



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.

UNION COUNTY INTERFAITH COORDINATING COUNCIL Steering Committee Members

Deacon Tim Williams—Chair
First Baptist Church
Kenilworth

Pastor E. Crawford—Chair Emeritus
Ebenezer AME
Rahway

Sidney Blanchard
Executive Director of CAU

Rabbi Joel N. Abraham
Temple Shalom
Scotch Plains

Ayaz Aslam
Muslim Community Center of UC
Elizabeth

Pastor H. Bryant
Townley Presbyterian Church
Union

Denise Fernandes
La Via al Exito

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

Fr Michael Saporito
The Parish Community of St. Helen
Westfield

Roderick Spearman
CAU Consultant

Elder Arthur “Skip” Winter
Cranford Presbyterian Church
Cranford

message

from the Chairperson Emeritus

“The Spiritual Roots of Compassion & Justice.”

“Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong.” *Theodore Roosevelt*

The Golden Rule or law of reciprocity is the principle, precept and prescript of treating other, all others, as we would wish to and should be treated.



Whether your faith says:

- **"Never impose on others what you would not choose for yourself." — Confucius**
- **"Do not do to others that which angers you when they do it to you." – Isocrates**
- **"Love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD." — [Leviticus 19:18](#)**
- **"Do to no one what you yourself dislike."— *Tobit 4:15***
- **"Seek for mankind that of which you are desirous for yourself, that you may be a believer." — *Sukhanan-i-Muhammad (Teheran, 1938)***
- **"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Galatians 5:14,**

All require our personal engagement. All of the aforementioned reflect the fundamental fact that no one, not one, should endure or experience anything we would not desire for ourselves.

These statements reflect the altruism, benevolence and humanitarianism that we must intentionally carry into every aspect of our faith, every arena of our society and every encounter of our life. Why? Because they are the roots and fuel for compassion and justice.

Genuine compassion and true justice are rooted in our desire to see people become better, to see them become whole, and to see them as an extension of ourselves and our God. It is about our desire to see others become what we desire to become; to see them have what we desire to have; and to see them enjoy what we enjoy. Hence, compassion and justice, can never be powered by privilege, perquisite or personal perks, but by the agape love of God.

Compassion and justice must go hand and hand with grace and mercy, the same grace and mercy that we receive as benefactors of God's blessings. We must advocate for, grant access to and affirm all who have been oppressed, repressed and suppressed by our society, by our communities of faith, by our laws and by our "in-justice system" because that is what we would desire for ourselves. It's what we would buy for ourselves if we could afford. It's what we would negotiate for ourselves if we had the opportunity.

We must speak truth to power and we must combat the elitist "quid pro quo" arrangements of the wealthy, powerful and popular which says, "I'll help you if you help me." WE must be the conscious of our society and we must remind humanity of what is good and justice and right. After all, the work of Justice relies on Just-Us.

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford

Editorial

By Reverend Brooks Smith

I am a friend of Ali Chaudry, leader of the Islamic Society of Basking Ridge. After the initial travel ban targeting 7 Muslim majority nations, I asked if I could come to the Friday prayer service to be supportive. Ali said sure and plan to speak for 5 to 7 minutes.

Wow--that was a burden and a blessing. At the service, the visiting Imam urged the congregation to remember that these burdens now to fall on many communities and not just the Muslim community.

I said, "When I was 19, I worked in the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project registering voters. I had the honor of living next door to Fannie Lou Hamer and her husband. The church we worked out of was firebombed, but into destroyed. I was arrested and convicted of a misdemeanor version of inciting a riot. That was 53 years ago.

Welcome then to this struggle to make America one nation under God with liberty and justice for all.

Yes, you all bear a unique burden now. But you do not bear it alone."

