689-9872

Above, you will also find an alphabetic directory of groups currently involved in interfaith activities in the Toronto Area. And at the very end, you will see where these two lists can be accessed online.

1893 **International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF):** (From the time of the first World Parliament of Religions in Chicago.) “The world’s oldest global inter-religious organization, for more than 100 years the IARF has stood for and worked towards cultural and interfaith understanding, justice, peace and religious freedom. We advocate and practise commitment to the fundamental right of religious freedom, and to understanding and mutual respect among persons of different religious traditions. ... The World Congress of IARF 1975 was held in dynamic Montreal with a theme of ‘Unity in Diversity’ where they created a ‘Manifesto of World Community, Disarmament and Ending Colonialism.’ It was again held in multicultural Vancouver in 1999 at UBC. ... Christine Johnston was V-P of the women's section IALRW (International Association of Liberal Religious Women) for 12 years. Toronto’s Ellen Campbell has been President of the international body. Present President is a Moslem professor teaching in Indonesia.”

<https://iarf.net/> Christine_Johnston@telus.net

1919 **Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA):** “Was created in 2011 through the Amalgamation of the Canada-Israel Committee and Canadian Jewish Congress. The advocacy agent of the Jewish Federations of Canada. CIJA is a national, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of Jewish life in Canada by advancing the public policy interests of Canada’s vital and varied Jewish community. By building and nurturing relationships with target audiences in government, media, academia, and interfaith and ethnic communities, CIJA ensures greater understanding of the issues that impact the Jewish community. The Canadian Jewish Congress was involved in the Canadian Interfaith Conference in the early days. Represents the Jewish community in local interfaith dialogues and at national tables. “ www.cija.ca smcdonald@cija.ca

1938 **Metropolitan United Church:** “Metropolitan United, the largest church in downtown Toronto,

welcomes people of any faith or orientation to join in our Sunday services and our community. Our services offer thought-provoking sermons, outstanding music and a worship experience that is rich and engaging. We have always been a progressive church, very much involved in social issues, and that commitment remains an essential aspect of our faith. ... In 1938 the Rev. Dr. Peter Bryce of Metropolitan led an interfaith march in Toronto in protest of the *Krystallnacht* program against Jews in Germany and Austria.” Initiates and hosts many interfaith events. Annual World Interfaith Pride Fair.

www.metunited.org/jmv4 johnjosephm@metunited.org

1940s **Canadian Multifaith Federation (formerly Ontario Multifaith Council):** “Committed to effective multifaith cooperation, dialogue, and research to promote the provision of the highest quality of spiritual and religious care, including those in government-operated or funded institutions. Dedicated to working with related agencies and organizations in order to promote timely provision of adequate and appropriate spiritual and religious care for persons in care.” Chaplaincy, library, annual conference . cmfsrc.ca

1954 **Don Heights Unitarian Congregation:** “A resilient, welcoming community of diverse individuals, promoting love, reason and freedom in religion, fostering lifelong spiritual growth and acting for social justice and the environment. Freedom in religion; justice in action.” Involved with many interfaith activities, and hosting the monthly Spiritual Dialogue Circle. All welcome.

www.donheights.ca office@donheights.ca

1964 **Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC):** “Represents the fulfillment of a long held community vision; celebrating the unique culture, history, and legacy of Japanese Canadians for the benefit of all Canadians. Since 1964, the JCCC has served as a home for the community and a place for Japanese Canadians to share their heritage with the greater population. The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is recognized across Canada as an important and vibrant community institution. The JCCC is committed to building a strong and diverse community by providing a wide range of programming, activities, and special events that promote harmony, friendship and understanding Open to everyone regardless of race, religion, sex or age, the JCCC brings the world stage to Canada allowing the entire community to experience never before seen performances and special exhibits.” Has hosted many interfaith events.

www.jccc.on.ca/en/about/ Sid Ikeda ikeda.consultants@sympatico.ca

1964 **Sisters of our Lady of Sion:** “We are an international Congregation of vowed women, both contemplative and apostolic, who are rooted in the Scriptures. Whatever our ministry, we keep before the Church the awareness of God's faithful love for the Jewish people and the biblical requirement "to do justice, to love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" Mic - 6:8. We are women set out "To Heal a Fractured World" by building bridges of understanding among Christians, Jews, Muslims and all faith traditions; by working for justice, peace and love among the people of the world; and by choosing life, including all creation in all that we do. In the GTA, the Sisters of Sion are engaged in Biblical formation; retreat and spiritual direction; social justice outreach and interfaith work (in particular, Jewish-Christian relations) at Scarboro Missions and in various parishes.” www.sistersofsion.net/ www.notredamedesion.org

