

Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council

JUNE 2018

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MAKING A BELOVED COMMUNITY “SPOTLIGHTING MEN OF FAITH LEADING THE WAY”

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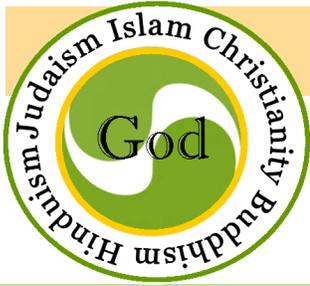
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SAVE THE DATE

A Time of Interfaith Worship and Fellowship
July 25, 2018 6:30pm-7:30pm

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UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL Steering Committee Members

Deacon Tim Williams-Chair
First Baptist Church
Kenilworth

Sidney Blanchard
Executive Director of CAU

Rabbi Joel N. Abraham
Temple Sholom
Scotch Plains

Ayaz Aslam
Muslim Community Center of UC
Elizabeth

Pastor H. Bryant
Honorably Retired
Presbyterian Church USA

Denise Fernandes
Latino Outreach

Erich Han William Kussman, Jr
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Springfield

Pastor Mertz
First United Methodist Church
Westfield

Michelle Mobley
Director of Youth Service
Residential

Pastor Carmine Pernini
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rahway

Father Michael Saporito
The Parish Community of St. Helen
Westfield

Roderick Spearman
CAU Consultant

Reverend Ronald C. Thomas
Fountain Baptist Church
Summit

Elder Arthur "Skip" Winter
Cranford Presbyterian Church
Cranford

About the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council

Our Mission

The Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council works to facilitate regular interfaith meetings in order to make way for the building of bonds within the interfaith community.

We respect and encourage the inclusion and welcoming of others regardless of faith, race or disability. We strive to be proactive on social issues.

Our Goals

- To grow the network of faith-based organizations in Union County.
- To encourage representatives from all faiths to join the Interfaith Coordinated Council including those of Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Islamic, and other faiths.
- To be engaged in:
 1. **Community Building** within faith-based organizations and the general Union County population.
 2. The advancement of **Social Justice**.
 3. The intentional **inclusion** of others regardless of gender, faith, race.
- To be active in activities that are inclusive and community building.

Our Objectives

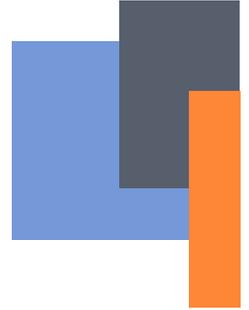
- Sponsor regular engagement opportunities that facilitate the building of bonds within the Union County interfaith community and their congregations.
- Strengthen the Union County religious congregations through involvement, action and education in self-help.
- Build working relationships between Union County religious organizations and Community Access Unlimited that create opportunities for youth and people with disabilities and their support staff.

Potential Advantages to Joining the Interfaith Community

- Develop interfaith solidarity.
- Avail yourself of increased visibility within the interfaith community and build opportunities to share educational and community events with the group.
- Build religious membership.
- Gain exposure for you and fellow congregation members to educational opportunities regarding entitlements, housing, and other services, including but not limited to: programs for seniors, youth, people with physical and developmental disabilities, etc..
- Create full and part time employment opportunities for congregation members with CAU.

message

from the Chairperson



I often wonder how do we obtain Dr. King's vision of a beloved community? A place of peace and harmony where all men are treated equally and fairly. A place where even in times of hardship and adversity we would come together and rise to the occasion of helping our neighbor and yes, even a stranger. It would seem that we should desire such a beautiful vision of living our lives in peace. In order for us to truly obtain that elusive beloved community I believe the Lord is calling on us to have faith in God. Only through Him can we live a life of peace and righteousness.



The Lord is calling us to be true men and women of God; obeying His commands and to stand up to all unrighteousness and worldly vices. As God says in 2 Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." This is exactly what we have to do in order to reach that beloved community.

The men and women of God have got to stand up and be accounted for. We have got to say that right is right and wrong is wrong. Our government today is filled with partisans on both sides of the isle that won't stand up to a corrupt administration and essentially tell the emperor that he has no clothes.

As the men of God who want to see and be part of this beloved community Dr. King spoke of we have got to aspire to a higher calling. To live a righteous and faith filled life before God. For the sake of our families and our children. For future generations we must strive to be better men, to be godly men. Men who keep the faith and love our enemies as well as our neighbors. Once we get to that place of true peace and harmony will we realize a life well lived in a beloved community.

Grace and peace,

Deacon Timothy

Know Your Neighbor

On a typical weekday during after school hours, at Second Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, NJ, a group of second through twelfth graders have divided the gym floor into two sections, one half for soccer and the other for basketball. Another group of kids are playing computer games while others can be seen creating works of art. By 4:45pm the children and teens put down their games and paintbrushes and head over to the Homework Center. In the kitchen, Linwood Bagby oversees the preparation of the evening meal; the menu is baked barbecue chicken, broccoli, baked potatoes wedges and salad.

“We provide a snack when the kids come through the doors and a sit down meal for dinner. Some of our kids come from families that are struggling. And with the expected government cuts in the school breakfast and lunch programs, it is even more important for Restore to fill in the gap.