I would like to lift up the reality that we are in a long, long struggle against deeply rooted racism that now seems to focus most intensely on Muslims and in subtle and not so subtle ways on all people of color. We hear the president rail against radical Islamic terrorism. We do not hear the attack on radical Christian terrorism. Oh, but that is because we don't want to acknowledge the obscene way in which Christianity was used to cloak the evils of the Ku Klux Klan.

So as we look for the Spiritual Roots of our commitments, we face the painful task of telling the truth and learning about our various communities and their histories and their glories and evils. Yet, to work joyfully and creatively mean we need to eat more than just the grapes of wrath.

Spiritually, we are called to find and share wellsprings of joy, inspiration, hope and healing. Surely, that is central part of the mission of the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council.

One of the old civil rights songs has a verse that says--Its a long road to freedom. But we are on that wonderful road.

Member Spotlight

Reverend Brooks Smith.

A native of Chicago and of Albany, New York, Brooks served as the Senior Pastor of the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church in North Plainfield for 30 years. Prior to coming to Watchung Avenue, Brooks served churches in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio and Allentown, Pennsylvania. Brooks received his Bachelors Degree in Economics and History from Wesleyan University and his Divinity Degree from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He also holds a M.S. Degree from the New School University in non-profit management.

A long time activist for peace, Brooks participated in the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, which shaped his call to be a pastor. In the early 1980's, he participated in the Presbyterian Church program, "Witness for Peace," which sent representatives to Nicaragua to witness the turmoil that was raising havoc in that country. While at Watchung Avenue, he led his youth groups on annual mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Nicaragua; and he has led mission trips to other countries in Central and South America. Also during his time at Watchung Avenue, he led the creation of a housing corporation, opened an after school program and started a refugee center. He also served on the Advisory Board for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which included making a trip to Haiti after the earthquake.



Currently, Brooks is the Parish Associate at the Bound Brook Presbyterian Church. Other activities include serving as Chair of the Disaster Preparedness and Response Commission of the Presbytery of Elizabeth, working with the Union County Long Term Recovery Group for Hurricane Sandy and volunteering his experience and energy with Peaceworks, an organization working to better the lives of the poor in Nicaragua. Most recently, Brooks again led the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford on a mission trip to Nicaragua in January.

Brooks and his wife Gail, a retired guidance counselor and director, reside in North Plainfield and are the parents of two sons, Steven and Drew and have three grandchildren.

April Spotlight on Faith: Seventh Day Adventist

*A religious perspective by: Pastor Carl Brewer
Metropolitan SDA Church, Plainfield*

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is one of the most recently formed Evangelical Protestant denominations, officially forming in 1863. It arose from the Millerite movement of the 1840s in upstate New York, a phase of the Second Great Awakening. William Miller, a Baptist preacher, predicted on the basis of Daniel 8:14–16 that Jesus Christ would return to Earth between the spring of 1843 and the spring of 1844. In the summer of 1844, “Millerites” came to believe that Jesus would return on October 22, 1844, understood to be the biblical Day of Atonement for that year. When this did not happen (an event known as the “Great Disappointment”), most of his followers disbanded and returned to their original churches.

However, a small band of “Millerites” continued studying and praying together, which eventually formed the nucleus of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Realizing their error in date setting, they continued to emphasize the imminence of the second coming of Jesus Christ without regard for a specific date. Rachel Oakes Preston, a Seventh-day Baptist, convinced this small group about the importance of the Seventh day (Saturday) Sabbath. When they were formally organized in 1863, the name Seventh-day Adventist was chosen to highlight two key doctrinal beliefs:

- Seventh-day — that the Sabbath of scripture is still applicable for believers everywhere.
- Adventist — that Jesus’ second coming will be literal, visual, audible, and imminent.