Sr. Lucy Thorson lucythorson@gmail.com

- 1968 **Vedanta Society of Toronto:** “The Ramakrishna Order, one of the largest and most respected religious orders in India today was inspired by the great Bengali saint, Sri Ramakrishna. His foremost disciple, Swami Vivekananda [who electrified the first World Parliament of Religious in 1893] founded the Ramakrishna Order in 1897.” Frequent interfaith events.
<http://newsite.vedantatoronto.ca/aboutus.shtml> society@vedantatoronto.ca
- 1975 **United Church of Canada:** “The United Church participates in interfaith dialogue and action through local, national, and global organizations. Significant resources, including group study guides, are available on whole world ecumenism, United Church-Jewish relations, United Church-Muslim relations, United Church-Hindu relations. ... Since 1936 the United Church has been committed to living respectfully with people of different religions. ... In various documents members of the United Church are urged to join with neighbours of different faiths to seek justice and resist evil for the sake of mending the world.”
www.united-church.ca/partners/relations/interfaith gallan@united-church.ca
- 1976 **Christian-Jewish Dialogue:** “Religious diversity has become a permanent feature of the Canadian landscape, with the highest concentrations of ethnic variety in the Greater Toronto Area. This represents both an opportunity for social harmony and the potential for multi-faith enrichment. While wanting to preserve the unique relationship in dialogue between Christians and Jews, the Board of the CJDT also fosters dialogue with other religious communities.”
Annual and topical events, dialogues, awards, programs and conferences.
www.cjdt.org info@cjdt.org
- 1978 **Horizon Interfaith Council:** “We are a non-profit, democratic organization of representatives from many religions and faith groups across the GTA. Our main purpose is to produce and air TV programs of our members' faiths and interfaith topics on Rogers Community Television. ... We encourage and co-ordinate the use of communication media by religions in the GTA on Rogers Cable. We aim to present the beliefs and traditions of our diverse religious community: to emphasize life values as addressed by religious beliefs; and promote harmony and understanding of our multi-cultural, multi-faith and multi-racial community in our interfaith programs.” Annual Potluck Banquet and an annual Horizon Interfaith Concert.
<http://horizon-interfaith.com> exec@horizon-interfaith.com
- 1978 **Religions for Peace:** (Previously World Conference on Religion and Peace - WCRP) “The world’s religious communities cooperate effectively for peace. Since its founding in 1970, *Religions for Peace* has been guided by the vision of a world in which religious communities cooperate effectively for peace, by taking concrete common action. *Religions for Peace* is committed to leading efforts to advance effective multi-religious cooperation for peace on global, regional, national and local levels while ensuring that the religious communities organized on these same levels assume and exercise appropriate leadership and ownership of these efforts. “ In Toronto it spawned *Faith and the Common Good*, persuaded the Ontario government to recognize a multifaith chaplaincy that includes native elders and developed a peace-bus to introduce non-native teens to native teens across Canada.
www.religionsforpeace.org Fredelle Brief fbrief@gmail.com
- 1980 **MOSAIC Interfaith:** Programs in various places of worship, annual “From Abraham 3 Faiths”

interactive lecture, annual Peace Meal, also Anti-Poverty Initiative starting in 2015.

thisisfran@yahoo.com

- 1980 **World Religions Conference (WRC):** “This annual conference is organized in Guelph, Ontario by the *Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama`at Canada* with the cooperation of several cities, academic institutions, faith based associations, student clubs and numerous other organizations. The objective of the event is to promote mutual understanding and respect between the followers of various faiths. Scholars of various religions express the beauties of their respective faiths, in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere of love and brotherhood. Faith groups present spiritual poems and songs.” khalidd6@gmail.com
www.youtube.com/user/WorldReligionsConf (View 4.5 hours of the 2014 Conference.)
- 1980 **Focolare Movement:** “An international movement of Catholic origin, was born in Italy in 1943. It is present in Toronto since 1969. It offers to Catholics, Christians of other denominations, faithful of other religions and all people of good will a spirituality of communion, a way of life based on mutual love. Living this spirituality supports members and friends of the movement to contribute to building a society where peace and harmony are fostered by fraternal relationships. Members of the movement began in the early 1980’s to be formally involved in interfaith organizations in the Greater Toronto Area and across Canada.”
www.focolare.org feidoone369@gmail.com
- 1984 **Scarboro Missions Interfaith Department:** “Scarboro Missions is a Canadian society of Catholic priests and laity. Motivated by the Spirit, we dedicate ourselves to the person, teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, who said: ‘I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.’ (John 10:10)” “There are many ways to do interfaith dialogue. In our interfaith work, we have attempted to include not just experts, academics and key spiritual leaders of various faiths—we have also worked to include rank-and-file members of the many religions. So ours is very much a grassroots effort. And, in tune with the goals of Scarboro Missions, our interfaith work has also included an emphasis on social justice.” Panels, dialogues, high school retreats, online educational materials, videos, Golden Rule Ambassador Awards.
www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith_dialogue interfaith@scarboromissions.ca
Golden Rule Poster: www.scarboromissions.ca/Golden_rule/poster_order.php
- 1984 **Neighbourhood Interfaith Group:** “Our mandate is to work toward ending bias, bigotry and racism in Toronto. We seek to achieve our mandate by encouraging interfaith dialogue, respect and understanding. Since its founding, the Neighbourhood Interfaith Group has grown and is now comprised of six churches, six synagogues, one Islamic organization and two schools.” Annual speaker event
<http://northtorontointerfaith.ca> gposner_ca@yahoo.com
- 1985 **University of Toronto Campus Chaplains Association:** “We are a multi-faith organization reflecting the multi-ethnic/multi-faith complexion of the University of Toronto. We help make the connections between an intellectual understanding of spirituality and living the reality of faith. We are there at critical moments to facilitate rites of passage – weddings, funerals, memorial services. We offer spiritual support from a holistic perspective. ... We are committed to helping

people (students, staff and faculty) grow to wholeness through a search for meaning in life, an exploration of spiritualities and an examination of moral and ethical issues.”

