



Racine Interfaith Coalition

Annual Booklet

Strength through Faith,
Power through Community



2024-2025



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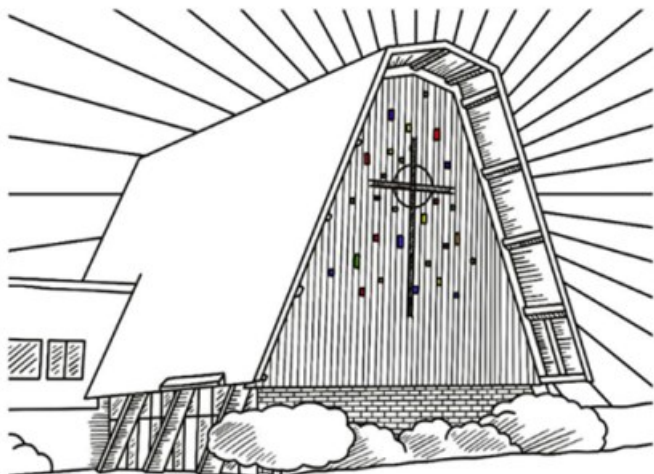
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R/KVM IS GRATEFUL FOR THE WORK OF THE RACINE INTERFAITH COALITION!

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Worship with us/ Adorar con nosotros

Saturday at 4:30 pm (English)

Sunday at 9:00 am (English)

Domingo 11:00 am (español)

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God prepared in advance for us to do.
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opportunity to fulfill this.

–Fr. Yeprem Kelegian

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to justice everywhere."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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2024-25 SEASON



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December 6, 2024

MASTERWORKS SERIES

November 1, 2024
April 26, 2025

MUSICAL FLIGHTS

October 11, 2024
February 21, 2025
March 21, 2025

CONTACT INFORMATION:

(262) 636-9285

www.racinesymphony.org

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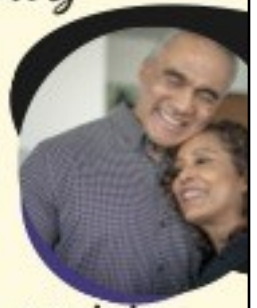
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Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30 PM Sunday 8 AM and 10 AM

Tuesday Taizé Mass 6 PM

Wednesday to Friday 9 AM



North Pointe United Methodist Church

3825 Erie Street, Racine, WI 53402

(262) 639-2441

office@northpointeracine.org

www.northpointeracine.org

Pastor: Rev. Susan Barham



Sunday services: 9:15 AM

Videos of all services are available on our Facebook page

Outreach Ministries



Northside Food Pantry
Tuesday and Thursday
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM



Diaper Ministry
Monday
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM





The King will reply, 'Truly, I tell you, what you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40

With Prayers for RIC and the good people of Racine
-St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church
Racine, WI

Christopher Infusino CPA

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Mike Frontier



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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO GET INVOLVED

2302A DeKoven Avenue
262-635-9532
ricracine1993@gmail.com

WHAT IS LEAD?

Lead is a highly toxic heavy metal that produces a range of adverse health effects, particularly in young children. Lead dust is of particular concern as it is often undetected and easily absorbed. Lead paint used on the interior and exterior of homes was banned in the U.S. in 1978. However, it is estimated that about 75% of homes built before 1978 still contain some lead paint.



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cityofracine.org/health/lead-free

ABOUT OUR EFFORTS

- On three consecutive Saturdays – September 21, September 27 and October 5 -- ten teenagers knocked on 1169 doors and had 294 conversations. They also spent two hours passing out information and talked to 45 people at Party on the Pavement.
- RIC's work on educating the community about lead poisoning began more than three years ago and has included distributing literature at community events such as Juneteenth and school carnivals, making presentations to churches and organizations such as Rotary and AAUW, and distributing information through day care facilities and food banks.



We salute the Racine Interfaith Coalition's work for peace and justice in our community.



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THRIVE: IN MOVEMENT...IN CULTURE...IN COMMUNITY

Mission

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of Black people and all persons of color.