Entering its twenty-fifth year, Restore Ministries has been filling in the gap for children and teenagers in Elizabeth and the surrounding communities. Restore was incorporated as a 501(c) 3 nonprofit by Linwood Bagby in 1994. Linwood is a Speech Therapist in the Elizabeth Public Schools. He divides his time between his full time job, his community activism and Restore Ministries.

“Restore has evolved over the past 25 years, from primarily a safe haven from the streets for middle and high school boys to a safe place and homework center for boys and girls from grades 2-12. Restore is interfaith and inclusive. We welcome all regardless of faith. Children from no religious background to Catholics, Protestants and Muslims are members. We emphasize getting good grades in elementary through high school and continuing education after high school. This way we get a chance to really influence and change lives.”

And change lives is what Restore does best. Lives are transformed as Restore youth interact with Linwood, the Restore staff and the volunteers. Linwood has learned that the programs do have to be high quality, but more important are the relationships that are built with caring adults. Healthy relationships are what really makes the positive difference in the lives of our members.

“Bagby, (all the kids call him that), is always there for us,” said Erik Manzano, an 18 year old Elizabeth High School Senior. “I’ve been coming here since sixth grade. Restore helped me get my act together as a student. I’m going to Union County Community College in September. I’m the first in my family to go to college.”

“Restore has become home for my two girls,” said Manuel Ramos. “A place where they feel safe and comfortable. As a parent, you want nothing but the best for your kids. Restore has allowed my children to be a part of something big; To explore the world a little more, to interact with different kids, to engage in various activities that will enhance their lives, to place roots and impact others. I came to this country to have better opportunities in life and for my children to succeed. Restore is helping me complete my dream for my girls.”

Linwood sees youth as assets. Each child or teenager is the future.

“I hope Restore gets established enough in our next 25 years where completing a trade school or graduating college or a university is the norm for our members.”

It’s beginning to happen, in 2012, Restore witnessed six of its members enter college. Four have graduated and one is our first with a Master’s degree. Nine current high school seniors will go to various colleges and universities this fall.

Linwood said he’s gained a lot also.

“I have a sense of accomplishment and a sense of pride that I could be part of something that has had such an effect on children and especially teenagers. Seeing them succeed gives me a big boost.



Linwood Bagby

For more information about Restore visit our website at:

www.restorekids.org Friend us on Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/restorekids>

Member Spotlight



Norman K. Miles Sr., PhD
*Senior Pastor, Trinity Temple Seventh-day
Adventist Church—Newark, NJ*
Newark, New Jersey

Today the faith community is facing a crisis in leadership brought on in part, by the unwillingness or inability of many faith leaders to take a principled stand on the critical issues of the day. In a nation which has become increasingly polarized along racial, ethnic, social, political, and religious lines more and more people see those who differ from them in any way as untrustworthy, evil, and potentially dangerous. This has made it almost impossible for people of good will who hold differing points of view, to even have a civil conversation. Many politicians, led by President Trump, have exploited these societal fault lines making it difficult to unite around areas of common interest while having honest disagreements. The most significant sign of the crisis in spiritual leadership we now face is the fact that some of the most celebrated religious leaders who have the ear of the president have remained silent despite his reprehensible defense of white nationalists and racist activists as “good people”. It is telling that when the president made his remarks following the incident at Charlottesville, VA last fall, the business leaders who served on his advisory resigned in protest. Not one of the well know leaders on his religious advisory quit or uttered a word of public disgust regarding his inflammatory remarks or unethical behavior. It is all the more telling because all of these leaders are men are national religious figures who built their reputations on the support of

personal morality.

On the local level there seems to be a shortage of men who are spiritual leaders in their communities as well. This is certainly not a blanket incitement of all males, but it is clear that more men need to step up and lead the way to spiritual health and wholeness in our communities. Fortunately, we have a cadre of female leadership which is providing principled and sustained leadership in our communities and working with our families, but the need for male partnership and leadership is acute. Men and women accomplish so much more by working together to rebuild our faith communities. The lack of male spiritual leadership is especially serious when it comes to the situation facing black and Hispanic young men in our society. A number of studies indicate that minority males between 18 and 26 are much more likely than their white counterparts to become involved in the criminal justice system through probation or incarceration or become victims of police brutality or street violence. A great deal of concern is voiced when a dramatic incident takes place and is recorded on a phone camera and spread over social media platforms, but every day young black and brown males are subject to undocumented harassment or abuse by police or peers which is never publicly addressed. Such incidences breed an atmosphere of fear and hatred in our communities and in the minds of our young people which we have yet to adequately address.

There was a time when our communities were blessed with an abundance of men of faith who provided stability in our homes, churches, and other community institutions. As a young person I remember many stellar men who took an interest in the development of young men in particular and exchanged their wisdom in various settings and encouraged us to strive for excellence in all that we did. Most of these men were not college educated, in fact, some hadn't completed elementary school, but they had a strong faith in God, a strong work ethic, and a dedication to improving the world their children would inherit. There are many reasons for the apparent decline in spiritual leadership, but there are no excuses. There are three principles of spiritual leadership I want to share with my brothers.

Whatever your faith is, practice it. The young people are disillusioned by the many “religious” people who profess one thing, but practice something entirely different. Be a consistent example of the ethics you profess. Spiritual leadership is the result of many small “right” decisions made every day. You won't have to say much if you are a consistent example of spirituality and integrity. Personal integrity gives credibility to your words.