Directory at : www.multifaith.utoronto.ca/Campus-Chaplains-Association.htm#Arichard.chambers@utoronto.ca

- 1986 **Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition (ISARC):** “A provincial network of faith groups working together for greater social justice. ISARC was born out of the hope that together a coalition of faith groups could contribute to new public policies based upon greater justice and dignity for Ontarians marginalised by poverty. Our coalition brings together representatives and members of faith groups to address public policies on issues of poverty, hunger, and homelessness in Ontario. ISARC meets and works with leaders from all political parties to support and develop legislation that will provide help to those most in need.”
www.isarc.ca coordinator@isarc.ca www.facebook.com/pages/Interfaith-Social-Assistance-Reform-Coalition-ISARC/231558400369833
- 1986 **Anglican Church of Canada:** “Canada is an increasingly pluralistic country, and more and more Canadians are living, working, and socializing side by side with people of other religious traditions. For Christians, there is a growing need not just for dialogue with people of other faiths, but for genuine relationships with them. Increased awareness of religious plurality, the potential role of religion in conflict, and the growing place of religion in public life all present urgent challenges that require greater understanding and cooperation among people of diverse faiths. The Anglican Church of Canada pursues formal dialogue with people of other faiths together with the other member churches of the Canadian Council of Churches.”
www.anglican.ca/faith/interfaith-dialogue/ bmyers@national.anglican.ca
- 1987 **Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto – Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs:** “To promote the goals of the Roman Catholic Church in its pursuit of Christian unity and interfaith understanding and cooperation within the Archdiocese through prayer, dialogue and teaching and to represent the Archdiocese in ecumenical and interfaith events.” Fr. Damian MacPherson was the founding President of the Toronto Area Interfaith Council, and has hosted its meetings ever since, and also organized interfaith worship services. dmacpherson@archtoronto.org
[www.archtoronto.org/about-us/departments-\(a-n\)/Ecumenical Interfaith Affairs](http://www.archtoronto.org/about-us/departments-(a-n)/Ecumenical%20Interfaith%20Affairs)
- 1987 **Brama Kumaris World Spiritual Organization:** “We are a gathering of people from many parts Of the world, from many religious backgrounds, with all kinds of talents and qualities forming a family, a student body and a gathering of inwardly directed individuals who care about people and who are intensely interested in cultivating our connection with the Divine.” Participation in many interfaith events www.brahmakumaris.org/canada Toronto@ca.brahmakumaris.org
www.facebook.com/BrahmaKumarisToronto
- 1987 **Sri Chinmoy Centres, Canada:** “*The World Humanity Run* actively promotes interfaith events. Coming from different countries and religious backgrounds, the runners have brought the *Peace Torch* to many places of worship, carrying the message that Peace, Love and Harmony begin in the hearts of each one of us. In turn they seek blessings at the diverse religious institutions by participating in the worship and proceedings. The hosts of each institution join the Peace Team in holding and passing around the Torch, which symbolizes the eternal flame of humanity’s inner

longing for a world of harmony and peace, and walking or running together to continue this global harmony. The Sri Chinmoy Centre of Toronto has also offered music and songs of universal appeal at multifaith events in the city.” Also offer free meditation classes.

[Shivaram Trichur shivaramgi@yahoo.com](mailto:shivaramgi@yahoo.com)

www.peacerun.org <http://ca.srichinmoycentre.org/centres/toronto>

- 1988 **Vision Television:** The first multifaith national TV network in the world, went on the air in 1988, based in Toronto. Broadcast programs from over 70 faith group producers from the whole spectrum of eastern and western faiths. Developed a much-copied code of ethics: www.visiontv.ca/about-vision/code-on-ethics . (See below the *Inspirit Foundation* funded by the sale of Vision TV in 2012 to a new management and focus.)
- 1989 **Women’s Interfaith Dialogue:** “A coalition founded of like- minded women who were members of the League for Human Rights of B’nai Brith Canada, The Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, the Sisters of Sion, the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, and several other groups – women who felt that the more we could learn about “the other”, the better chance we had of creating a truly inclusive and accepting society. Signature programs of the Women’s Interfaith Dialogue included annual spring and winter multifaith holiday education programs for teachers, the Women’s Interfaith Seder, a speakers’ series with multifaith panels on timely issues, and the monthly comparative scripture study sessions. Many of us became fast friends over the 12 years of the dialogue group’s formal existence, and we continue to meet and to work together regularly on interfaith and peace initiatives. We continue to meet as core members of the Women’s Intercultural Network, partnering with various women’s groups for the annual International Women’s Day Awards.”
Dr. Karen Mock kmock@sympatico.ca
- 1990 **Canadian Council of Imams:** “Been accepted as full member of the Inter-Faith Committee of Federal and Provincial Governments as well as Municipal one to provide Chaplaincy services in Correctional facilities and Hospitals.” Participates in many interfaith activities.
www.canadiancouncilofimams.com info@canadiancouncilofimams.com
- 1994 **Soul of the Mother - Seeds of the Spirit:** “An Indigenous spiritual community at Six Nations Grand River Territory south of Toronto offering healing to transform the lives of individuals and inspire communities. Kahontakwas Diane Longboat and a team of Spiritual Warriors of Peace conduct ceremonies for the revitalization of First Nations and for the spiritual renewal of those of all faith traditions seeking to understand the essence of spirit. The Natural Laws of Mother Earth and the Spiritual Laws of the Creator are paramount to building a new humanity.” Often asked to open interfaith events in the Toronto area.
www.soulofthemother.org
- 1994 **Hamilton Interfaith Group:** Provides education about various faith communities and encourages dialogue among those communities in our city. Open to new members of any faith. In 2012, the HIG changed its name to the Hamilton Interfaith Peace Group when it amalgamated with another west Hamilton interfaith group. We hold monthly meetings and organize one or two public events each year. Contact person (current chair): Dr. Anne M Pearson pearsonam@sympatico.ca