Founded February 12, 1909, the NAACP is the nation's foremost, largest and most widely recognized civil rights organization. It's more than half-million members and supporters throughout the US and the world and are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, leading grassroots campaigns for equal opportunity and conducting voter mobilization.



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Message from the Executive Director of WISDOM

2025 is going to be yet another very important year for WISDOM and for Wisconsin. For starters, it is WISDOM's 25th Anniversary! (RIC and MICA in Milwaukee are two solid building blocks that existed before, and upon which WISDOM was built.)

In 2025, Wisconsin will need to make some big decisions, like: *"Will we build a new prison?"* It has become very clear the prisons in Waupun and Green Bay are unsafe, unhealthy and way past their useful lifespans. (The Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility, though it is newer, belongs in that category as well.) There are many "leaders" in our state rushing to call for us to immediately commit \$500 million to build a new prison to replace them. We believe that it will be faster and more effective to use this opportunity to take the commonsense measures needed to reduce the prison population. This can be done safely, by doing things like reducing the number of crimeless revocations, where people get sent back to prison for technical violations of parole supervision. We could not only save the \$500 million cost of a new prison; we could save \$100 million per year in operating costs.

The billion-dollar decision about how to close the prisons that need to be closed will depend on how active and vocal we all are.

The coming year is a time when our state will make many other decisions: *"How we will treat the immigrants and refugees among us? Will we protect our natural environment or sacrifice it to outside business interests? Will we re-build a more robust Transit system in Wisconsin, or will we allow it to continue to deteriorate?"*

Every WISDOM member organization made great efforts to get people out to vote in 2024, and we'll do it again for the important elections coming up in April, 2025. But, democracy doesn't end with the election. We are already making plans for **Madison Action Day, on April 10, 2025** – a day to celebrate our values, and to remind our elected officials of those things we talked with them about before they were elected!

2025 will also be a year for us to organize and strengthen our organizations. Simply put; to meet our great hopes and visions, we're going to need a lot more people! We'll be spending time around the state in 2025 doing one-on-ones, inviting new people to join our community, training new people to take on leadership roles.

We've done amazing things in the past 25 years. In the grand scheme of things, that was an excellent first step. We need to build the community that will take the next big step in the coming 25 years.

Best Regards,

David Liners

Executive Director, WISDOM



WISDOM Prophetic Declaration

Where there is division,
we declare unity.

Where there is hatred,
we declare love.

Where there is lack, we
declare abundance.

Where there is
desolation, we declare
renewal.

Where there is
discouragement, we
declare hope.

Where there is lack of
strength, we declare
power.

About RIC

The Racine Interfaith Coalition (RIC) is a non-profit organization made up of 27 congregations or affiliates who are united in our belief in the inherent value of every individual and our shared obligation to create a fairer, more equitable and more just community.

The issues we tackle, and the projects we undertake, are driven by our vision and mission, our faith traditions, the commitment of our volunteers, and the statewide programs of the faith-based organization with which we are affiliated (WISDOM).

We advocate for changes in local and state laws and ordinances when we believe it is necessary to achieve our vision and mission, but our objectives are always humanitarian, never partisan. We believe power comes from collective action and we welcome to the work all faith communities as well as individuals who share our vision, mission and values.

Our Vision

A Beloved Community where every member contributes to the health and well-being of all and inclusion, justice, equity and compassion prevail.

Our Mission

To inspire and mobilize faith-based congregations to address issues of economic and social injustice through education, advocacy and community organizing.

Our Values

Faith in the inherent goodness of every human being and the power of prayer and belief.

Compassion that includes not only a deep sympathy for the suffering of others but also a strong desire to act to relieve that suffering.

Inclusion because we believe that every person – no exceptions – should be welcome as a member of the Beloved Community, especially those who have suffered from injustice and exclusion.

Commitment because it is not enough to just pray or talk about our beliefs, we must also act on them.

Cooperation because we believe that collaboration with other individuals, teams and organizations will produce better outcomes for those we serve.