Remember that you are where you are because someone before you took a chance, made a principled decision, spoke up even at the risk of personal disadvantage. It can't always be about what is good for you. If you have made it to a comfortable position in life you have an obligation to help create a better situation for those who are not as well positioned. Become a mentor or join a group which engages in some form of community uplift. Use some of your television time to build into the lives of others.

Finally, be humble in your walk, understanding that you don't know everything, and that as long as you live you will be learning. Be open to new and challenging ideas and always seek to grow as a person. As you grow be kind and sharing with those you love, knowing that charity begins at home and spreads abroad.

Faith In Action!

Panel discussion on Environmentalism & taking action to make a Beloved



**UCICC hosted, Healthy Planet, Healthy You!
May 15, 2018 in Partnership with Green Faith.**

Faith In Action!

“Linking those seeking a religious home with a House of Worship”



UCICC hosted Faith Into Action May 3, 2018.



Meet 11-year-old Erica:

“They tell me I was one year old when I was taken away from my parents. My two-year-old sister ate something off of the coffee table and she never woke up. The judge said I’m not allowed to live with my parents because my sister ate some kind of drug and people don’t think it’s safe there. My first foster home didn’t turn out very well. One day my foster mom left me and my foster sisters and brothers in her car at the mall while she went shopping. The police came and now I’ve been in two more foster homes. I don’t know why they keep moving me around. Now, at least I’m with my baby sister. She came to live in the same foster home with me after she was born. Still, it’s so hard to make friends and start over again



Since 2005, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Union County has been recruiting, screening, training, supervising and supporting community volunteers to advocate for the needs of children just like Erica, from birth to age 21 removed from their home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment and placed in foster homes or residential facilities through no fault of their own.

CASA volunteers are the voice for these children, ensuring their best interests remain the priority while working toward establishing a safe, stable and permanent home as soon as possible. In New Jersey, there are nearly 7,000 children in foster care, and right here in Union County there are more than 500 such children who, instead of playing with neighbors and making happy family memories, are attending court hearings with caseworkers, adjusting to yet another foster home and transitioning to another school. This is a heavy burden for a child, so it is CASA of Union County’s goal to provide a committed advocate and voice for every youth that needs one. Currently, half

of those youth still need their own CASA volunteer.

In order to attain this crucial goal, additional volunteers are a necessity. Last fiscal year, 57 community members stepped up to train and be sworn in as child advocates, and a total 262 youth were served. Serving a vulnerable child requires no prior knowledge of the foster system. In fact, successful CASA volunteers come from all walks of life and have varied backgrounds and experiences.

Interested community members undergo an interview, reference check and various criminal and child abuse screenings and, after a spot in training is secured, complete a 30-hour curriculum on such topics as the court process and timelines, role of each case stakeholder, child development and milestones, cultural competence, impact of poverty, drug trends impacting Union County, child and stakeholder interviewing and court-report writing. Topics are explored through lecture with interactive facilitation, group activities, case studies, audio of 9-1-1 calls, role plays, homework assignments, game play and debate, and presentations from both professionals in the child welfare system and an experienced advocate detailing their journey.

Advocates are sworn in by a family judge and assigned to their case by a court order that grants access to the child, whom they visit regularly, as well as therapists, teachers, caseworkers, doctors, foster parents and more. This allows CASA volunteers to 1) visit and spend time with the child at the foster home, school or daycare in order to become a consistent presence during a chaotic time in the child’s life and 2) monitor unmet medical, emotional and educational needs and seek timely action on issues interfering with the youth’s best interests. Advocates report to the judge factual observations regarding placement, visitation, educational and medical needs and more, and monitor that services ordered by the



judge are implemented in a timely fashion.

When a child or teen has suffered abuse, neglect or abandonment, they often find trusting others difficult and build walls of self-protection. Yet the presence of a consistent and caring adult — a CASA volunteer — can help knock down those walls and build a foundation of trust that positively impacts all future relationships. Various child-welfare reports indicate children with a CASA volunteer are more likely to find a safe, permanent home, are more likely to be adopted, are half as likely to re-enter foster care, receive more court-ordered services and spend substantially less time in long-term foster care. Bottom line: CASA volunteers change childhoods ... and lives.

Will you make a difference in the life of an abused, neglected or abandoned child placed in foster care through no fault of their own? Reach Courtney at 908.293.8136 or cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org to learn more, and you're one step closer to changing not just the life of a child like Erica's — but yours, too.

**Think being a CASA volunteer
might be for you?**



**Have friends, family or colleagues
who might be interested?
Bring them along!**

County Clerk Bldg, 300 North Ave. East, Westfield:

Thursday, May 17, at 6 pm
Tuesday, May 22, at 6 pm
Wednesday, June 6 at 6 pm
Wednesday, June 27 at 6 pm
Tuesday, July 24 at 6 pm
Monday, August 6 at 6 pm
Tuesday, August 7 at 6 pm

Spanish-speaking sessions at this location:

Thursday, June 21 at 6 pm
Wednesday, September 19 at 6 pm

**CASA of Union County Office, 1143 E. Jersey Street,
Elizabeth:**

Friday, June 1 at 10 am
Friday, July 13 at 10 am
Monday, July 16 at 6 pm
Friday, August 17 at 10 am
Monday, August 20 at 6 pm

Spanish-speaking sessions at this location:

Tuesday, July 10 at 6 pm
Monday, August 27 at 6 pm

To register for any session, contact Courtney
at [\(908\) 293-8136](tel:9082938136) or cgreen@casaofunioncounty.org.

