



AAIC

AKRON AREA
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2022



ANTISEMITISM IN AKRON, IN AMERICA

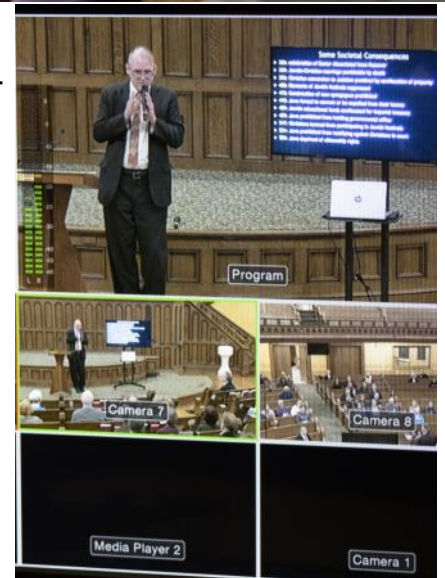
A 3-PART SERIES

The Spiritual Life Committee has hosted two of the three events in our anti-Semitism series. The first was a lecture on the historical phenomenon of anti-Semitism, given by Dr. Chris Seeman at First Congregational Church, on October 27th. The second was a lecture on the present rising tide of anti-Semitism in the United States, given by James Pasch of the Anti-Defamation League, hosted by Temple Israel on November 3rd. Our first evening drew over 60 participants and the second over 75; together, they have drawn over 100 more views on YouTube, where they may be found by typing in Akron Area Interfaith Council. This opportunity in interfaith dialogue will have a third evening, at St. Hillary's Church, on November 17, 7:00 p.m., when a panel of local religious leaders talk about what anyone in Akron can do to support Jewish Akron.

I have been asked whether events like these can ever feel like singing to the choir—the people who come to these events are not the people who need the message most, after all. The answer is yes and no. Sure, I knew some of the people who turned out for those evenings—but, not all. And, certainly, I do not know everyone who watched the events on YouTube. As far as either setting goes, there are always possibilities. For one, there may be people who do not know where they stand on anti-Semitism, or in fact are anti-Semitic, and I hope very much that we reach those people with new ideas for them to think over. There is another group that I do know we reach, either in-person or online, and those are people who have been losing hope because of the headlines. For Jews and their allies, I hope the very fact that conversations like these take place builds hope, offers support. These two outcomes are always there for any program that AAIC offers—there are some who may learn something new and there are some who will take hope. For both these reasons, never give up the effort. Please come to the third event, to the panel discussion. Spread the word to your acquaintances. Through events such as these, AAIC teaches and AAIC builds hope. Come join the program.

-Tom Bodie

For more information go to akroninterfaith.org/





ANTISEMITISM IN AKRON, IN AMERICA

Part 3 - "Strength in Numbers: What Our Interfaith Community Can Do"

November 17 – 7:00 p.m.

St. Hilary's Catholic church 2750 W. Market, Fairlawn

A panel discussion will focus on how all of Akron can stand with our Jewish neighbors to help assuage their fears of facing these trends alone. Local religious leaders will offer their understanding of Akron's needs and resources.

Participating Faith Leaders on the panel are:

Daniel Blain, CEO of the Jewish Community Board of Akron

Pastor Daren Brake, Lead Pastor, House of the Lord, Akron

Dr. Joanne Caniglia, Dominican Sister of Peace, Professor, Kent State University

Rev. Nanette Pitt, Pastor, First Congregation Church, Akron



Daniel Blain- As CEO of the Jewish Community Board of Akron, Daniel leads the Akron Jewish community's efforts to preserve, perpetuate, and enhance Jewish life in Akron. He works to cultivate a culture of collaboration among key stakeholders and serves as the voice of the organized Akron Jewish community, creating and supporting relationships with Summit County organizations and other partners.

Pastor Daren Brake - At The House of the Lord, Daren is the pastor of Local Missions, Christian Education, Comfort care, Prison/reentry, Minister and Deacons ministries, and is under the leadership and Founder and Preaching Pastor Bishop Joey Johnson.



Dr Joanne Caniglia – Joanne is a Dominican Sister of Peace, who is a professor at Kent State University. She currently directs the "Building the Next Generation of Peace Leaders," which gives meaningful opportunities for students to share their words with other young people regarding issues of social justice and healing.

Rev. Nanette Pitt - As a scholar, her work has spanned transnational studies and theology with a strong focus on social justice and gender studies. Born and raised in South Africa, her awareness of oppression came about at a young age. She is a key leader in Akron advocating for racial justice, including the recently passed Issue 10 on police reform



The discussion will be live streamed at bit.ly/akron-aaic-youtube



AKRON AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL PRESENTS A SERIES ON ANTISEMITISM

11/4/22— We apologize for any inconvenience due to our inability to stream the November 3rd presentation live. The problem has been corrected and both sessions can be viewed at bit.ly/akron-aaic-YouTube or on Facebook.com/AAICOH

Dear Friends of the Interfaith Movement:

In January 2022, the Rabbi and several members of a synagogue in Houston, Texas, were taken hostage during sabbath services. Though the hostages were safely released, the incident seems to be the start of an alarming trend with 2022 picking up where 2021 ended, which had the highest annual number of antisemitic incidents ever recorded by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

In 2021, ADL tabulated 2717 antisemitic incidents across the US. That represents a 34% increase above the 2020 numbers, and are the highest on record since the ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979. How does it fit into the historical picture of hate directed at Jews? What can we do, as a multifaith community, to assist our Jewish neighbors right here in Akron?