Respect for the cultures and beliefs of others because we are all equal in our ability to conceive solutions that will help create the Beloved Community.

Racine Interfaith Coalition
2302A DeKoven Avenue, Racine, WI 53403
(262) 635-9532 ricracine1993@gmail.com www.ricracine.org

Racine Interfaith Coalition
Strength through Faith, Power through Community

Congregation/Organization	Congregation Leader	Board Representative
All Nation Pentecostal Prayer House	Rev. Roger Carson	Rev. Roger Carson
Beth Israel Sinai Congregation	Rabbi Martyn Adelberg	Joyce Plazrowski
Burlington Coalition for Dismantling Racism	Laura Bielefeldt	Laura Bielefeldt
Catapult Church & Family Life Center	Dr. LaToya Thurmond	Vertis Riley
Christ Church United Methodist	Rev. George Kafer	Tammy Hayward & Nancy Holmlund
Covenant Presbyterian Church	Pr. Jenny Gleichauf & Pr. Sarah Walker Cleaveland	Pr. Jenny Gleichauf
Emaus ELCA Lutheran Church	Marcy Wieties	Marcy Wieties
First Presbyterian Church	Rev. Darren Utley	Rev. Darren Utley
Greater Mt. Eagle Baptist Church	Pr. Keith Evans	Pr. Keith Evans
Holy Communion Lutheran Church	Rev. Mark Doidge & Pr. Laura Flatten	Susan Barbee
Kenosha Racine Quaker Worship Group	Quaker Worship Group	Belinda Thielen & Pamela Smiley
Living Faith Lutheran Church	Pr. Cathy Brown	Ron Thomas
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection	Pr. John Anderson & Pr. Ryan Gerlach	Gary Anderson & Colin McKenna
North Pointe United Methodist Church	Rev. Susan Barham	Betty Brenneman
Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church	Mary Graham & Suzanne Landis	Joe Cushing & Marybeth Zuhlke
Racine Islamic Center	Imam Wali Shakoore-Lugman	Nabeeh El Amin
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Fr. Juan Camacho	David Kleba
Siena Center	S. Karen Vollmer	Tim Hall
St. Luke's Episcopal Church	Fr. Matthew Buterbaugh	Fr. Matthew Buterbaugh
St. Mesrob Apostolic Armenian Church	Fr. Avedis Kalayjian	Fr. Yeprem Kelegian
St. Patrick Catholic Church	Fr. Juan Camacho	Jessica Diaz
St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church	Bishop Lawrence Kirby	Tammi McCright
St. Richard of Chichester Catholic Church	Fr. Juan Camacho	Sandra Villarreal
St. Rita Parish	Fr. Thomas Vathappallil	Deacon Greg Petro, Susan Willing, & Deb Sandonato
The Hospitality Center	Fr. Matthew Buterbaugh	Wally Herman
United Lutheran Church	Pr. John Bischoff	Kenda Dues
Wayman A. M. E. Church	Rev. Thomas Poole	Al Johnson

2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD & STAFF

President: Tammy Hayward
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Treasurer: David Kleba
Members at Large: Wally Herman, Al Johnson, & Susan Willing
Past President: Linda Boyle
Staff
Organizer: Ri' Witer
Digital Organizer: Amanda Ali

2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD & STAFF

President: Wally Herman
Co-Vice Presidents: Jessica Diaz & Dave Backmann
Secretary for Executive Board: Sue Spicer
Treasurer: David Kleba
Members at Large: Al Johnson & Susan Willing
Past President: Tammy Hayward
Staff
Organizer: Ri' Witer
Digital Organizer: Amanda Ali

Message from Our President



Tammy Hayward

2024 has been a tough year for a number of us in leadership roles in the Racine Interfaith Coalition. Thank you all for your patience, prayers, and good wishes as we have continued to heal physically and emotionally.

We have continued to experience very positive efforts from our 5 task forces: Education, Environmental Justice, Transformational Justice, Immigration, and TUTV (Turn Up The Vote)! You will read about their continuing efforts on the Task Force pages in this book.