Most of the beliefs of the SDA church are similar to other evangelical denominations. A few of its distinctive doctrinal contributions to the Protestant movement include:

- Sabbath — that the Sabbath was established before Judaism (Genesis 2:1-3) and is therefore applicable for all people (Mark 2:27).
- Death — that a person does not die and go to heaven, but awaits the resurrection in the grave (Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6, 10).
- Clean/Unclean animals — while the SDA church agrees that clean/unclean temple regulations are abolished, the dietary laws remain in effect because they were established before Judaism (Genesis 7:2, 3).
- Pre-Millennial Second Coming — that Jesus will return to earth, save his people, and then there will be a millennial reign in heaven of 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-6).

While not formalized in doctrine, SDAs also have a high regard for health, education, humanitarianism and religious liberty. It currently has a worldwide baptized membership of about 19.1 million people, and 25 million adherents. As of May 2007, it was the twelfth-largest religious body in the world, and the sixth-largest highly international religious body. It is ethnically and culturally diverse, and maintains a missionary presence in over 200 countries and territories. The church operates numerous schools, hospitals, and publishing houses worldwide, as well as a humanitarian aid organization known as the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).





Save the Date!
April 6, 2017

You are Invited to Join the Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council for:

A brief time of Interfaith Prayer

Followed by a discussion on the topic:

The Spiritual Roots to Exercising Compassion & Justice

Temple Sholom
1925 Lake Avenue • Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

10:00A—11:30A

Light Refreshments will be provided ~ Sign-in begins at 9:30A

Special Guest Speaker:

Reverend Brooks Smith

(See Reverend Smith's bio on page 5 !)



80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
(908) 354-3040

Please Reserve Now!

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

Hate Crimes, Love Crimes

by Reverend Carmine Pernini

This article is a follow-up piece to the last article that I wrote a few months ago titled, “Hate Crimes After the US Presidential Election (*UCICC January, 2017 Newsletter*).” In my previous, article I tracked the increase of hate crimes following the US Presidential Election and contrasted the different agencies that track reporting, as well as provided a working definition of “hate crimes.” Since January, there has been a rising tide of hate crimes primarily focused on religious and ethnic minorities. According to the State of New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, “A spike in anti-Semitic incidents since early January has continued.... both in New Jersey and nationwide (www.njhomelandsecurity.gov/analysis/ataglance-3-6-17).” NJ’s Jewish Community Centers (JCC) have been the target of bomb threats, including the Katz JCC in Cherry Hill and the Kaplen JCC in Tenafly. These were two of thirteen JCCs and seven Jewish day schools across the country to receive telephoned bomb threats, and these recent hate crimes constitute the fifth wave of such threats since January. Nationwide, there have been more than 100 telephoned bomb threats against 70 JCCs. These attacks have been accompanied by patently anti-Semitic graffiti like that of the South Mountain Reservation in Essex County, where swastikas were spray-painted on a bridge, as well as grave desecrations and vandalism around the country. Mosques in Jersey City, Middlesex County, and Brooklyn, NY have all received threatening letters, and Imams have received threatening letters at their homes. Mosques have also been the target of arson. The Garden State Equality (LGBTQ Rights) office in Asbury Park, NJ had its front door vandalized just last month. The number of anti-Muslim hate groups has tripled since last year, and there are a total of 917 hate groups in the US and 15 in NJ ranging from the KKK, Forza Nuova, Neo-Nazis and a variety of “racist skinhead” groups (splcenter.org/hate-map).

According to Azi Paybarah and Brendan Cheney of Politico, “There were 56 hate crimes reported in New York City as of Sunday, Feb. 12, up from just 31 incidents over the same time period last year (www.politico.com/states/new-york/city-hall/story/2017/02/so-far-rate-of-hate-crimes-in-2017-outpacing-2016-109621).” As I reported in January, hate crime statistics are lower than the actual number of hate crimes committed. In response to an increase in hate crimes, the Attorney General of NJ is offering a Bias Crime/Incident Training for Community Partners/Faith Based Leaders, and there is currently a bill, A4253, which would enable non-profit organizations (houses of worship) to receive up to \$10,000 in grant funding for security personnel. According to the Washington Post, *all* 100 Senators have asked President Trump for “swift action” regarding the increased occurrence of hate crimes.