Those are questions that the Akron Area Interfaith Council aims to take up in a three-part series on anti-Semitism, both nationwide and here in Akron.

Completed: Oct. 27—“We’ve Seen This Before: The Historical Path of Anti-Semitism,” with Dr. Christopher Seeman examined the historical phenomenon of anti-Semitism, so we could see what has always been there and recognize new sources of hate.

Dr. Seeman, Theology Professor and Chair of Humanities at Walsh University in N. Canton. He chairs the Catholic Biblical Association’s Task Force on “Addressing Representations of Jews and Judaism in Catholic Exegesis, Homiletics, and Catechesis,” a project supported by a grant from the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Professor Seeman is a passionate promoter of interfaith dialogue and has been involved in numerous initiatives to eradicate Antisemitism and Islamophobia from North America. His scholarship focuses on Early Judaism and Christianity. (First Congregational Church)

Completed: Nov. 3—“Rising Numbers: Anti-Semitism in America Today,” with Jim Pasch, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) explored factors causing the striking rise in hate crimes directed at Jews, right now, and in our country today.

In 2019 James Pasch became the Cleveland Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League (serving Ohio, Kentucky, W Virginia, and Western Pennsylvania), having previously served on ADL’s Cleveland Regional Board. He is serving in this role during a particularly challenging time with incidents of antisemitism rising unprecedented amount across the region. (Held at Temple Israel)

Thursday November 17, 7:00 p.m.—“*Strength in Numbers: What Our Interfaith Community Can Do,*” will be a panel discussion of how all of Akron can stand with our Jewish neighbors to help assuage their fears of facing these trends alone, to let them know that they are not alone. Local religious leaders will offer their understanding of Akron’s needs and resources.

St. Hilary’s Catholic Church, 2750 W. Market, Fairlawn.

The programs will be livestreamed at bit.ly/akron-aaic-youtube. For more information, contact us at akronaaic@gmail.com. To learn more about us, visit our website akroninterfaith.org/

Sincerely,

Rev Thomas Bodie,
Education Chair



AKRON INTERFAITH
IMMIGRATION ADVOCATES

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

This Christmas you can help those struggling to make a new home in America. Drop these items off at New Covenant Community Church, 1587 W. Exchange St., Akron. The office will be open Monday – Thursday (except Nov. 23 and Thanksgiving Day), from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. December 8th is the last drop off day.

1. Detergent
2. Dish washing soap
3. Hand soap
4. Toilet paper
5. Paper towels
6. Cleaning supplies
7. 2 lb. bags of Black beans or pinto beans
8. 5 lb. bags of Rice
9. Cooking oil
10. \$10 gift cards from Target, Walmart and Dollar General



Akron Area Interfaith Council supports continued efforts to welcome our new families, especially during this holiday season!

Nancy Williams is handling questions or special drop-off arrangements—330.388.0955



*AIIA Christmas Party &
Christmas Collection Distribution
for North Hill Immigrants
December 17*

6:00 p.m.

*Blessed Trinity Church
300 E. Tallmadge Ave., Akron
Attendees are asked to bring
desserts or cookies.*



SOJOURNER TRUTH IS COMING!

There are signs of progress at the future home of the Sojourner Truth Plaza, on North High Street in Akron. Nearly 100 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony, back in August. It's unclear how many were on hand when the former slave, turned activist, gave her "Ain' I a Woman" speech at the former Universalist Old Stone Church during the 1851 Ohio State Convention..

The plaza was designed by Dion Harris for Summit Metro Parks. It will feature a life-sized bronze sculpture of Truth, which is being done by Akron artist Woodrow Nash.

For donations and information contact:

Donations: <https://bit.ly/TruthStatueAkron>

Donations website: Truthstatue.org

Gmail: Truth.2020.Statue@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/Sojournertruthprojectakron

Summit County

GUN BUYBACK AND SAFETY INITIATIVE



ILENE SHAPIRO
EXECUTIVE



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022 - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

AT THE

ARLINGTON CHURCH OF GOD

539 SOUTH ARLINGTON STREET, AKRON

**OPERABLE GUN - \$150 GIFT CARD
INOPERABLE GUN - \$25 GIFT CARD**

Limit 3 guns per person

PLEASE UNLOAD GUNS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL

FREE gun locks and gun safety materials available

GIFT CARDS FOR

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





44th Annual

Bishop Cosgrove Justice Dinner

& "Support Our Local Economy"
Silent Auction



November 18, 2022 • 6:00 pm

Awardees:

The Well Community Development Corporation, Akron - focusing on affordable housing, resident empowerment and neighborhood-based economic development to provide jobs and improvements. Launched a shared-use kitchen as a small business incubator; a Community Tool Library for residents to do maintenance; Restoring Housing project to build 60 affordable new homes in 60 months, which they did in 48 months.

