



AAIC

**AKRON AREA
INTERFAITH
COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER**

APRIL 2023

DAYS OF CARING



Mitzvah Day brings together members of area congregations for caring in the community.

Volunteers prepare hundreds of meals for the hungry, sort clothes for the homeless, brighten the days of children in need, visit seniors in nursing homes, provide entertainment to children and teens, paint or spruce up an agency working to serve underprivileged individuals, or clean up outdoor parks that are enjoyed by many in the community — all in just one weekend.

In keeping with Judaism's teachings of tikkun olam, to repair the world, Mitzvah Day, managed by Temple Israel, strives to inspire its participants to pursue social justice through social activism. Mitzvah Day was brought to Temple Israel in 2002 and has since been extended to more than 15 greater-Akron area congregations over 3 days.

Habitat for Humanity and Islamic Society of Akron and Kent are kicking things off on Friday. HFH is offering volunteers the opportunity to take part in a 2-day "Neighborhood Reborn" project. The event will focus on two or three streets in the University Park/ Middleburry neighborhoods. Projects during the two days may include: critical home repairs for qualified homeowners, installation of solar powered security lights and general landscaping. ISAK's event is a food drive for the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.

Mitzvah Day wraps up on Sunday, with several projects throughout the morning, advocacy meetings in the afternoon and then the potluck dinner from 4:00-6:00 p.m., which will conclude the event,

For the complete list of events go to mitzvahdayakron.com.



A Night at the Museum

Akron Interfaith Immigration Advocates (AIIA) is planning an upcoming event on May 20th, at the Akron Children's Museum. From 5:30-7:00 p.m. students from the North Hill area will have access to the museum. You can help sponsor a fun and educational evening by making a donation. Volunteers are also needed to help set up, monitor activities, and clean up. If you can assist in any way please call, text or email Nancy Williams, 330-388-0955, knks97@mac.com.

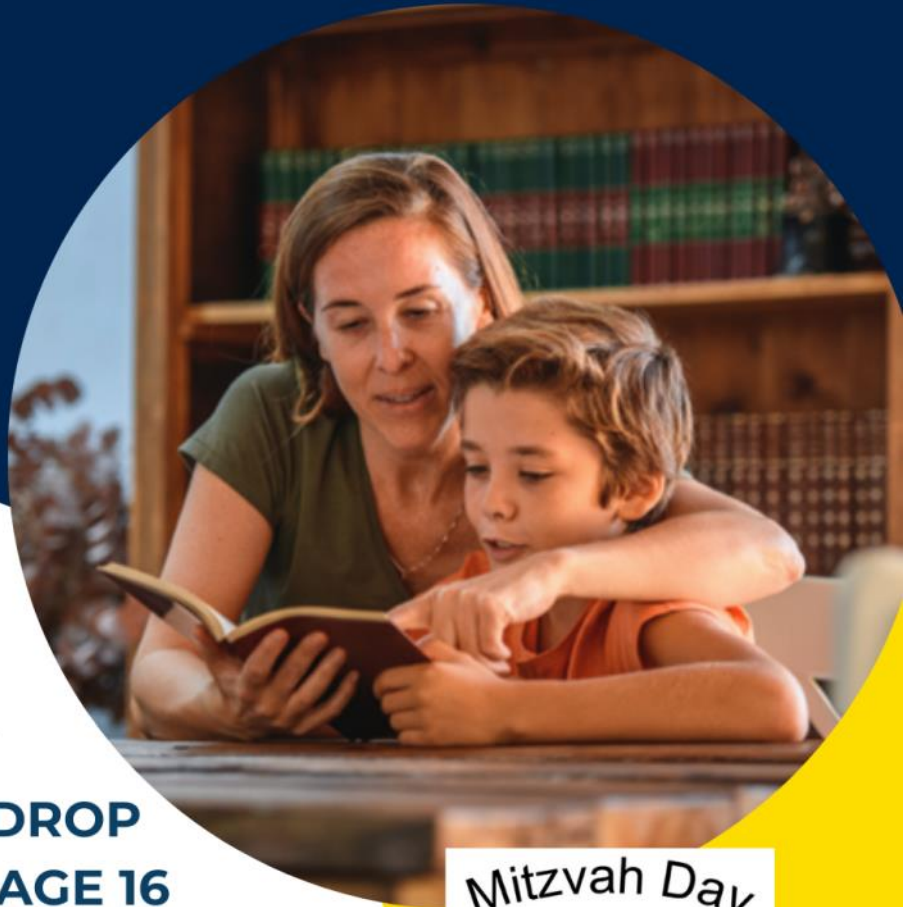
Advocacy Meeting

The Reading Crisis for Children and How You Can Help

June 4, 2023

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Temple Israel
91 Springside Dr.
Akron, OH 44333



75% OF CHILDREN WHO DO NOT READ AT GRADE LEVEL BY THIRD GRADE, MAY DROP OUT OF SCHOOL BY AGE 16 AND MAY BE IN PRISON BY AGE 24. THE RAMIFICATIONS OF NOT SOLVING THIS PROBLEM WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE. LEARN ABOUT THE RESEARCH AND ACTIONS NEEDED TO SOLVE THIS CRISIS FOR OUR CHILDREN.