This being a presidential election year, it was all hands on deck for TUTV! Volunteers from other task forces, the community, and even neighboring states gave of their time generously to canvass, table, drive, pack literature, stuff bags, make phone calls, drop signs, etc. under the leadership of Chairman Rich Glasenapp.

A few 2024 RIC highlights include adding two Congregations to our Affiliates list; we welcome you! Our Love & Justice Breakfast saw a large gathering of clergy and members. Vigil numbers saw a significant decrease after peaking at 21 last year, we have only needed to do three thus far this year. We believe this has been largely the result of Racine's Violence Prevention and Community Safety Programs. Our office has been blessed to have James, Diana, and Gregory working with us this year through SER National. SER is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to operate the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), focusing on mature workers' training and employment needs. SCSEP supplied us with several thousands of hours of work free of charge in 2024!

Looking ahead, watch for information on our 2025 Love & Justice Breakfast in February, Madison Action Day in April, and RIC's 1st Summer Golf Outing Fundraiser.

We offer our Congratulations and Happy Anniversary to Wisdom Celebrating 25 years in 2025! Also thank you to all those who have supported our fundraising efforts and given generously to see that our work continues. Employees and volunteers alike have kept us going when the going got tough!

Join us in praying for a good year in 2025!

Tamerin Hayward, President



Sue Spicer

Immigration Task Force
Sue Spicer & Linda Boyle
Co-Chairs

Get Involved

Meetings: Second Tuesday of every month at 6 pm
2302 DeKoven Ave. (RIC Office)
Email: ricracine1993@gmail.com



Linda Boyle

The Immigration Task Force has been helping immigrants achieve stability in the Racine community. Our work has been centered around three main areas this year: housing, medical care, and legal assistance.

It is difficult for people without social security numbers to apply for housing. Landlords want to see some kind of government paperwork to assure them of economic stability. Since immigrants lack this paperwork, finding housing is particularly challenging.

A Venezuelan couple found a flat in Racine that could house eight family members, five of which had just migrated from Venezuela. The five family members made a treacherous journey through the jungles and several countries to cross from Mexico into Texas, then traveled to Racine where other family members live. The landlord of the flat did not follow landlord/tenant requirements, refused to give them a lease, and tried to trick them into paying bills for which they were not responsible. When difficulties arose, the landlord threatened to immediately throw them out of the flat and tied his dog to their door to intimidate them. Luckily, a member of the family found a landlord that did not require a social security number while other family members found housing with relatives. Through negotiations, we got the landlord to agree to give them 12 hours to vacate. Family members worked throughout the night and managed to get their belongings out of the flat in time to avoid further conflict with the landlord.

Another family got housing through their employer. When housing costs escalated, the landlord continued to raise the rent until it was an amount they could not afford. The family had to find affordable housing elsewhere.

Another Venezuelan asylum seeker obtained a short-term employment Visa to the United States, and due to the hardships being experienced in his home country, decided to stay in the United States. This man had a tough time finding work, lost his job and apartment in another city, and was taken to the homeless shelter in Racine by a friend. This man is very resourceful and has found employment in Racine. The task force helped him move into a low cost apartment this Fall.

Another immigrant was sharing rent with a family member in Racine when he was cheated out of his rent money and was left owing two months of rent, he couldn't afford. He became homeless. Task Force members helped him straighten out his issues. He moved into a tiny studio apartment this Fall. Racine St. Vincent de Paul Society helped the above immigrants obtain and transport furniture and kitchen supplies.

The Task Force worked with the Health Care Network, and the Ascension All Saint's Hospital CommunityCare Program. These programs have provided extensive health services to for immigrants.

