

National Council of Jewish Women
Bergen County Section
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NCJW HOSTS DISCUSSION ON DIVERSITY IN BERGEN COUNTY

TEANECK – National Council of Jewish Women Bergen County Section is delighted to bring together a distinguished and diverse panel of experts at its May General Meeting to discuss the topic of ***Diversity: Expanding Awareness and Appreciation of Our Unique Bergen County Community***. The program, free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, May 15th, 2018 at 12:30 PM at Temple Emeth, 1666 Windsor Road, Teaneck.

Bergen County is home to a demographically and culturally diverse population. It differs in race, age, political ideology, socio-economic status, language, culture, nationality, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity. According to the 2010 United States census, residents or their ancestors come from African, Spanish-speaking, European and Asian countries, as well as countries that are part of the Arab world. They practice Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism.

Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III will give the keynote address at the event, which will be moderated by State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg. The panel will feature several eminent experts from the Bergen County community.

Esmilda Abreu, PhD, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator at Pratt Institute, established the first LGBTQ Center in a New Jersey public university and is an anti-bullying specialist. She received Governor Whitman's Pride Award for working with diverse populations and is the Board President of the New Jersey Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

John Bang, Esq., a tax appeal attorney, represents several Bergen County municipalities and is a civic engagement activist who serves on numerous Asian-American organizations' boards. He is a Commissioner on the Bergen County Improvement Authority, an assistant scout master and a former elected member on the Fort Lee Board of Education.

Patricia King-Butler, Executive Director of the Sankofa Institute for Higher Achievement, serves as Chair of the Teaneck Enslaved African Memorial Committee. The memorial seeks to commemorate Africans who were enslaved through international slave trade and whose labor and fortitude built much of Bergen County and New Jersey but never received proper recognition.

Imam Mohammed Moutaz Charaf, Elzahra Islamic Center, Midland Park, is active in interfaith dialogues and Friday Jumuah Khateeb (sermon) at various mosques in the tristate area. He is a strong proponent of outreach and engagement through education and community service activities. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Hartford Seminary.

Rabbi Adina Lewittes, founder of Sha'ar Communities, serves on the senior rabbinic team at B'nai Jeshurun in New York City, a congregation recognized for its spiritual and social activism. She is a leading voice in the conversation around intermarriage and multi-faith/multi-heritage Jewish family engagement. She has held innumerable leadership positions in the wider community as a speaker, teacher and writer.

“The discussion will be a priceless opportunity to learn about the rich and diverse county that is our home,” said Bea Podorefsky, NCJW Past President and Chair of the Diversity program committee.

Since its founding in 1893, NCJW’s mission has revolved around quality of life concerns for women, children and families. Today, NCJW advocates tirelessly to protect the civil rights of people of all backgrounds

For more information on NCJW BCS and the May 15 General Meeting, please visit www.ncjwbcs.org or call (201)385-4847.

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

Photo captions:

- Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III will be the keynote speaker at NCJW’s discussion on Diversity in Bergen County.
- State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg will moderate NCJW’s discussion on Diversity in Bergen County.
- Esmilda Abreu, PhD, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator at Pratt Institute, will be a panelist at NCJW’s discussion on Diversity in Bergen County.
- John Bang, Esq., a civic engagement activist who serves on numerous Asian-American organizations’ boards, will be a panelist at NCJW’s discussion on Diversity in Bergen County.
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