**Anyone who meets the following criteria is eligible to train as a CASA volunteer.
Final selection is at the discretion of the CASA program.**

- * Must be at least 21 years of age
- * Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing
- * Give an 18-month commitment
- * Willing to donate 10 hours of service per month
- * Complete a 30-hour pre-service training course
- * Pass a background check including criminal, child-abuse registry, sex-offender registry, and references
- * Display mature judgment, high degree of responsibility and have sufficient time to serve the child
- * Able to relate to different cultures, ethnic backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses

Reflection on a Super Dad

By: Jennifer Peralta



Carlos Peralta

Carlos Peralta is from Ecuador, and lives in Plainfield. Vice President of La Via al Exito, Entrepreneur. He is a community leader since 1990, who enjoys working for the community specially the underserved. His involvement started in my hometown of Cuenca Ecuador, where he worked with children and teenagers in a Organization called Juventud Dinamica.

A Short Bio On Why My Dad Is A Great Dad To Me My name is Jennifer Peralta and my father, Carlos Peralta is my best friend. We have an unbreakable bond where he is a father to me and also a best friend. He is my go-to person for everything. I am 20 years old and I always reminisce the times where he would show up to my games in high school, go to my reunions, make many jokes only we would understand. There were also times where I used to get mad at him when I was really young when I didn't want to listen to him and he would always be right. I would end up writing notes with a small drawing saying how sorry I am and sliding it under my parent's door. He still has the notes to this day. We are alike in so many ways where we are always vibrant and smiling. Throughout the years, I was able to trust him more and more. He is a very wise person and very straight forward. There is always a lesson to everything and he widens my point of view everyday. Not only he is my father, he is my hero and my role model. I am a very lucky daughter to have him in my life. Not all heroes wear capes.

Artículo En Español Sobre El Día Del Padre Un padre no es solo un título, significa mucho más de lo que realmente es. No hay una definición exacta para un padre, pero lo que puedo decir es que él puede ser tu héroe, un modelo a seguir, tu mejor amigo, una persona con la que puedes confiar, compartir risas, llorar y la lista continúa. El puede ser su admirador número uno, pero también puede volverte loco o hacer que quieras odiarlo. No hay un padre en este mundo que sea perfecto. En general, él siempre será tu padre. Tu padre también puede ser tu primer amor, es decir, que él te enseñe cómo debes ser tratado y apreciado. Hay un dicho en el que el primer amor verdadero de una niña es su padre y un primer héroe para su hijo. No importa quién entre a tu vida, tu padre es irremplazable. En este mundo, no muchos tienen a su padre en sus vidas, pero tienen una figura paterna en sus vidas. Podría ser su madre, el padre de su mejor amigo, un vecino, un tío, un hermano, cualquiera que crean que puede ser una figura paterna. Pero, aquellos que tienen un padre en su vida son apreciados y amados. El día del padre se acerca y es su hora de brillar. No debería ser el único día para celebrar el amor que le tienes a tu papá, debe ser todos los días que constantemente le recuerdas cuánto lo amas y lo aprecias. Feliz día del padre para todos los padres que están separados de la vida de sus hijos, que son parte de la vida de alguien o figura paterna para alguien que no tiene padre.

MAN OF FAITH LEADING THE WAY IN PUBLIC SERVICE



Freeholder Chairman
Sergio Granados

Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados, a native of Elizabeth and community activist, was re-elected to his second term in 2016. In 2013, he became the youngest Freeholder ever elected to the board and youngest Democratic Freeholder elected in NJ.

As the Chairman of the Board for 2018, Granados announced “Moving UNION COUNTY Forward” initiatives---programs that promote advocacy and equality, volunteerism, public safety, and the environment. There are also announcements assisting seniors, families and youth.

Included in these initiatives are the state’s first-ever Countywide LGBTQ Office, the state’s first Office for People with Special Needs, and the Level the Playing Field grant program---yet another example of a “first”---as Union County will become the first County in the state, and perhaps nation—to have every municipality create an

inclusive playground. Granados also announced the UC Plant A Seed program, which involves educational and environmental components including the continuation and expansion of the UC Kids Dig In! Garden grants program, which offers grants to schools that engage young students in community gardening and donating produce to local shelters and pantries, the UC Means Green Community gardens grant program for all residents and new state-funded Union County recycling initiatives.

Granados served the past year as the Chairman of the Union County Open Space Trust Fund, where he worked to create the Kids Dig In! Community gardens grant program, that awarded grants to 32 schools, educating students about gardening and donating produce to local food pantries.

As a member of Parks Advisory Board for the past few years, he helped champion the creation of the first inclusive playground in the County, and the opening of the new Warinanco Sports Center.

As the Freeholder liaison to the Workforce Development Board, Granados oversaw efforts through the agency to identify thousands of new jobs through public-private partnerships and provide job training to residents. Granados also oversaw efforts creating WE Are One NJ-Union County, helping residents become US citizens.