Lastly, our Immigration Legal Services office has been operating for over a year offering assistance with immigration applications including medical waivers, DACA renewals and citizenship applications at a sliding scale cost to the community. They have combined with ELCA Outreach Center in Kenosha to become accredited and start the process there as well. So far, they have had 51 consultations helping people with various legal paperwork. If you would like to support their efforts monetarily, you can donate at:

bit.ly/immigrationlegalservices



Richard Glasenapp

Turn Up the Vote Task Force Richard Glasenapp Chair

The goal of the Turn Up the Vote Task Force (TUTV) has always been to reach out to eligible Racine voters to be sure they are registered and informed before elections. Our ultimate goal is to work toward the election of people who reflect our values. We believe that one of the most effective ways to increase voter participation is to educate and inform voters regarding the role and function of various levels of government and to encourage reflection on how the policies of candidates will impact the daily lives of voters and their families. We created documents, in English and Spanish, giving reasons to vote and highlighting important election dates.

Task Force members distributed information with specific steps for voter registration indicating documents needed to register. Information regarding this year's constitutional amendments was included. We also included information highlighting the work of all 5 RIC Task Forces and invited participation. Various methods were used to Turn Up the Vote: door-to-door canvassing in targeted neighborhoods, setting up tables in various business locations, mailing postcards, and social media posts. An enthusiastic contingent of driver volunteers provided 58 rides to the DMV and the polls on Election Day in November. Eleven canvasses and tabling efforts reached several thousand voters despite the challenges of weather. 1100 postcards were written and sent. Our volunteers had a presence at The Party on the Pavement, Hispanic Heritage Day, and Juneteenth Celebrations, and gave presentations at two senior apartments and the Friendship Club House.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity, enthusiasm, and energy of the volunteers who assisted in countless ways. Thanks to the businesses and organizations who hosted our volunteers at tables to help us in this work. Thank you to high school teachers and students who shared service time with us in literature preparation. We were especially grateful for the friendship and time of volunteers who offered to join us from Milwaukee and Illinois. Each of you knows who you are - THANK YOU for giving your time to this important work. We have a long way to go to ensure every eligible person is actually able to vote. Please consider joining our Turn Up the Vote Task Force. Together we can make a difference!!

Get Involved

**Meetings: Seasonal
2302 DeKoven Ave. (RIC Office)
Email: ricracine1993@gmail.com**



Carl Fields

Transformational Justice Carl Fields & Greg Petro Co-Chairs



Greg Petro

RIC's Transformational Justice Task Force (TJTF) is working to address mass incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal legal system in Racine and the state of Wisconsin. Specifically, we are observing select court hearings in the Racine County Circuit Court system and collecting data. We are focused on understanding the disparities in the assigning of bail amounts, the factors that impact sentencing, and the use of diversionary programs to avoid incarceration as they relate to people of different racial/ethnic backgrounds.

In 2025 we are planning to present our most recent findings based upon our last year of court observations.

Please join us in this important work. The TJTF meets in-person on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the RIC office located at 2302A DeKoven Ave in Racine, WI 53403.

If you would like to speak with someone, please call co-chair Greg Petro at (262) 221-1152 or email at gdpetro@outlook.com.

Best Regards,

Carl Fields, Co-Chair
Pastor Darren Utley, Clergy Leadership
Daniel MacDonald, Software & Data Analysis
Greg Petro, Co-Chair
Belinda Thielen, Court Coordinator

Get Involved

Meetings: First Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm
2302 DeKoven Ave. (RIC Office)
Email: gdpetro@outlook.com

Prayer Vigils

For over 27 years, when there is a violent death, RIC members visit the site of the tragedy. As Jesus would be present in situations of pain in order to heal, we also come to pray for healing of the family and our beloved City of Racine. We offer support to the grieving family and friends. We also remember that the deceased is our brother or sister.

Each time there is a violent death, we are all diminished. We ask not "for whom the bell tolls." With songs, led by Tony Roland, and prayer we re-sanctify the ground where blood was spilled. And we embrace the fact that with prayer, God bids us to take action. That is what RIC is about.....seeking solutions to violence and working for justice. "Justice and peace must kiss (Ps . 85:10b)"



Fr. Yeprem Kelegian



Linda Boyle

Environmental Justice Task Force

Linda Boyle & Dave Backmann Co-Chairs



Dave Backmann

Lead-Free Ambassador Project: To ensure that more children will be tested for lead poisoning, 10 high school students and 5 drivers were trained to canvass Racine neighborhoods where homes were more likely to have lead paint or pipes. The youth ambassadors reached 1,169 households, told them about the dangers of lead poisoning, and left a packet of information encouraging parents of young children to get their youngsters tested.