While the burden of increased hate crime occurrence is deeply troubling, there has been an increase in what I would categorize as “love crimes.” In February, there was a demonstration at the Elizabeth Detention Center focusing on immigrant rights and halting deportations. There, several individuals were arrested for blocking a road (arrests were made but no charges were filed and the demonstrators were released.). This is, I would say, a crime of love in that the occasion for arrest drew attention to and shed light on Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agent’s tactics which are normally carried out in the dark. Love crimes, when people are arrested for civil disobedience, are on the rise nationwide as well (www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/01/09/the-return-of-civil-disobedience).

Though not crimes, we have seen a remarkable uptick in public demonstrations ranging from the Women’s March on Washington, the largest demonstration in US history, to Town Halls where Senators on recess contend with spirited constituents. Airports have been shut down by American citizens concerned about those who have been banned from the US. Demonstrations have become part of our cultural milieu where white women stand alongside refugees and asylum seekers. African Americans show up to put their bodies on the line for Latino undocumented immigrants. Religious leaders of all stripes gather in support of transgender rights. Muslims have made financial donations to Jewish cemeteries that have been vandalized and Jews have donated to Mosques which have been the subject of arson. These acts of Love may potentially provide the social cohesion for a mass movement that can usher in change. While there is an abundance of hate in our communities there is, as I hope to have highlighted, a superabundance of love. For now, it seems as though love and hate are tethered together perhaps creating a zero sum game. But, for the faithful, for people of conscience, the hope is that love’s persistent light will overcome the darkness of hate. As communities who care about one another, our outpouring of love in the end must move from response to anticipation. We must continue to be public. We must continue to support one another in the fight for a just society. MLK’s adage, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere” speaks of the negative force of hate. Perhaps our mantra and creed can be, “Love anywhere is a threat to hate everywhere.”

Faith Community and Hate Crimes: Taking Action

If your faith community becomes the recipient of hateful actions, including letters, e-mails or phone calls of concern, which may be considered a bias incident or hate crime:

1. Call local police
2. Call FBI 973 793 3000
3. Call OHSP's (Office of Homeland Security) Counter Terrorism Watch at 609- 963-6817 or John Paige at 973- 277-0651

If you receive overseas email from unknown sources, please use caution and wear gloves when opening up mail.

From the office of the Attorney General:

“We received reports that, in the past week, two Mosques in New Jersey have received hate mail stating that Muslims “should be cleansed,” and referring to the shooting in Charleston, South Carolina and the bombing of a Mosque in Quebec, Canada. These matters are currently being investigated, and the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice and Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) are coordinating with law enforcement agencies throughout the State as appropriate. We encourage all faith-based institutions to immediately report any suspicious or hate mail, packages, telephone calls, or other communications that they receive.

These institutions should be looking for mail that looks out of the ordinary and/or mail from outside of the U.S.. If you do receive mail that fits this description, make sure to open it with gloves. If hate mail is discovered, you should immediately report it to your local Police Department, with a secondary notification to OHSP which should include a copy of the envelope and its contents. “

MAKE INTERFAITH WORK.

**PLEASE SHARE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION
WITH FAITH GROUPS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.**

Lent – A Time for Spiritual Growth, Reflection, Forgiveness and Responsive Action

By Skip Winter

Philippians 2 : 4 Let each of you not look to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

On March 1, Ash Wednesday, Christians throughout the world began the 40 day Season of Lent by attending prayer services, receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the imposing of ashes . Lent, like Advent, symbolizes who we are called to be as Christians, leading up to the two most important dates in the Christian calendar: Christmas and Easter. For many, Lent has become just another season of following traditions, such as giving up a favorite foods or activities for 40 days and/or planning Easter Sunday dinners with family. And now, with Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday a little over two weeks away, we should all be asking ourselves, **“What have we done, and what are we doing to make lives better for others in the community and the world?”**