Granados also supported efforts to assist Veterans under the County’s UC HERO initiative.

As a member of the Fiscal Committee in 2017, Granados helped oversee efforts that led to the County achieving a “Aaa” bond rating from Moody’s—the highest attainable.

Granados has supported environmental initiatives leading to the County’s ordinance banning fracking on County properties.

Granados founded Moving New Jersey Forward Foundation, a non-profit that works to raise awareness and education efforts on social justice. The organization sponsored events raising funds to assist Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, community meals for families in need, and relief drives for various disaster-stricken communities.

Granados has served with many non-profit organizations, including Hispanos Unidos, the Elizabeth Portuguese Lions, the Portuguese Instructive Social Club, the Elizabeth Portugal Day Committee, New Leaders Council of NJ, and the Union County Latino-American Chamber of Commerce.

Granados has been honored for service through agencies such as Community Access Unlimited, the Urban League of Union County Young Professionals, the Lions Club International, the Hispanic Law Enforcement Association of Union County, the Boy Scouts of America, the New Jersey Veterans Network, and the South Asian Community Outreach.

Granados attended Union County College, and graduated from Kean University with a Bachelors in Business Management and a Masters in Public Administration.

Accompanying an Asylee Immigrant to Immigration Court

The Little Black Box



By: Reverend Carmine Pernini

On Monday, April 30, 2018, I was asked to accompany Bayron, a man seeking asylum in the US, to his Immigration Court hearing at the Rodino Federal Building, Newark, NJ. Bayron came to the US in 2016 across the Mexico/US border in Texas on foot with a toddler, fleeing violence in Honduras, widely known as one of the homes of the infamous gang, MS-13. The menace of MS-13 is regularly invoked as a warrant to deport not just gang members, but any undocumented immigrant. Bayron has no criminal record, yet he is but one of the hundreds of thousands of deportees that, largely

based on public discourse about MS-13, have been rounded up by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Before entering the federal building, we prayed. Once inside the guard announced, “It’s time to play airport.” Of course, TSA agents do not carry weapons or wear body armor. By this, they meant that shoes and jackets have to come off, belts, watches, and cell phones need to be deposited into a plastic basket which will be x-rayed and pockets needed to be emptied. Then you proceed through a metal detector only to be met by another armed guard on the other side who greets you with a pat down. Then you put your shoes and other clothing items back on in a chair flanked by two armed guards. Granted, the guards were jovial, but as kind as their intent could have been, it did not outweigh the fire power, controls, and “official” nature of this encounter.

Bayron was shaken up. He didn’t know if he would be deported, given an ankle monitor, or asked to come back in a week only to face the same terrors all over again. The building, what and who it represents, is terrifying. There is no way around that.

After clearing the check-in, and some more prayers, we proceeded to the elevator at the back of the foyer and ascended into the center of a building that some say is the hall of heroes and others the belly of the beast. Upon reaching the correct floor, a Spanish speaking guard escorted us to the waiting area and asked that we turn our cell phones off in his presence because electronic device use is prohibited in this area. Upon entering the waiting area, its casino-esque décor was apparent – there were no windows in the room. And, while there were no slot machines, the whole affair felt more like a game of chance with people’s lives hanging in the balance rather than a judicial affair with lady justice’s scales shaping the outcomes of the proceedings. This room, absent cell phones, computers, visitors, windows, and even attorneys is a little black box. It is meant to be as invisible as the population that it serves. You can’t care about what happens there if you can’t go there, see there, or be there. Its lack of transparency to the public is essentially due to the same reason a person gets “draped” during surgery: You don’t want to see it, because if you did, you probably wouldn’t go through with the procedure.

Most of the people in the room were brown or black. There were a few babies there with their parents. The youngest baby, in what I think was her father’s arms, was crying and the parents were attempting to sooth the child. Were the baby’s tears the only thing preventing her parents from crying?

Amidst the somber quiet of insecurity and perhaps terror, hung the portraits of Donald Trump and Jefferson Beauregard Sessions III which are in plain view of people awaiting potential deportations. Their

portraits adorned with gushing and self-satisfied grins are a repugnant exclamation point on the whole experience. In a silent room, the smiles of the president and AG drown out the crying babies and hushed voices symbolically whispering, “I got you. Now get the heck out!”



While the details of this are horrifying, they pale in comparison to the circumstances asylees are running from. That is, it is preferable to endure the horror of being rounded up like an animal in the US than suffer violence back home.

By the grace of God we were able to procure Bayron an attorney who happened to have a case that same day, at the same time, in the same building. The attorney, from Catholic Charities, whisked us into a small conference room where he rifled through Bayron’s paperwork and attempted to speak Spanish, which he wasn’t fluent in. After many failed attempts at communication, a colleague called a friend who spoke Spanish who then proceeded to translate the conversation over the phone. The guards can speak Spanish, but the attorneys can’t?

The attorney was confounded by Bayron’s disjointed paperwork; he packed in a hurry. Somewhat flabbergasted and pressed for time, he turned to our group and asked, “How long have you know Bayron?” We said, “About an hour and a half.”