The youth ambassadors gained valuable employment skills such as public speaking, teamwork, and dependability during their three weekends of employment. The project will continue into 2025; anyone interested in helping with this program is encouraged to contact the RIC office.

Season of Creation: “To Hope and Act with Creation” was the theme of the 2024 Season of Creation celebration. Clergy from eleven local congregations led an ecumenical prayer service at Siena Center on September 24th, celebrating our care for Earth. Participants at the event signed letters urging our government leaders to promote the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty as an important effort to reduce the leading cause of climate change.

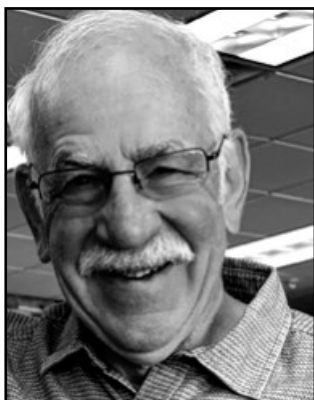
Food Waste Composting Program: In collaboration with the Racine Dominican Laudato Si’ Action Team, a pilot food waste composting program was initiated at North Pointe United Methodist Church on April 20, 2024. As participation grew, a second drop-off site was opened in July at Christ Church United Methodist. In its first eight months, the program has diverted more than 6,700 lbs. of food waste from going to landfills; this not only reduces methane gas that contributes to climate change, but saves taxpayer money in tipping fees as trash is dumped in landfills. The pilot program has been very successful; new and renewal registrations are now being taken for 2025; contact the RIC office or your church for a registration form. The annual participation fee for this program is \$25 per household.

Advocating for the Indigenous and the Poor: Members of the Task Force participated in efforts to relieve the energy burden of impoverished communities by opposing the WE Energies proposed 18% increase in utility charges. Although the vast majority of participants at the public hearing objected to the rate increase, the Public Service Commission voted to allow WE Energies to impose a 14% increase. This is an unjust burden for many poor families who have to choose between food and heat/light.

We also collaborated with the Sierra Club in a letter-writing campaign to the DNR asking for a more comprehensive environmental impact study related to the Enbridge Line 5 oil pipeline. This activity was done in solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of Northern Wisconsin whose homelands and way of life are being threatened by big oil.

Get Involved

Meetings: First Friday of every month at 10 am
2302 DeKoven Ave. (RIC Office)
Email: ricracine1993@gmail.com



Mike Frontier

Education Task Force

Mike Frontier & Wally Herman Co-Chairs



Wally Herman

The RIC Education Task Force is charged with identifying educational issues in the community and acting on them. Meetings this year have focused on creating a profile of educational needs in Racine. Outstanding speakers have helped color this picture.

Superintendent Soren Gajewski shared RUSD's Strategic Plan. He noted that Racine has had stronger gains in early literacy than any other district in the state. Additionally, task force members learned of the enormous need for a centralized Bi-lingual program to maximize the availability of teachers with bi-lingual skills.

The Racine County Human Services staff indicated that 200 drug deaths have occurred since 2020, many related to fentanyl. Updates were provided on the cutting-edge addiction center that will be built on Taylor Avenue and the youth mental health facility on 3 Mile Road. Youth and violence prevention data were shared. Encouraging statistics were shared indicating that Racine has had one murder by gun this year, compared to 11 last year. City and county programs working in tandem have helped reduce this scourge.