- 1995 **Universal Worship Service:** “Celebration – Reflection – Devotion. These words reflect the essence of the Universal Worship Service. We light candles for the world's religions to celebrate their greatness and their attempts to remove darkness from daily life. We read from the holy books of each religion and sing their sacred music, bringing devotion into our hearts and into the Service. We continue this devotional spirit by reciting prayers to God and all the Prophets. We have an opportunity to be silent, to allow the blessings created by the service to penetrate our beings, and to reflect on the message created during the Service. “ Monthly service. Annual Festival of Lights service in December, presented by members of many faith groups.
www.soitoronto.org/concentrations/universal_worship uw@soitoronto.org
- 1995 **Interfaith Festival of the Family:** Royal Ontario Museum. One time groundbreaking event.
- 1995 **Canadian National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee (NMCLC):** “Brings together representatives from Muslim and Christian national organizations to discuss areas of sensitivity or conflict and issues of common interest. Meetings are held 4-5 times a year. NMCLC does not take official, representative policy positions and instead encourages participants to facilitate action within their respective organizations in the context of the committee's discussion and conclusions. Past committee projects have included "Families Meeting Families," which encouraged pairs of Muslim and Christian families to build relationships through social engagement, and Recognition Dinners, which honor individuals who have significantly contributed to Muslim-Christian dialogue.”
http://interreligion.mafr.net/paliers_dialogue_national.html josephine.lombardi@utoronto.ca
- 1995 **Ruah - An Eco-Centred Community of Faith:** “An inclusive spiritual community, rooted in eco-spirituality, informed by and evolving from our lived experience and the wisdom traditions that inform our imaginations. Committed to nurturing our personal and communal spiritual growth in the context of contemporary spiritual writers such as Thomas Berry, Matthew Fox, Brian Swimme, Joanna Macy, John Seed, Starhawk, and others who are working to develop different ways to understand and act for an Earth in danger. Seeking to celebrate our amazing home on this Earth and in this universe, and to deepen our love and care for Earth and all her creatures through story, ritual, reflection and action. Co-creating a hospitable space in which to journey together as we seek to celebrate creation and live justice in openness to the spirit. It is our desire that our community be a safe and healing place where we listen to Ruah, the breath of God, in silence and in dance, in song and in story, and in community, drawing on the wisdom of many traditions. A visible and active presence of compassion and hope in the world.” All welcome.
<http://www.ruahtoronto.org/> info@ruahtoronto.org
- 1996 **World Interfaith Education Association (WIFEA):** Toronto Ended with an Interfaith Literacy Conference
- 1996 **Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims (CAJM):** “Our purpose is to bring members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in Canada closer together, to promote positive interaction, and to work together to counter problems faced by both communities. Our objectives are to learn, understand and jointly work together, in order to promote harmony between Canadian Muslims and Jews. We also discuss a broad spectrum of world issues which may impact our two groups in Canada.” <http://cajmcanada.org> shahid@cajmcanada.org

- 1996 **Encounter World Religions Centre (Guelph):** “Encounter is an educational center that teaches participants about the people, places, practices and philosophies of the world's religious traditions. The centre combines instructional classes with experiential visits to houses of worship to observe ritual and meet with community leaders. We cover a wide range of religions from the most populous (e.g. Hinduism, Islam) to the lesser known (e.g. Rastafari, Zoroastrianism). More than 70,000 people throughout North America have taken part in our programs..”
www.worldreligions.ca encounter@worldreligions.ca
- 1996 **Vedic Cultural Centre, Arya Samaj Markham:** “The primary object of the Arya Samaj is to do good to the whole world i.e. to promote physical, spiritual and social progress of all humans.” Has held many events with interfaith leaders from many faiths.
www.vedicculturalcentre.com amarerry@gmail.com
- 1996 **Universal Oneness Spiritual Center:** “We nurture our unique paths through life by teaching one another and celebrating the common roots of human spirituality. We welcome people of all faiths, and those with no faith to participate in special events that honour the beliefs of each individual. We seek to share wisdom, create harmony, enhance understanding and foster love, which is the universal oneness of all life. Our goal is to break down the barriers that have created religious intolerance by demonstrating that we all follow the same spiritual paths. While the words and names may be different, the beliefs are amazingly similar. The series of presentations and services in the upcoming year will explore the common underlying themes, central in so many of the world's spiritual systems.”
www.uoufc.org
- 1998 **Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold Program:** “An independent organization that coordinates shelters for the homeless within York Region. Out of the Cold is a coalition of over 50 interfaith communities. Shelters are operated by 12 host communities.”
www.miotc.ca www.facebook.com/mosaic.interfaith rsumar@rogers.com
- 1998 **Interfaith Council of Peel (ICP):** (Formerly known as the 905 Area Faith Community Leaders.)
“To build an inclusive community, becoming a community of spiritual neighbours in the Region of Peel, where people of all faiths co-operate based on the shared values of peace, compassion, social justice, equity and service. ... The Interfaith Council of Peel has a mission: a) To build an inclusive and co-operative interfaith community in the Region of Peel by openly and respectfully exchanging information regarding core values and developments in each faith community, and defining the values we share as a community of faith communities; b) Through dialogue and initiatives, to advocate, establish and promote common ground for people of all faiths in Peel Region to engage in common works that embody our shared values; c) To partner with public, not-for-profit or other community service providers in projects consistent with our shared values aimed at enhancing, among others, service delivery models of care for families, children, youth, seniors and newcomers in Peel Region.”
ZZG-BuildingHealthyCommunities@peelregion.ca d.mcbey@utoronto.ca
- 1998 **Association of Progressive Muslims Ontario:** “APMO & APMCanada are Muslim organizations established to develop connections between all faith groups, cultural organizations, communities, governments, law enforcement agencies and the diplomatic corps. They encourage dialogue and interaction through community outreach programs designed to promote respect, understanding and cultural integration. The goal is to have Islam and Muslims better understood and recognized as

contributing citizens of the mainstream society who are helping to make Canada a safer and more secure environment to live, work and raise a family.” Programs include a Canada Day dinner, Taste of Asia, and Queen’s Park Eid luncheon. www.progressivemuslims.ca mobeen.khaja@videotron.ca

