



AAIC

**AKRON AREA
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER**

DECEMBER 2022

ART KRAKAUER HONORED

On Friday November 18, 2022 several members of the Akron Interfaith Council attended the Catholic Commission of Summit County's 44th Annual Bishop William Cosgrove Justice Dinner. Akron Interfaith Council member, Art Krakauer, was honored at the dinner with the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Leadership Award for his work as co-leader, along with Bernard Smith, of the Akron Interfaith Advocates against the Death Penalty. Through Art's leadership this group has done tremendous work to increase visibility of the death penalty issue in the Northeast Ohio area and to move legislation forward on this issue in Columbus.

In addition, through his congregation at Temple Israel in Fairlawn, Art is involved in the four-congregation Interfaith Justice Alliance partnership and speaker series, and helped initiate and expand the local Mitzvah Day of service and caring in support of local service agencies. He works with the Akron Interfaith Immigration Advocates and has been a long-time member of the Akron Area Interfaith Council. We are so lucky to have him.

Congratulations Art Krakauer!

Pictured Left to right: Ken Williams, Nancy Williams, Charlie Nelson, Judy Dinardo, Art Krakauer, John Edgerton, Susan Gallagher.

Top picture: Art Krakauer and his wife Shelley.



U.S. Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Emphasizes Recommitment to Relationship with Jewish Community

In 1965, Pope Paul VI issued the Vatican Council's declaration about other world religions, *Nostra Aetate* ("In our time"), marking a key milestone in the relationship between the Catholic Church and Judaism. As the 60th anniversary of this prophetic document approaches, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs has issued a statement urging all believers in Christ once again to decry all "hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone." (*Nostra Aetate*, 4).

The full Committee's statement follows:

"More than ever, members of the Body of Christ must now become aware of their spiritual ties to the Jewish people chosen first to hear the Word of God. In his letter to the Romans, Saint Paul spoke of the Church as wild shoots grafted onto an olive tree, that is, the Jews. He cautioned: "you do not support the root, the root supports you." (*Rom* 11:17-24) As a result, the Church must take care to protect that same root from which she continues to draw sustenance as all await in varied ways the coming of the Messiah. (cf. *Nostra Aetate*, 4). The rising trend of antisemitic incidents has become even more painful in light of the Church's relationship to the Jewish tradition and our connections to the Jewish people in dialogue and friendship.

"Beginning with the leadership of St. Paul VI, who guided the drafting and approval of *Nostra Aetate* through the Second Vatican Council and continuing without interruption to the present day with Pope Francis, the Catholic Church has continually fostered and recommended 'that mutual understanding and respect which is the fruit, above all, of biblical and theological studies as well as of fraternal dialogues.' (cf. *Nostra Aetate*, 4)

"Over the last six decades, the USCCB's Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs has been proud to build partnerships with the National Council of Synagogues, the Orthodox Union, and the newly established Modern Orthodox Group, promoting those positive relations so encouraged by the Council. In each of these exchanges, leaders in the Catholic and Jewish faiths have learned to encounter each other in a spirit of good will and a sincere desire to encourage our respective faithful to live together in a society increasingly diverse in its racial, ethnic, religious, and political makeup.

"Today, however, these same lessons are being challenged by the re-emergence of antisemitism in new forms. Outraged by the deeply hurtful proliferations of antisemitic rhetoric, both online and in-person, and the violent attacks on Jewish individuals, homes, and institutions, we wish to convey our sincere support to the Jewish people. As Pope Francis has stated, 'A true Christian cannot be an antisemite.' ([Address to Members of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations](#), June 24, 2013).

"We must remain ever vigilant of the various ways in which these dangers arise. In unequivocal terms, we condemn any and all violence directed at the Jewish people, whether motivated by religious, racial, or political grievances. We furthermore denounce any rhetoric which seeks to demonize or dehumanize the Jewish people or Judaism as a religious tradition. We continue to remind ourselves of the shared spiritual patrimony that remains the foundation of our relationship with the Jewish people. We affirm that the Jewish people cannot be held responsible for the death of Christ or be depicted as rejected or accursed in theological discourse. It must always be remembered that Jesus, Mary, and his apostles were all Jewish. Finally, we remain firm in our dedication to a just political solution - a secure and recognized Israel living in peace alongside a viable and independent Palestine.