The attorney sort of chuckled to himself and, watching the clock, pressed on with his questions and sorting. We knew Bayron for about an hour and a half. In a roundabout dash of phone calls through networks of colleagues three clergy ended up showing up to accompany Bayron. That is more than I thought were going to be there. And, when you honestly think about it, considering the 215,000 deportations in 2017, the staggering number of people who need assistance is debilitating. What can any individual do in the face of so much need?

I get it. And, honestly, that is why I wrote this piece. I don’t know that I can make a difference on my own. I can’t. But if enough people know what is going on, *then maybe We can*. Every day people are denied due process in little black boxes like this one in Newark, NJ. Yet, Bayron got a one year stay of deportation. This is a provisional win. But, without the attorney from Catholic Charities, the massive networks of activists, and a few willing clergy, Bayron may have been deported that day. I can’t say that I did it, or that any one thing prevented him from being deported, but what I can say is this: Bayron knew someone and that someone knew other people who would fight for him to stay. I am writing this to tell you that that someone can be you. And, in such a xenophobic context, victory is not always halting a deportation. Sometimes victory, if we will have any at all, could simply be saying no as loud as you can with as many people as possible.



“First Friends of NJ and NY upholds the inherent dignity and humanity of detained immigrants and asylum seekers. We provide compassion and hope through volunteer visitation, resettlement assistance and advocacy.”

...WE NEED YOU TO BE A FRIEND

 **BE A VOLUNTEER**
 **BE A VISITOR**

 **BE A PEN PAL**
 **BE A DONOR**

IF YOU CAN HELP IN ANY WAY PLEASE CONTACT: FIRST FRIENDS
53 HACKENSACK AVENUE, 2nd FLOOR, KEARNY, NEW JERSEY
PHONE: 908.965.0455 **Email:** info@firstfriendsnjny.org

Save the Date!
July 25, 2018



Please Reserve Now!
E-mail or phone your RSVP to:
UCInterfaith@caunj.org
(908) 354-3040 x4324

**You are Invited to Join the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council for:
A Time of Interfaith Worship and Fellowship**

First United Methodist Church
117 Ferris Place • Westfield, NJ
6:30P—7:30P

Light Refreshments following worship ~ Sign-in begins at 6:00P
Bring along a blanket to sit on! ~ Mingle with your interfaith neighbors!
(In the event of rain, we will move indoors)

Religious Services at CAU

There has been some exciting things taking place at CAU!
We have started a new initiative for the members of the CAU community to
experience religious worship.

This ministry is geared towards the DD community and also to the TOPS youth program. There has been approximately 40-50 members that attend, and it has been a blessing to be able to serve this beloved community.

I would like to extend an invitation for you to speak at our religious services. These services are held on Saturdays at 11:00am and at 1:00pm and are an hour long. This an interfaith endeavor is open to all faith traditions and houses of worship. If you can provide worship, a positive inspirational message, and most of all, and a heart to serve.

Our objectives are:

1. To provide a safe space for our members to worship God
2. To foster spiritual growth through the diverse understandings of God
3. To build up the community in faith, hope, and love

If you would like to volunteer in this amazing ministerial opportunity or find out more, please contact

Chaplain Erich Kussman at EKussman@caunj.org.



The CAU COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Proudly Present



The CAU Community Players was established in 2011 by Community Access Unlimited as an opportunity for its members to collaborate with the community to create an incredibly unique and inspiring theatrical experience!

Annie Jr

Fri, June 29
7:30 PM

Sat, June 30
7:30 PM

Sun, July 1
2:00 PM

Directed by Marguerite Modero

Choreography by Jensyn Modero

Location:

The Performing Arts Center at Rahway High School
1012 Madison Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065

Tickets: \$12.00 - Call for Group Pricing!
To purchase tickets online, visit www.rwhs.bookfix.com



Please contact
Cara Clair with questions
cclair@caunj.org or 908-354-3040 x4376

Thank you to our supporters!

M&T Bank



Victor M. Richel

Man of Faith Leading the Way in Education & Healthcare

Victor M. Richel, Chairman, President and CEO of Richel Family Foundation, was Vice Chairman of the Board of Independence Community Bank Corp., prior to its sale to Sovereign Bank in June of 2006. Earlier, Mr. Richel had been Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Statewide Savings Bank. Mr. Richel became Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Statewide Financial Corp. upon its formation as the holding company for the Bank. He served on the Board of Directors of the Bank since 1985 and its predecessor institutions since 1974. Mr. Richel is also Chairman, President & CEO of Dominion

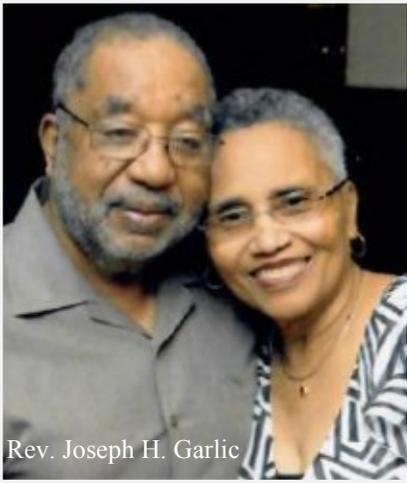
Partners, a financial investment, real estate partnership, and consulting firm. Additionally, he serves as Chairman of Westminster Properties, a development company, and Richel Commercial Brokerage. Mr. Richel is currently Chairman of the Board of Metuchen Savings Bank.