- 1999 **Centre for Spirituality at Work:** “A network of about 800 people, based in Toronto, Canada, it Includes those who are self-employed, in small to-large companies & organizations, volunteers and unemployed - locally, regionally & around the world. Our focus is on: growing our spiritual understanding, experience and connection, drawing on a deeper wisdom within/around us, finding practical ways to create real results in our work, and helping others to do the same. Has sponsored major conferences. Now focuses on monthly newsletters, online and in-person meetings, and promoting the work & programs of its members.”
www.spiritualityatwork.org info@spiritualityatwork.org
Bulletin board: <http://forum.spiritualityatwork.org>
- 2000 **Scarboro Missions World Religions Workshops for High School Students:** “Using play, creativity, the arts, music, media, movement and meditation, these workshops expose high school students to the wisdom, culture and symbols of the world’s religions. Each year, 5,000 students from the GTA participate in this day-long program. One of the many goals of these workshops is to engender character education, exposing students to the transformational wisdom of the various religions and to the Golden Rule. This educational model has been adapted for use with various youth and intergenerational audiences in the larger community. Members of the public are welcome to observe.” View a video of the workshop:
www.scarboromissions.ca/Golden_rule/animating_gold.php#movie_featuring_youth_kathymurtha83@gmail.com
- 2000 **Faith in the Common Good:** “As peoples of differing faiths and cultures, we affirm common values of justice, peace, participation, human rights, ecological inter-relationship, and compassion as cornerstones of a healthy society.” Greening Sacred Spaces project, Youth Interfaith Network, Fossil Free Faith.
www.greeningsacredspaces.net director@faith-commongood.net
Green Rule Poster www.greeningsacredspaces.net/images/greenrule/greenrule-full.jpg
- Waterloo Lutheran Seminary:** “Our students discover the best of all worlds -- the close-knit social community of a small college, the rich diversity of a dynamic city, and all the amenities of a world-class university. Our ecumenical, multifaith and inclusive practice creates a diverse and vibrant community.” Interfaith dialogue, semiannual Abrahamic Faiths service and forum.
<http://legacy.wlu.ca/seminary> bbalmer@wlu.ca
- 2001 **Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion** – (formerly Canadian Council of Christians and Jews): “Extensive youth leadership training developed to tackle a wide range of issues related to diversity and inclusion, bias and discrimination in high schools. Temporarily ceased operations, 2013. As of January 1st, 2015, the Canadian Institute of Diversity and Inclusion (CIDI) has officially merged with the Canadian Centre for Diversity (CCD), becoming one sole organization, The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI). With this merger, the CCDI will now be comprised of two main focuses; promoting diversity & inclusion within place of work and places of

learning. To address diversity & inclusion among our Canadian youth, the CCDI has launched the *See Different Movement*, comprised of a national survey, a national campaign and in-school programming.” www.seedifferent.ca mail@ccdi.ca

- 2001 **Interfaith Council of Halton:** Created September 12, 2001, day after the tragic events of 9/11. Discuss spiritual and educational issues of the community rabbi.wise@sbe.ca
- 2001 **Greater Toronto Area Annual Interfaith Community Retreat:** “Be with people of all faiths committed to the Golden Rule. Be with people who work towards a world of peace, justice and harmony. Music, reflection, sharing, song, laughter, dialogue, discovery. And the beautiful gardens of Eaglescroft Bed and Breakfast. Potluck meal. panajotoff9@gmail.com
- 2002 **Major Interfaith meeting held at U of T,** some 70 people:
Identified communication and information as the main need for our area
- 2002 **Interfaith Unity News:** Monthly e-mail to over 1,000 people, till Summer, 2012: Events to come, news, resources, opportunities. www.interfaithunity.ca/
September 2012 to September 2013: TIO in Canada theinterfaithobserver.org/tio-in-canada/
- 2002 **North American Muslim Foundation (NAMF) Student Essay Competition:** “NAMF is Determined o help children afflicted by a harsh and challenging environment to become positive members of society by providing them with growth opportunities and care. NAMF strongly believes in imparting dignity and respect to the underprivileged by providing opportunities for the acquisition of proper education and professional skills. Annual invitation to over 100 multi-faith schools to have students submit essays on issues relevant to Canadian society. “
www.namf.ca/new/speech.html shaziakhan@namf.ca
- 2003 **Noor Cultural Centre:** “Our goal is to become a leading centre for Islamic learning and the celebration of Islamic culture, while respecting the diversity in peoples and religions: to promote the sharing of knowledge and wisdom in a spirit of humility and respect; to foster an appreciation of the diversity and beauty of the cultural heritages in the world of Islam; to provide a place for the community where mind and spirit can find peace and spiritual fulfillment; and to encourage understanding and amity between peoples by these means.” Host to many interfaith programs and welcoming to everything else besides (lectures, courses, cultural and religious events.)
www.noorculturalcentre.ca info@noorculturalcentre.ca
- 2004 **Toronto Area Interfaith Council (TAIC):** “An organization of representatives of faith Communities and groups in the Toronto area. TAIC is dedicated to affirming the importance of ethics, spirituality and faith in daily life and to the promotion of understanding, harmony, respect and acceptance among the faith communities of the Toronto area.” Represents faith groups, organizes discussions and events, sponsors and supports events organized by other groups. Breakfasts with Toronto Mayor or Mayoral Candidates, first one in 2007.
www.torontointerfaithcouncil.ca bob@bri.ca
- 2004 **Institute of Traditional Medicine (ITM):** “Began interfaith projects in 2004 with 'The Prayer Festival' which brought together representatives from many faith and spiritual traditions who shared their teachings and ceremonies and invited community members to participate with them.