Though we should be asking these questions every year, this 2017 Lenten season is different. Religious freedom for all faiths and houses of worship are being threatened by those who are intolerant of others, those who are racist and are filled with anti-Semitism. We need to go no further than our neighbors in Scotch Plains and Springfield to see where Jewish Community Centers and Temples are receiving threats and hate phone calls and emails. At least two Mosques in New Jersey have received threats, and others in Union County have received biased phone calls. Tombstones in Jewish Cemeteries have been vandalized and desecrated. Such activities have prompted the NJ Division of Homeland Security to send out instructions to Houses of Worship on the proper procedures to follow if they receive threatening phone calls and emails.

The bottom line is: **“What Can We Do as Christians?”** either alone or, preferably, in conjunction with other Houses of Worship, to speak out against these ongoing threats to our freedom of religion and history of religious tolerance ? The Reverend Sharyl Dixon and her congregation of the Kingston Presbyterian Church in Kingston, NJ opened up their doors at their Sunday, March 5, to welcome members of the Muslim Community to their morning worship services. A few weeks ago, just after the Executive Order on Immigrants was released, Reverend Dixon and many members of her congregation were at the Islamic Society of Central Jersey in South Brunswick to stand in solidarity with them.

Now, during the season of Lent, as we approach Easter Sunday, and more than ever before, is the time for all of us to stand up on behalf of members of all our faith communities and show support and solidarity against the racial and anti-Semitic bigotry that is running rampant in our communities, state, country and world.



FAITH INTO ACTION

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

Union County citizens are searching for a faith community within which to worship.

Perhaps you have what they are looking for! This is an opportunity for your house of worship to meet members of the community looking for a faith home, and to share with them what you are all about!

Please join us as clergy and congregation members from all different faiths meet and welcome potential new fellow worshipers.

The **Union County Interfaith Coordinating Council** invites you to an interfaith reception on :

Wednesday, April 26, 2017
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Suburban Golf Club
1730 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ

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



Will you join us?
Please contact us at:



Ask the Clergy: Coffee & Clergy Jewish-Christian Dialog

with

**Pastor David Knecht (Holy
Cross Lutheran Church)**

and

**Rabbi Mark Mallach
(Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael)**

Join us for our 6th year in an informal & enriching series of discussions based on timely topics and **Biblical texts**.

Where: Barnes and Noble, Rt. 22, Springfield, NJ

When: Thursday evenings, from 8-9pm

2016: ~~October 13, December 8~~

2017: ~~February 23~~, **April 6**, June 8



Questions contact:
TBAY 973-376-0539
office@tbay.org

Or: Holy Cross
973-379-4525
office@holycrossnj.org

BECOME AN
ACTIVE
BYSTANDER

LEARN HOW
TO:

DIRECT
DISTRACT
DELEGATE

Active Bystander Training

Zion Lutheran Church

215 Elm Ave, Rahway, NJ 07065

Saturday, April 22, 2017

10:00 am – 2:00 pm (Check-in begins at 9:30)

Cost: \$15/person, includes lunch

*A man struggles with English at the checkout counter
and the clerk jokes with a colleague about
immigrants.*

A young man is followed by security while looking for a present for his mother's birthday.

A Muslim girl has her hijab snatched off by a stranger in a crowd.

At baptism, Lutheran Christians promise publicly to "love all people following the example of Jesus" and to "strive for justice and peace in all the earth". Other major religions also value protecting others from harm. When we observe threatening or harassing behavior, how do we respond? What would *you* do? This training gives participants tools to build confidence in speaking up and acting to protect others, and promotes positive ways to impact our communities.

To register, call the New Jersey Synod office at: 609.586.6800

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 19, 2017

For financial assistance, please contact Rev. Kimberly Vaughn (kvaughn@njsynod.org)



New Jersey Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
God's work. Our hands.