In the civic area, Mr. Richel serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Union County College and is also a member of the Board of Governors at the College. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Trinitas Health and Regional Medical Center (formerly Trinitas Hospital). Mr. Richel also serves on the board of Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation; and is a member of the Two Hundred Club of Union County and of the Union County Crime Stoppers.

Mr. Richel served on the Banking Advisory Board of the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance for 20 years, completing his role in 2015. He was appointed to the board in 1996 after being nominated by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman. He has also served on the board of Thrift Institutions Community Investment Corporation of New Jersey (TICIC), and the board of the New Jersey Savings League. Formerly, Mr. Richel served as a Trustee of the Garden State Cancer Center, Pace University's Lubin School of Business, St. Peter's College Board of Regents, member of the Board of Trustees of John Cabot University, located in Rome, Italy, and the Independence Community Foundation. He formerly served as Chairman and President of the Friends of the Child Advocacy Center of Union County and was a member of the Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition (IIMSAM), an arm of the United Nations.

Mr. Richel has received the Union County Arc Humanitarian Award, the Alexian Brothers New Jersey Man of the Year Award, the Union County Human Relations Commission Special Achievement Award, the Christopher Columbus Humanitarian of 2003 Award and was honored for "Making a Difference" by the Garden State Cancer Center in 2003. He received the 2005 Humanitarian Award by the Union County Educational Services Foundation, and was honored by Union County College in 2005 for outstanding service, and as a tribute to his outstanding service the College re-dedicated its Student Commons Building in his name. Mr. Richel was named an Alumnus of Distinction by the Elizabeth Education Foundation in 1997, and was presented the United Hospital Fund Distinguished Trustee Award of 2009. Mr. Richel was named Hospital Trustee of the Year 2018 by the New Jersey Hospital Association. Then in 2016, Mr. Richel received the Ronald D. Winthers Community College Trustee Leadership Award from the New Jersey Community College Association. He is also a recipient of the 1999 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Mr. Richel graduated from Villanova in 1960 with a BS in Economics. He furthered his education by attending marketing and executive development programs at Columbia University and Harvard Business School. Mr. Richel, his wife, Andrea, have three children and eight grandchildren.



Rev. Joseph H. Garlic

Man of Faith Leading the Way in Community Empowerment

Rev. Joseph H Garlic, known as the “Rev” by many friends, community members and young people with whom he worked is a native of New Jersey and spent his childhood days one of eleven children in Woodstown, NJ. After high school, he migrated to Newark and attended Bloomfield College followed by Hartford Seminary where he obtained a Bachelors in Divinity. While there he worked in several inner city churches, primarily with young people. In 1964 he became Assistant to the President at Franklinton Center, Bricks NC where he not only garnered professional experience but had his first experience with living in the South and the racism perpetuated by the Klu Klux Klan. These experiences would inspire him to be a diligent

advocate for racial equality in his future work.

In 1966 he came to Elizabeth NJ as the first full time Director of the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center. In his 32 years of service, the “Pres” served as a vital and dynamic agency in Elizabethport, shaping young lives and bringing aide to numerous families. The organization continues to be a beacon in the community providing essential services to families in need.

Under Rev’s leadership, the Pres spawned a full time daycare Center for working families, an after school program, a summer youth program, and social service programs for families and seniors. The center also provided financial and academic assistance to students who desired to go to college. As unemployment and under employment were a major concern in the 70’s and 80’s, the Pres developed and offered job employment services and preparation for those who were unemployed.

In 1985 he and other concerned community members organized Brand New Day, an agency which primarily built affordable housing for low income families. The agency helped 1000’s of families with rental housing, purchasing and keeping a home, financial literacy education and community organizing.

The Rev is known for his frank and forthright approach to tackling issues and problems. He has little time or patience for lengthy discussions and filibustering as his style is focused on getting results. He coached his employees to not only do their jobs well but to be proud of their work and the difference they can make in the lives of others.

In his quiet way Rev has the unique talent to inspire people to do for themselves. He has the ability to listen and understand their problems and feelings. There are countless adults whose lives have been impacted by his presence whether a direct mentee, sitting in a meeting where he shared his wisdom, or on the front lines when challenging policy. The community has benefited from the sharing of his gifts

The Rev preaches through life and active involvement in giving and sharing with others. His message to young people is to seek to be somebody and never give up on yourself. His message to everyone is that somebody cares. Rev’s life partner, Hazel and his three daughters Valencia, Heidi, Krishna are the center of his life. Mrs. Garlic has served alongside of him and many years later she entertains visits and calls from the men and women that refer to her as their community mom.

Rev has been a constant in the community and has helped to bring numerous services to the Eport community. He helped establish Meals on Wheels, served on the board of the Coalition to House the Homeless, Coalition for a United Elizabeth, the Elizabeth Day Child Care Council, Homeownership of Elizabeth, 100 Black Men of NJ and the Eddie Gray Camp Fund.

He is an avid player of Bridge, well read and a spiritual leader as an ordained Presbyterian Minister of over fifty years. Douglas MacArthur once said “A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent. This sentiment could not be more accurate when describing the Rev. Joseph H. Garlic.