Professor Joann Sahl and the University of Akron School of Law Reentry Clinic - served local citizens returning from jail with employment, housing, and as an inaugural site for the Ohio Governor's Expedited Pardon Project.

Art Krakauer and Bernard Smith, co-leaders of Akron Interfaith Advocates against the Death Penalty - working to abolish the death penalty in Ohio through 3 informational presentations so far.

June Rietz, St. Frances de Sales Parish (posthumous recognition) - taught children with learning disabilities, tutored at South Street Ministries, helped at the Peter Maurin Center, ran a bereavement ministry for 27 years and worked with St. Francis de Sales' pastor to start a parish fund to expand social justice work.

Jim Dotson, Living Water Outreach - helping persons with limited finances with housing repairs/modifications, without compensation.

Ibumba Ohio Friends (c/o Fr. Dismas and Paul Connor) - supporting the Ugandan villagers' community organization providing solar electricity; a clean water project to improve health and eliminate water-borne disease; and a Health Center for health services, eye care and donated eyewear.

Madelyn Haran, senior, Walsh Jesuit HS - participates in Walsh Jesuit Green Team, Fair Trade Club, and Jesuit Refugee Services club, serving as a Labre Leader, the Monday night homeless ministry, and organized Spiritual Sugar with students making baked goods for nursing homes.

The link to watch this year's event will be sent out to registered participants closer to the event.

Please note that this year's event will be held in a new location:

Tangier Catering at Our Lady of the Cedars Banquet Center

[507 S. Cleveland Massillon Rd, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333](#)

Tickets: There are several ticket options available for this year's event. [Click here](#) for ticket options, information about donations for the silent auction, and to purchase a table.

For more information, please contact: Jeff Campbell, Director, Catholic Commission of Summit County, jcampbell@ccdole.org, 330.535.2787 ext. 10

LOVE AKRON PRESENTS:

LOVE AKRON CONNECT



JOIN US FOR LOVE AKRON CONNECT

Join us as we connect with Greater Akron Change Makers
to discuss how they remain
H.O.T. (Humble | Open | Transparent)
in their leadership.



JUSTIN HILTON
President,
Leadership Akron



JEREMY LILE
Executive Director,
Heart to Heart
Leadership

JOIN US **WEDNESDAY**
NOVEMBER 30

IN-PERSON @ Akron Family Restaurant
254 W Market St, Akron, OH 44303

7:00-8:15AM

Hear from our guests and join us
around the table for a time of
networking and prayer.

Register Today!

The
light
remains...

An Evening of Remembrance

of our loved ones who left us too soon.

The Angel Tree Ceremony honors the memory of individuals lost in Summit County because of violent crime. It is sponsored by the Victim Assistance Program of Summit County. Family, friends, and community members are invited to join in person or virtually.

Monday, December 5, 2022

5:30–7:30 p.m.

Akron-Summit County Public Library, 60 S. High Street, Akron

Facebook: facebook.com/victimassistanceprogram

“Good Grief” Grief Recovery Kick-Off Event

Scan to Register:



Love Akron, along with local certified Grief Recovery Specialists, will conduct eighteen (8-week) sessions of the Grief Recovery Method throughout Summit County.

Join us for an introductory informational gathering to find a session near you and learn more about moving from hurting to healing.

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

5:30pm

**@ The University of Akron
Student Union Theatre**



Click to Register!





MISSION

The Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC) exists to initiate, coordinate and enable effective interfaith responses to the social, moral, ethical and cultural issues of our community and to promote freedom of religion, equality and understanding.

VISION

We envision a strong network of faith communities that collaborate to make our city a haven for all.

GUIDEPOSTS

- Diversity is a blessing and enriches us all; the diversities of all peoples, languages, cultures, and colors must be cherished and celebrated.
- We are responsible for each other's welfare.
- Because of the importance of individual's faith traditions in developing underlying values, faith communities can contribute to the development of a more just, humane, and ecologically responsible society. [We refer here to "faith traditions" vs. "religion" as AAIC is interested in reaching not only congregations but also those who are searching and may not have a specific faith affiliation (such as the NONEs).]
- Members of AAIC oppose any and all forms of discrimination, especially those based on faith, gender, race, heritage, nationality and sexuality
- Advocacy and Social Justice: AAIC has consistently put issues of social justice at the forefront. Our past history shows a deep concern for inclusiveness. The group has been focused on the issues faced by the immigrant populations in Akron, ongoing issues of racism in the community, hunger, as well as xenophobia.

TO JOIN AAIC

Please visit our website for information on yearly dues:

Individual membership— \$30.00/yr., Institutional— \$50.00/yr.

Send your check or donation to:

Akron Area Interfaith Council

3300 Morewood Rd.

Akron, Ohio 44333

or send a membership fee via the following link: <https://donate.fundhero.io/aaic/aaicmembership>.

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month. We are meeting in person and via Zoom.

Website: Akroninterfaith.org

Facebook Group: [.facebook.com/AAICOH](https://facebook.com/AAICOH)