(*Bishops' Committee* continued on page 5)



CHRISTMAS COLLECTION AND PARTY

Thank you, to everyone who answered the call for donations for this year's Akron Interfaith Immigration Advocates Christmas Collection. A number of you made it over to New Covenant Community Church and dropped off rice, cleaning supplies, paper products and gift cards. Along with receiving plenty of dish soap and disinfectant, there were also cleaning supplies that don't usually come to mind for events like this, things like toilet brushes to buckets. But, whatever was given will be greatly appreciated.

Unfortunately... out of an abundance of caution... (we all know what comes after those words) organizers have decided to cancel this year's Christmas Collection party. Considering the rising numbers of flu cases, and the threat of new COVID cases, putting nearly 200 people in Blessed Trinity for a party sounds like something that could be regrettable later.



MENORAH CAR PARADE

Here's a holiday event you may want to put onto your calendar. The Akron Menorah Car Parade will be Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. The community is invited to take menorahs to the streets of Akron in a menorah car parade, which will make its way from the Shaw JCC at the Schultz Campus to Anshe Sfard. Shaw JCC will provide car-top menorahs on a first-come, first-served basis. "The idea is to share the lights, bring the message of Chanukah and the message of freedom, the message of community, spreading a little bit more light into the dark world out there," said Rabbi Mendy Sasonkin. Car-top Israeli flags will also be available. The event will culminate with the lighting of an outdoor menorah at Anshe Sfard, along with refreshments and fireworks.

Happy KWANZAA



December 29, 2022 | 5:30 p.m.

Buchtel CLC 1040 Copley Road (Glendora Entrance)

(Bishops' Committee continued from page 3)

"As partners and neighbors, we seek to foster bonds of friendship between members of the Body of Christ and the Jewish people. With this in mind, and in light of the upcoming 60th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, we recommit ourselves to broadening the implementation of the teaching found within that prophetic document. In the nearly six decades since the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the relationship between the Church and the Jewish people has continued to grow and strengthen with mutual respect and admiration. May God continue to bless us with a renewed friendship and a mutual understanding that one day will allow us to address the Lord and stand as brothers and sisters to serve him 'shoulder to shoulder.' (Soph. 3.19)."

Members of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs:

Most Reverend David P. Talley, Chairman
Bishop of Memphis

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera
Bishop of Scranton

Most Rev. David D. Kagan
Bishop of Bismarck

Most Reverend Denis J. Madden
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore

Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Monforton

Bishop of Steubenville

Most Rev. Wm. Michael Mulvey
Bishop of Corpus Christi

Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis

Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown

Most Rev. Peter L. Smith

Auxiliary Bishop of Portland in Oregon



It's time to start making plans for Mitzvah Day 2023. Thursday, December 15, there will be a meeting at Temple Israel, 91 Springside Drive, Akron. The meeting

begins at 7:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, please join us by Zoom. Here are the link, meeting ID, passcode and phone numbers.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84493917391?pwd=eFZQY25vbnd3ell6TVd3NDdpaDdYUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 9391 7391

Passcode: 007200

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,84493917391#,,,,*007200# or
+13017158592,,84493917391#,,,,*007200#

To help you prepare for the meeting please take a look at last year's projects and project leaders.

Temple Israel Akron's 2023 Interfaith Youth Service is coming up. Community and Interfaith leaders are asked to pass this information along to youth groups.

Temple Israel Akron's 2023 Interfaith Youth Service will be held Friday, January 27, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. For those who plan attend in person, organizers want you to know that they are brining back the tradition of serving donuts after the service. But, if you are not able or just comfortable coming to the event, you can participate online. A link is available. Whether you plan to participate online or in person, please register through this link, <https://forms.gle/nS2Fp8FjWiebE2RG7>. Please fill out the form by January 20, 2023.

PROJECT	2022 LEADERS
Akron-Canton Foodbank	Jim Levin
Battered Women's Shel-	Anne Schwan
Habitat for Humanity Build Site	Briana Cantrell
ReStore	
Angels in Blue Jeans	Don Roulett
Brown Bag Lunch	Brandi Davis
At Haven of Rest	
Mental Health	Kathy Ress
	Cheryl Warfield
	Marty Belsky
	Dick Schwartz
Project Linus	Elaine Cohen
Safe Landing for Girls	
Safe Landing for Boys	Maureen Capellas
Dresses for Haiti	Nan Bartlett
Ronald Mc Donald	Carol Friedman
Death Penalty Education	Susan Gallagher
Youth Project	Alexandra Star Thomas
Pot Luck Dinner	Alan Fortnoff
Harmony House	Jennifer Boswell
Neighborhood Beautification	Sr Juliana
North Hill Beautification	Rev John Beaty



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