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Community Access Unlimited welcomes those with a big heart! Due to our continuing expansion, there are a number of **full time** and **part time** openings for those interested in guiding people with disabilities and youth at risk who are on the road to independence.

For those looking for part-time positions, CAU offers available house on the weekends and overnights!

Minimum requirements are:

- Valid driver's license
- Access to vehicle daily to use for work purpose
- Original High School Diploma/GED/College Degree

Experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities and/or youth at risk are a plus! Of course compassion for the work and a flexible schedule is also required when providing support to our members.

Working at CAU is not just a job but a career! We offer promotional opportunities for employees, competitive salaries and a comprehensive benefits package to full time employees!

Please take the time to visit our agency website www.caunj.org for more information and current listings.

CAU Hosts a weekly Open House Mondays from 4 PM -6 PM

80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ
07202

Don't forget your resume and come prepared to fill out an application

To make an appointment, please call an HR representative at (908) 354-3040 ext 4203. If you are unable to attend the open house, please fax resume to (908) 354-0283 or email to rwright@caunj.org.

UCICC –CAU COMMUNITY HELP LINE

**DO YOU NEED HELP WITH FOOD? HOME HEALTH OR PERSONAL CARE
HOME AND PROPERTY CARE
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DOES?**

Call CAU's Information and Referral Office at
908-354-3040 [X 4272] for answers and resources.

CAU's community service mission includes providing direct services to people in need as well as information on how to locate services provided by other agencies.

This month we highlight **one of CAU services available to qualified recipients** in our Union County communities.

1] **Free home delivered meals** [6 week program; one meal per person per day] for Union County residents who are US citizens and their families who need food and who are:

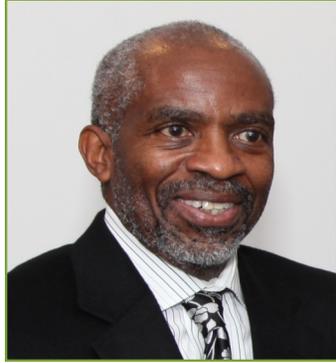
- *Age 59 or younger [head of household]; *Living in low income households;
- * Unable to access adequate food for themselves and their families.
- * Documents and interview are required to qualify.

Contact Gene Tavera X 4272.

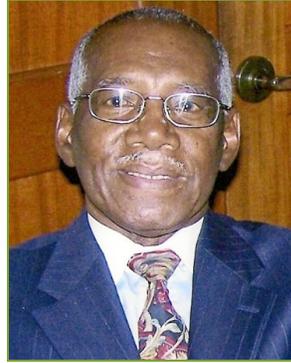
UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



*Sidney Blanchard,
Executive Director
Community Access Unlimited
sblanchard@caunj.org*



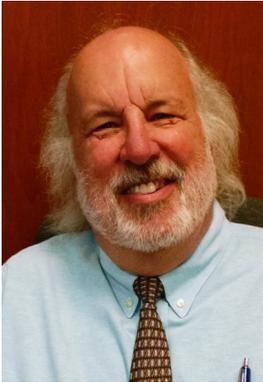
*Roderick (Rod) Spearman
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
rspearman@caunj.org*



*Pastor Howard A. Bryant,
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
hbryant@caunj.org*



*Pastor Carmine Pernini
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
cpernini@caunj.org*



*AH 'Skip' Winter
UCICC Steering
Committee Member*



*Michelle Mobley
CAU Director of Youth
Service Residential
mmobley@caunj.org*



*Charlene Walker
UCICC Administrative Assistant
cwalker@caunj.org*

Join & Be Active Today!

- Attend monthly meetings.
- Invite other community leaders to attend our meetings and events.
- Support or host fundraising programs to support the Record Expungement Grant Program.
- Sign up for our mailing list.
- Share useful information about your organization.

Contact Rod Spearman at
908-354-3040 x 4324
for more information on becoming
a member

Advertise in the UCICC Newsletter!

Have an exciting event or program happening?

Reach out and build bonds with members of the interfaith community in Union County by advertising in this newsletter!

Please send all print-ready ads to Rod Spearman at rspearman@caunj.org by the **13th** of every month to save a space!



Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council c/o Community Access Unlimited
80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Phone: (908) 354-3040 x4324 • Email: UCInterfaith@caunj.org

www.facebook.com/UnionCountyInterfaithCoordinatingCouncil



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Elizabeth, NJ 07202
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Fax: 908-354-2665 www.caunj.org

Community Access Unlimited's Mission: *To provide community access through effective and comprehensive support services for people with disabilities and at-risk youth, giving them the opportunity to live independently and to lead normal and productive lives in the community.*

UCICC & STEERING COMMITTEE UPCOMING EVENTS

UCICC Steering Committee

June 7, 2018 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202

See Right side

UCICC Steering Committee

July 5, 2018 at 10am
80 W. Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202

See Right side

UCICC Steering Committee

August 7, 2018 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202

Full UCICC Event

No Event

Full UCICC Event

A Time for Interfaith Worship & Fellowship
July 25, 2018 at 5:30pm
First United Methodist Church Westfield
1 E Broad St, Westfield NJ 07090

Full UCICC Supported Event

Transitional Opportunities Program- Annual Youth Conference
August 8, 2018 at 9:30am-3:00pm
Community Access Unlimited
80 W. Grand St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202



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