ITM is a unique educational institution in the heart of North America's most multicultural city. We are committed to the integration of the world's traditional medicines and wisdom traditions with conventional and modern healthcare approaches. In addition to educational programs and community clinics, ITM plans and hosts interfaith events and provides a forum for spiritual leaders and healers to share with the larger community." www.itmworld.org info@itmworld.org

2004 **Kids for Peace:** "International interfaith peace organization. Annually brings children from Israel, and sends them to summer camps. The Canadian hosts are the same composition of age, gender, and faith as those from Israel: four Christians, four Jews, four Muslims children; two boys and two girls in each faith; and all eleven years old." <http://kids4peace.ca> jphjph@web.ca

2005 **Intercultural Dialogue Institute (IDI):** "A non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote respect and mutual understanding among all cultures and faiths through partnership with other communities, cultural, religious and interreligious organizations by organizing educational and cultural activities such as seminars, conferences, discussion panels, luncheons, interfaith family dinners and cultural exchange trips. Frequent interfaith events, annual major dinner, home visits, Noah's pudding. Youth art and essay contests, and University Chapters." <http://toronto.interculturaldialog.com/> www.facebook.com/IDIToronto gta@idialogue.ca

2006 **World Association for Christian Communication (WACC):** "An international ecumenical non-governmental organization, moved its general secretariat to Toronto in part for its diversity, multiculturalism, and interfaith context. WACC has three global networks with which it interacts. Its members come from over 120 countries throughout the world, representing different cultural backgrounds and faith traditions. Its project partners work at the local as well as national levels to implement communication initiatives aimed at advancing social justice, gender equality, and interfaith dialogue among disempowered and marginalized peoples and communities. Strengthening interfaith dialogue remains a key concern of WACC in finding common ground for recognizing and building on those rights that enable people to express themselves individually and collectively by all means of communication." www.waccglobal.org/ pl@waccglobal.org

2006 **Sacred Journeys Into Silence:** Elders of ten spiritual faiths—with Swami Veda Bharathi—gathered at the Chinmaya Mission Ashram on Canada Day, July 1, organized by Chander Khana of the Himalayan Yoga Meditation Society of Ontario. "Unity occurs when prayer merges into deep silence. In a unique interfaith gathering, elders from various religions performed sacred ceremonies leading into inner silence from within their own traditions. All Faiths share the same unifying essence in their contemplative paths towards stillness and inner peace." Repeated in 2008 and 2014 at the University of Toronto Multifaith Centre, and 2008 in Markham. Each faith took a turn: in ceremony, verbal meditation, prayer or chant, to lead the audience into a brief meditation.

Pictures: www.chinmayatoronto.phanfare.com/2083491

Report: www.interfaithunity.ca/eventreports/sacredjourneys.htm

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfBEj77dMaU

2007 **Multifaith Centre at the University of Toronto:** "Accommodates a variety of spiritual and

faith-based practices, and encourages interfaith dialogue and spiritual development as part of the learning experience for all students.” Used by many student groups and other organizations, hosted NAIN2013. Religious Diversity Youth Leadership Project, Religious Diversity Dialogue Certificate Training Program. Campus Chaplains Association.

www.multifaith.utoronto.ca richard.chambers@utoronto.ca

- 2007 **Durham Multifaith World Religion Day Committee:** “Annual celebrations of World Religion Day on the third Sunday of every January. This is an event that was inaugurated in 1950 and is now celebrated worldwide. Its goal is one of fostering the establishment of interfaith understanding and harmony by emphasizing the common denominators underlying the world’s great religions.” http://wrdd.org/?page_id=5 wrd.durham@gmail.com
- 2007 **Multifaith Alliance to End Homelessness:** “We of different faiths are working together for the common purpose of ending homelessness in the City of Toronto and surrounding areas. With one voice we will persist in asking persons and institutions with the authority and resources, to act decisively in meeting the needs of people for decent affordable housing; in asking persons of goodwill to join their voice to ours in this common cause; and in partnering with others to improve housing conditions for people in need.” Advocacy, resources, blog, speakers bureau.
<http://mfateh.ca> coordinator@mfateh.ca
- 2008 **Canadian Interfaith Conversation:** “Gathers faith community representatives who believe that people of faith can contribute positively to the benefit of all people in Canadian society. The practice of religion and its impact on the identities of Canadians is an enduring feature of this country. We advocate for religion in a pluralistic society and in Canadian public life, believing that conversation is essential to doing so effectively.” Deep dialogue blog.
www.interfaithconversation.ca info@interfaithconversations.ca
- 2009 **Spiritual Dialogue Circle:** “Please join us to listen deeply and learn from others. You are invited to share your experience of aligning your personal inner wisdom with your practices – religious, spiritual or otherwise – in your day-to-day life. Ultimately, our goal is to foster peace within ourselves and, as a result, our world.” Monthly discussion group.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SpiritualDialogueCircle/> michelle_singh@rogers.com
- 2009 **United Church of Canada, Toronto Southeast Presbytery Inter-Church And Inter-Faith Team:** “The purpose of the Inter-church and Inter-faith Team is to provide a link between Presbytery and Conference and/or General Council Units and a resource to Congregations in dealing with activities and issues between the United Church of Canada and other Christian and Faith groups.” cynthiascott@rogers.com
- 2010 **Muslim-Catholic Student Dialogue:** “The Muslim-Catholic Student Dialogue, supported by the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto and the Canadian Council of Imams, strives to foster mutual and deeper understandings of the Islamic and Catholic faiths. The dialogue supports uniting and life-giving friendships between Catholic and Muslim students through thought-provoking dialogues on topics related to both faiths and by living out these faiths through social service activities. Past themes have included suffering, violence and marriage.”
www.facebook.com/groups/muslim.catholic.sd vkwok@archtoronto.org