Mitzvah Day



Day of Caring and Service

Go to
mitzvahdayakron.com
for details and to
register for this
advocacy meeting

Advocacy
Meeting

The Impact of Gun Violence in the Community & What You Can Do About It

Learn more about how gun violence personally impacts the daily lives of survivors, and actions you can take to prevent gun violence and create safer communities.

JUNE 4, 2023 - 2:00 P.M.

Temple Israel
91 Springside Dr.
Akron, OH 44333

GO TO
MITZVAHDAYAKRON.COM
FOR DETAILS AND TO
REGISTER FOR THIS
ADVOCACY MEETING.

Wear Orange for National
Gun Violence Prevention
Awareness

Mitzvah Day



Day of Caring and Service



MITZVAH DAY WEEKEND
A Day of Caring for the Community
&

National Gun Violence Prevention Awareness
(Wear Orange) Weekend Community Forum

Advocacy Meeting

GUN VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY: FROM PRAYERS & VIGILS TO ACTION

3:00 – 4:30 PM (Fellowship Meal at 5PM)

Temple Israel, Sanctuary
91 Springside Dr., Akron, OH

Every day, over 120 lives are lost to firearms, 220 left wounded, and countless others traumatized. The number 1 cause of death for children is now firearms. What other facts do we know about this epidemic in our nation? How do we move from anger & frustration to survival, change, & prevention? A panel of survivors will share how their lives have been impacted by gun violence

- * **Myths and Facts about Gun Violence – Power Point**
- * **Survivor Panel Members: “How my life was impacted.”**
(homicide, suicide, wounded, threatened, home & school setting)
- * **Call to action: Concrete actions and local resources**
By Akron-Canton Chapter, Moms Demand Action

TO SIGN UP, go to www.mitzvahdayakron.com. Hit the sign-up button and scroll down to the form to register for *Sunday June 4 Projects: Advocacy Meeting 1* and then SUBMIT.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: Rev. Joyce Penfield akronmoms22@gmail.com

It Takes All of Us !

Wednesday, May 24th, 2023

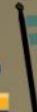
JUSTICE FOR JAYLAND WALKER NATIONAL MARCH



Akron
Urban League



Akron
NAACP



FREEDOM
BLOC



We are inviting you to join us in the fight for justice and equity in our communities. Our coalition is made up of organizations such as The Freedom BLOC, St. Ashworth Temple, Akron NAACP, Akron Urban League, and Ohio Families Unite Against Police Brutality.

We are deeply troubled by the Grand Jury's decision not to indict the eight officers who murdered Jayland Walker. This incident is only one of many examples of systemic racism and police brutality that have plagued our society for far too long. Our demands are simple; we ask that the Department of Justice conduct a pattern-and-practice investigation into the Akron police department, a federal investigation into the murder of Jayland Walker, and that those accountable for his death be fired and prosecuted.

In the spirit of change and justice, we are organizing a series of "We Are the Change" marches for Justice for Jayland Walker and all those who have been brutally murdered by police departments across the country. The march will take place on May 24th in Akron, OH. We aim to bring together directly impacted families of police violence, clergy, and a coalition of individuals and organizations who share our commitment to fighting for justice.

We believe that your organization can play a critical role in helping us build a movement for change. We ask that you join us in the march and demand justice for Jayland Walker. We also ask that you invite people and organizations from your networks to join us in this important work.

Please RSVP using this link to get updates about the march: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/justice-for-jayland-walker-national-march>

Together, we can make a difference. Together, we can demand justice for Jayland Walker and for all those who have been impacted by police violence.

Sincerely,

The Freedom BLOC, St. Ashworth Temple, Akron NAACP, Akron Urban League, and Ohio Families Unite Against Police Brutality

WOMEN'S INTERFAITH SPIRITUAL HERITAGE (WISH)



WISH was formed from the gathering of women of many different faiths, beginning in 2001, in response to the 9/11 attacks and treatment of those often marginalized or scapegoated by the larger society. WISH has worked to support and amplify the voices of women in faith communities, having the belief that women's voices and ways of solving problems are often different from how problems are often seen in patriarchal systems. Women who join WISH learn about the cultures and faiths of others, reinforcing values of peacemaking. Book groups, panels, and use of the Circle Approach all help facilitate the building of cross cultural relationships, and to seek action for ongoing struggles.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm via Zoom. If you are interested

"BAHA'I VISION FOR ONENESS OF HUMANITY"

SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Free and open to all

You are invited to join us as we discuss ways to build more vibrant communities by transcending our differences, harmonizing perspectives, and promoting cooperation. We will have meaningful conversations about the inherent oneness of humanity.

- Small-group conversation sessions
- Multi-cultural and multi-faith prayers and music
- Children and junior-youth programs
- Art
- Refreshments
- Mindful moments, ending with a family-friendly hike in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park!

**To attend,
please
Register here.**



**Sunday, May 14th 2023
12:00-3:00pm**
The [Octagon Shelter](#), inside of CVNP
801 Truxell Rd. Peninsula, Ohio

More info
on
[Facebook](#)



Please contact Nasim with any questions: 216-965-4120 or n.seifi@yahoo.com.



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