
A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

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Photo by Robert Joyce.



*God gave Noah the rainbow sign
No more water, the fire next time.*

A.J. Muste lived by the rainbow sign, sensing the splendor and harmony in what many saw only as conflict and diversity. Growing up as a young man during the cataclysm of the First World War, when all assumptions of the age of reason were shattered, and barbarism seemed more likely a prospect than human perfection, he committed his life to the complex task of linking social justice with loving non-violence. Where others saw "peace" as a noun, A.J. Muste saw it as a verb, a "way." His commitment to the powerless and dispossessed was total. His personal integrity won him a rare universal respect.

The A.J. Muste Memorial Institute was organized to keep alive the spirit of the man whose name it bears, functioning in his area of primary concern—the exploration of the link between non-violence and social change. A.J. Muste always met the challenge of the present in a direct way, and was exhilarated by the potential of the future. The Institute operates in that spirit: it applies its resources to current social, political, and economic problems, in the hope that the storm through which we are now passing will be lighted by the rainbow, not the fire.

PEACE "There is no way to peace—peace is the way" was A.J. Muste's simple statement of his conviction that the road to peace does not run through the territory of war. Today, the use of violence to achieve social change has laid claim to the consciences of many, in both the Church and the secular community. Violence has been sanctified not only by the American government, with its extra-