- 2010 **Danforth Interfaith Community:** “Join us on a unique journey as we walk together annually From mosque to church to synagogue and welcome each other in our spiritual homes and make a pledge for peace and cooperation.
www.facebook.com/danforthmultifaith eastminster@bellnet.ca
- 2011 **Etobicoke Lakeshore Faith Community Leaders Network:** “Gathering in various places of worship, with conversations on shared social concerns in the community, including: shared housing values, protection of rental units, revitalisation of the community, South Detention Centre issues, and participation in Doors Open Toronto.” ahharryo@hotmail.ca
- 2011 **Thorncliffe Park, Flemingdon Park & Surrounding Communities Interfaith Dialogue Group:** “To work together to build bridges of understanding, respect and collaboration among diverse faith communities in Thorncliffe Park and surrounding areas. Community dialogues will be organized to enable different faith groups to get to know each other and recognize points of similarity and difference and to provide a forum for the discussion of community issues in the context of diverse religious perspectives. Participants will also be given an opportunity to share their own religious practices, beliefs and community traditions.”
www.thorncliffe.org/interfaith/ interfaith@thorncliffe.org
- 2011 **Heart to Heart:** “Brings a group of twenty Israeli teenagers to Canada every summer. Half of these participants identify as Palestinian Israeli and half as Jewish Israeli. Upon arriving in Canada, the group spends two and a half weeks living together at Camp Shomria, an overnight summer camp near Ottawa. Daily activities include team-building workshops, camping trips, and facilitated dialogue about the narratives, politics, and power dynamics that participants face in their daily lives at home in Israel. The group also visits Parliament Hill in Ottawa, and spends four days living with Canadian host families while touring Toronto. Heart to Heart is intent on building a generation of leaders who will recognize the importance of creating a truly just and shared society and possess the skills they need to make it a reality. The Heart to Heart team also works throughout the year with youth and adult audiences in the GTA to facilitate dialogue sessions and interactive workshops based on the methods used with its youth participants.” www.heart-to-heart.ca heart2heart@campshomria.ca www.facebook.com/HeartToHeartCampShomria
- 2012 **Inspirit Foundation:** (Funded from the sale of Vision TV.) “We are a national, grant-making organization that supports young people (aged 18 to 30) in building a more inclusive and pluralist Canada. One way we do this is by funding projects that foster engagement and exchange between young people of different spiritual, religious and secular backgrounds. We support, convene and champion powerful ideas — media products & platforms, activities, programs & events, research projects & publications — that foster learning, inclusion and collaboration.”
www.inspiritfoundation.org info@inspiritfoundation.org
- 2012 **Religious Diversity Youth Leadership Project, University of Toronto:** “ This project Provides opportunities for young adults across the GTA to cultivate civic responsibility, community engagement and leadership as they dialogue about religious diversity and work against the forces of exclusion and marginalization in the multicultural Canadian context.

Programs include seminars, community research workshops, youth leadership training in religious diversity and the placement of youth in community organizations.”

<http://rps.chass.utoronto.ca/rdyl.htm> richard.chambers@utoronto.ca

- 2013 **Scarboro Missions Youth Interfaith Project:** “Promoting information-sharing and networking among youth and young adults engaged in interfaith work in the GTA. Youth Interfaith Directory (see below), a Facebook page and efforts to bring young people of various faiths together for dialogue and community service. Promoting collaboration among organizations committed to youth interfaith dialogue.” www.facebook.com/scarborointerfaith hectoracero@gmail.com
- 2013 **Faith in the City:** “A gathering of faith leaders and lay people from various religious traditions along with concerned City Councillors seeking to work together on issues of common social concern, for the betterment of the whole city. As we work together with committed people of various faiths to address social issues and advocate for the health and wholeness of the city, inter-faith dialogue happens as a natural bi-product, but it is not the focus of our efforts. Our goal is to identify and encourage opportunities for people of faith, and their organizations, to work together in service and advocacy around some of the serious social issues we face together in our city. The goal is Inter-faith Action! “ Annual conference on social justice and social service at Toronto City Hall Council Chamber. www.faithinthecitytoronto.ca joe.faithinthecity@gmail.com
- 2013 **World Interfaith Harmony Week:** “We are committed to creating a world characterized by peace, social justice and a sustainable environment by cooperating with efforts around the world to bring about interfaith cooperation and intercultural dialogue. Mission: To create and widen awareness of World Interfaith Harmony Week within the GTA, and to help plan, conceptualize, facilitate and coordinate its events.” Interfaith activities throughout first week of February every year. The eight Toronto 2015 activities won third prize out of over 90 submissions globally, sponsoring two of the Steering Committee members to the award ceremony in Jordan.
www.interfaithtoronto.ca/index.html iaccountant@sympatico.ca
- 2013 **Hindu-Roman Catholic Dialogue of Canada:** “The Catholic-Hindu dialogue is the 11th official dialogue co-sponsored by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. In addition to the ecumenical dialogues between Christian churches, the CCCB is involved in interfaith dialogue with Muslims, Jews and now Hindus.” Semi-annual meetings. k.ferguson@ccc.ca
www.catholicregister.org/item/15823-catholic-hindu-dialogue-opens
- 2013 **First Interfaith Out of the Cold Program:** “An emergency program that provides homeless persons with a hot meal and a warm, safe place to sleep in churches and other public buildings across Toronto. There are currently 19 Out of the Cold programs operating across the city during the winter months. For many of our guests, the invisibility and dehumanization of homelessness is a degrading experience. Volunteers play a key role in reducing the physical and emotional risk to those who lack shelter during winter and those who are isolated and under-housed. We offer warm, safe and friendly human contact that for many is even more important than shelter and food.” www.firstinterfaithoutofthecold.com/
- 2013 **NAINConnect2013: “Diversity is Our Strength”:** Major North American Interfaith Network annual Conference, at University of Toronto Multifaith Centre. www.nain.org