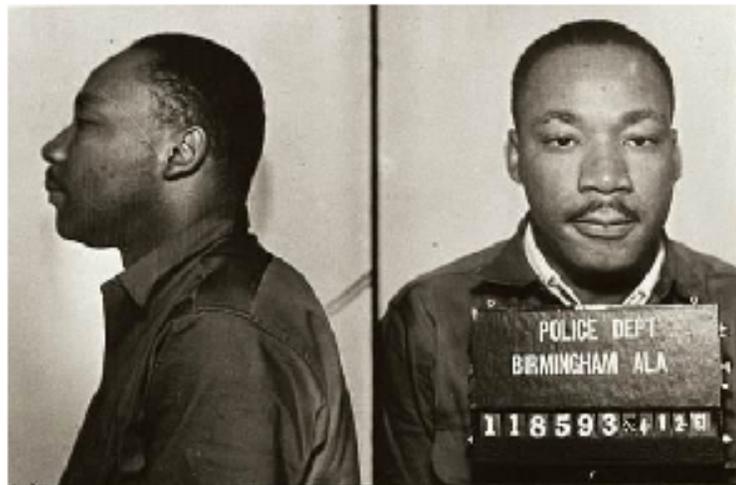
Would members of your congregation benefit from/be interested in learning more about gun violence prevention?

Moms Demand Action offers a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation (called Be SMART) that promotes and teaches safe gun storage in the home to prevent child deaths from unsecured guns. Be SMART also touches on the warning signs of teenage suicide and safety during playdates. If you are interested, we would love to bring Be SMART to your congregation, in whatever way makes the most sense.

Please contact Dryden Watner, Faith Outreach Leader of Moms Demand Action, Union County at drydenw@msn.com or 908.233.0371 for more information.

Living Out His Legacy Shouldn't Be Confined to Black History Month

**JOIN US FOR A WORKSHOP ON Martin Luther King, Jr.
AS AN AGENT OF SOCIAL CHANGE:
"KING AS A CHRISTIAN ACTIVIST OF JUSTICE WHO
PROMOTED PEACE"**



Keynote Speaker and Workshop Facilitator - Hashim Garrett

Hashim Garrett is a nationally acclaimed anti-violence educator and consultant. As a survivor of gang-related gun violence, Garrett has a powerful message of refusing retaliation and choosing forgiveness. His practice of forgiveness has led him to work closely with the Guardian Angels and "Breaking the Cycle"— an award-winning conflict resolution program. He has a passion for reaching youth and shares his message of nonviolence with students in the Elizabeth Public School System and diverse audiences throughout the state. His peacemaking work embodies King's message of peace and justice for the hip hop generation.

The Workshop will also Feature...

A Teach-in on The Relevance of King as a Resister and Social Agitator
An Audience-Participation Session on Conflict Resolution Skills led by Hashim Garrett
A Teens and Tweens Promoting Peace Presentation

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 2016

9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELIZABETH

401 UNION AVE. (at Corner of Prince St.) ELIZABETH, NJ 07208

Rev. Diana Brown, Pastor

A Light Breakfast and Lunch will be served

Please RSVP - 908-352-0519 or firstbaptistchurchce@verizon.net

***"True peace is not merely the absence of conflict: it is the presence of justice."
Martin Luther King, Jr.***

PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES

Music with a Mission!



SALEM Roadhouse CAFE

2017 SHOW LINEUP



FEBRUARY 11 - MICHAELA McCLAIN BAND Original rock/pop tunes with a jazzy overtone, her music is hot, intelligent and extremely well crafted. Amazing musicianship on the part of each member of the band.

MARCH 11 - PIKTORS METAMORPHOSIS Fusion jazz/rock ala Weather Report & others, technically brilliant with a HUGE sound, these guys define fusion. To see it performed right in front of you is a treat!

APRIL 8 - RICH KUBICZ, DAMN THE TORPEDOES & FRIENDS Various rock performers in an energetic show that is always fun and exciting. Tom Petty tributes plus Rich's originals and covers of other classic rock tunes.

MAY 13 - JAMES DEAN'S WHISKEY CAFÉ JAZZ QUARTET Pure jazz quartet with big band sound, these are some very seasoned jazz musicians who come together to bring out some of the finest big jazz band sounds.

JUNE 10 - JOE LISA & QUARTET High quality modern jazz with some fusion overtones—more details coming!

JULY 8 - GEOFF GALLANTE & TRIO Geoff's fourth return to the Roadhouse, this young star mesmerizes audiences with his naturally talented trumpet playing accompanied by an all-star backup band.

AUGUST 12 - RIVA JEAN TRIO, the thinking mans trio, with opening by vocal sensation **SAM BRADY**. Riva Jean brings a big Broadway sound to the small stage with amazing composition and performance.

SEPTEMBER 9- RAY POWERS AND FRIENDS Original and covers, rock, pop and other styles, Ray and friends always deliver a fun, exciting and energetic show. This years show will have talented players from all around to liven up the stage.

OCTOBER 14 - MELANIE MITRANO Brazilian/Portuguese jazz that's cool, sassy and sexy. Melanie has captured the essence of the Brazilian Bossa Nova style, with a salsa overtone. Melanie says that she will have musicians from Brazil on hand to accompany her and the band.

NOVEMBER 11 - TBA We're working on something really big here, keep watching.

Shh! The Roadhouse may be the best-kept secret in Northern New Jersey — the area's best jazz, rock, and even the occasional folkie in an intimate coffeehouse venue. The Roadhouse only opens to the public on the second Saturday evening of the month. It's where the area's musicians go to hear other musicians, and you might find yourself sitting next to a famous jazz drummer or a vocalist from Australia. You never know.

Musicians love the audience that takes the time to find the Roadhouse, and when musicians love their audience, they play their hearts out. Why does it take time to find the Roadhouse? We've cleverly hidden it in a church basement, where audience and musicians are within touching distance of each other. The acoustics are great.

The Roadhouse serves real coffee and tea — it's a *coffeehouse*, not a bar, after all. Hot and cold snacks and desserts are included in the admission. There's art, too, because art and music go together. You can sip your coffee while perusing original works available for purchase at the Roadhouse Fine Arts Gallery. Works change with each opening. Show proceeds always benefit local charities. Union TV34 records the shows for broadcast — so check out past shows on cable. Ask around. You might be surprised to find who knows about the Roadhouse.



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL SHOWS BEGIN AT 8:00 PM, DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM

SALEM Roadhouse CAFE @ Townley Presbyterian Church

829 Salem Road, Union, NJ 07083 Ph: 908-686-1028

E-mail: salemroadhouse@gmail.com Website: www.roadhousecafe.org

Facebook: facebook.com/salemroadhouse

2017 Marriage Conference

and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Mark 10:8



And they shall be  ONE ...

Workshops include:

- **Communication** – Talking to each other and not at each other different.
- **War Room**- Praying to God and Let Him Lead you.
- **Sexy at 60**– Mature and loving Godly.
- **Barber Shop Talk**- A Husband's authentic headship in his marriage.
- **Beauty Shop Talk**- Can anything good come out of Pandora's Box?
- **Health**-Couples helping each other stay healthily.
- **Happily Ever After** - Employ Airport Actions.