- 2013 **Shema & Iqra', The Jewish-Muslim Text Project:** “A grassroots initiative that brings communities of Muslims and Jews together using classical religious texts as a springboard for dialogue to explore issues of mutual concern, including gender and religious leadership, environmental ethics, and creative expression. Past projects have included:
- When Beruriah Met Aisha, a text-study group for Jewish and Muslim Women
 - Seeds, Sprouts and Scriptures, an interfaith planting workshop
 - Beyond Calligraphy, a Muslim-Jewish art show, featured in several venues around the GTA.”
- shari.golberg@gmail.com
- 2014 **Youth and Interfaith Dialogue - A Directory of Organizations:** “This compilation of Organizations – all of them currently engaged in youth and interfaith work in the Greater Toronto Area – was created as a networking tool to facilitate and empower communication between local interfaith initiatives. In addition to the main directory, you will find educational resources, potential global partners, and other useful information. Through this document, and through ongoing field research, we hope to reach out to initiatives we have not yet encountered. This directory is an effort of Scarboro Missions Interfaith Department. Through this youth listing we hope to contribute to the creation of a sustainable network, fostering interreligious collaboration amongst youth in our city and around the world.” hectoracero@gmail.com
www.scarboromissions.ca/Interfaith_dialogue/interfaith_directory.php
- 2014 **Ummah United:** “A group of university students brings together youth in an active learning experience about religion, philosophy, and spirituality. Workshops, research in efforts to build a bridge of understanding and co-operation between various communities, while providing an educational platform for people to share and discuss faith-related topics. In 2014, Ummah United organized an inter-faith conference that examined the beliefs and practices common to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.” <http://ummahunited.co> sidra.786@hotmail.com
- 2014 **Fossil Free Faith:** is a multi-faith consortium made up of passionate volunteers from around Canada supporting and engaging one another and our faith institutions about climate justice, fossil fuel divestment / reinvestment, and the role of bold faith in strengthening our shared future. Fossil Free Faith aims to be a source of support and resources for Canadian faith communities and their members who are committed to or considering climate action, especially around fossil fuel divestment and clean energy reinvestment.
www.fossilfreefaith.ca, christine@fossilfreefaith.ca
- 2014 **InterLove Project:** “INTERLOVE is a documentary photography and interview series that explores how people with differing faiths or beliefs come together in love and shared respect, through the compassionate lens of award-winning photographer Colin Boyd Shafer and his team. These stories will be on exhibit at Toronto’s Mackenzie House Museum. If you are in an interfaith relationship and live in Ontario register to participate at:
<http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/colin-b-shafer/interlove/> interlove.project@gmail.com
<http://interloveproject.com> <https://www.facebook.com/interloveproject>
- 2015 **Faith House Toronto:** “Do you want to live in an intentional community and collective? Are you

interested in inter-faith dialogue? Do you want to work on multi-faith projects? Faith House Toronto is a project of the Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Canada, an ecumenical, progressive and anti-oppressive organization that believes in fostering positive expressions of faith through education, dialogue and activism.” faithhousetoronto@scmcanada.org
<http://toronto.craigslist.ca/tor/roo/4843922567.html>

- 2015 **Pan Am Buddhist Temple and Museum:** “The Panam and Parapan Am Games held in Toronto was the largest ever American sporting event and the most ambitious ever held in Canada. The Pan Am Multi-Faith Center included chaplains from all major religious denominations of Christianity as well as Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam to cater to athletes from 41 nations. The Pan Am Multi-Faith Center also made history by housing its own landmark Buddhist Temple Museum which the Canadian media dubbed "the biggest attraction at the Pan Am Village" and Sports Canada said "was making an impact on athletes beyond what has ever been experienced at a Games before". As a permanent legacy of the Pan Am Games, the *Pan Am Buddhist Temple and Motivational Center* has become the first house of worship in Canada's financial district and is attracting students from around the world - thus sharing Buddhist prayer and meditational techniques with people from diverse faith backgrounds.”
<http://www.panam.guru/#!/museum/c1i6n> Zenji Acharya zenji@namaha.ca



Sponsored by the Toronto Area Interfaith Council (TAIC)

Updated July, 2016 (74 Directory, 83 History,)

Contact Leslie Gabriel Mezei leslie@barberry.ca 416-226-9872

This two part Directory of Groups (above) and History (below) is now available online, thanks to the Scarboro Missions:

www.scarboromissions.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Toronto-Interfaith-History-and-Directory.pdf?v=3e8d115eb4b3