Keynote Presenters include:

- **Dr. George Thornton**, Headmaster of The DuPont Adventist School, Washington, D.C
- **Terry Benjamin**, Professor, Union County College
- **Pastor Eldridge Spearman**, Senior Pastor, Jezreel Baptist Church, Silver Spring, Maryland.
- **Reginald and Peachie Williams**, Speakers, Facilitators, Trainers, Behavioral Interventionist.
- **Dr. Barry Levinson**, Head of Triantis Regional Medical Center,

**\$60 PER COUPLE OR
\$30 PER INDIVIDUAL
MAKE CHECKS TO SPEARMAN
CONSULTANT SERVICES
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND
LUNCH INCLUDED
SATURDAY APRIL 29TH, 2017
8AM-4PM**

**MT. TEMAN AME CHURCH 160 MADISON AVE,
ELIZABETH, NJ 07202**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE
SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017
CONTACT INFO: 908-377-0143
EMAIL: rodspearman05@yahoo.com**

Sponsored By: Spearman Consultant Services
Dr. Cliff Burt and MT. Teman AME Church

*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتكم، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.



Perhaps you have seen these signs scattered around on the lawns of houses of worship, social service providers, or private citizens...

We are living in a time when more than ever we must show our love for our neighbors in the face of an increasing climate of hate.

Signs are available for order locally for \$15, a portion of which will support efforts of sanctuary in New Jersey.

More information about the signs can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/welcomeyourneighbors/>

“We’re glad you’re our neighbor” signs — \$15

Available from Pastor Kathryn Irwin

PastorKatIrwin@gmail.com

610-780-0141

A portion of each sign sale goes to support sanctuary efforts in New Jersey.

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 openings. Community Access Unlimited is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

The Cafeteria at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202

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

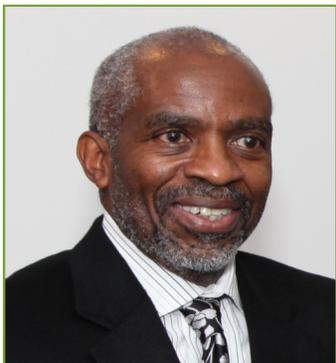
To make an appointment, please call an HR representative at (908) 354-3040 ext 203. If you are unable to attend the open house, please fax resume to (908) 354-0283 or email to rwright@caunj.org.



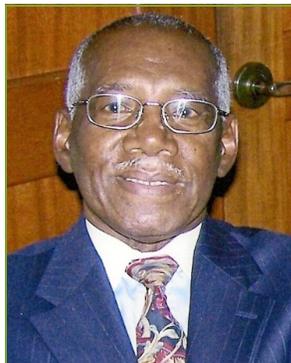
UCICC Outreach Coordinating Team



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



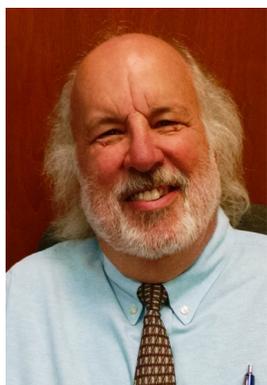
*Roderick (Rod) Spearman
UCICC Interfaith Coordinator
rspearman@caunj.org*



*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*



*Cynthia Manno
UCICC Administrative Assistant
cmanno@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.

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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PERMIT 225
Elizabeth, NJ

80 West Grand Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
Phone: 908-354-3040 TTY/TTD: 908-354-4629
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

April 6, 2017 at 10:00am
See Right side



UCICC SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENT!!!

(See also Page 9)



UCICC Steering Committee

May 4, 2017 at 10:00am
80 W Grand St
Elizabeth NJ 07202

UCICC Combined Full/Steering Event "Spiritual Roots to Exercising Compassion and Justice"

April 6, 2017 - 10 AM

Temple Shalom

1925 Lake Avenue Scotch Plains, NJ

FAITH INTO ACTION

Clergy—Community Meet & Greet Event

April 26, 2017 - 5PM—9PM

Suburban Golf Club

1730 Morris Avenue Union, NJ

Full UCICC Event

ACLU: "Church and State"

May 18, 2017 - 7PM

First Presbyterian Church

11 Springfield Avenue Cranford, NJ



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