Please join the Education Task Force on January 9, 2025, at 10 AM at the RIC office to hear Superintendent Gajewski speak about the possibility of a referendum to offset budget cuts in education. The February 2025 meeting will ask members to focus on the priority actions of the Task Force in response to Superintendent Gajewski's presentation and all background information. (No January meeting)

Get Involved

**Meetings: First Thursday of the month at 10 am
2302 DeKoven Ave. (RIC Office)
Email: ricracine1993@gmail.com**



The Racine Interfaith Coalition

Strength through Faith, Power through Community

**Contact us up for more information
about our task forces!**

Immigration

meets 2nd Tuesday
every month

Turn Up The Vote

meets seasonally

Transformational Justice

meets 1st Tuesday
every month

Education

meets 1st Thursday
every month

For more information



Environmental Justice

meets 1st Friday
every month

***2302A DeKoven Avenue ***

Racine, WI * 53403

262-635-9532 * ricracine1993@gmail.com * ricracine.org



Community Organizer — Ri' Witer

Email: riwiter@ricracine.org

In 2023, I shared my belief as an Organizer. It reads as follows: It is my goal to connect and build long-lasting relationships within the community. When we choose to work together as a united people, made up of clergy, congregations, community leaders, families, friends, and associates we become powerful and gain the ability to make positive and lasting change. It is only through the bringing together of our gifts and talents we become one, we become whole and able to meet the needs of those around us. There should be no “us” and “them”, no lines

and divisions, and no competition, but striving together to create the Beloved Community. As people of faith, we are called to peace and unity, acceptance, and inclusion, of love and compassion, and to do no harm to anyone. In 2024, I not only still believe this, but believe it is more imperative now than ever before! We must unite in our faith, advocacy, and action. We must be a light to those who are marginalized and feel threatened in any way. Justice is not just if it only “just” applies to some.

RIC started to reorganize and restructure in 2024 and we are continuing to do so in 2025. As we move into the new year we face new challenges and opportunities. Our losses become the platform of determination to compel us forward, to work harder, and to stand stronger. It is a time to be diligent and strategic in our calling. This year again we will be attending Madison Action Day in April. Opportunities like this are when we need to be the voice for our community, for our brothers and sisters whose voices are not heard. As we join together as one across the state of Wisconsin we cannot be ignored. Stay vigilant. There will be more opportunities to come throughout this next year.

RIC has been educating, advocating, and organizing for 31 years and we will not stop now! Look around you, and intentionally look into the faces of your family, neighbors, peers, co-workers, and fellow human beings. Think of them as you act and react in these times. Remember it's never just about me, it is always about us.

The time and money it takes are worth the labor put forth when we see dignity, respect, and rights restored. We will continue to seek grants, hold fundraisers, and connect with the community for the purpose of serving humanity. “The Beloved Community” is established through the intentional and diligent efforts of you and me, RIC united! Thank you for the opportunity and honor to serve with you. Thank you for your continued support.

Digital Organizer — Amanda Ali

Email: aali@wisdomwisconsin.org

As Digital Organizer, my role in 2024 changed immensely. Not only was it a very important election year, but I also was diagnosed with breast cancer along with my older sister within a few month span of each other.

This time showed me that life is very precious, and I was so incredibly grateful for the RIC team and community that showed up for me during this journey. I am now cancer free—and hoping to enjoy life to the fullest. I feel very passionate about the work RIC does to help the community, particularly the immigration work. Identifying as a Palestinian American, with parents that immigrated here for better opportunities, I know what it's like to grow up in a place that is ‘your home away from home’ and give it your all.

Despite all the challenges this last year that sometimes would bring me down, I have hope and drive to keep going with this work because I reflect on my ancestors and community that overcame so much; genocide, colonization, discrimination, and hate YET they still manage to come out resilient and strong as ever. I'm going to keep going for them. I am very excited to see where our work takes us in 2025 and I would love to see a free Palestine in the midst of all of it!







Supporting RIC Financially

The Racine Interfaith Coalition is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization funded by membership dues from our member congregations, grants, fundraising events, advertising in our annual report, and the contributions of individual donors. Throughout the past 31 years, the generosity of our community has allowed us to be consistent in our efforts to create a Beloved Community where every member contributes to the health and well being of all and inclusion, justice, equity and compassion prevail. We take our fiscal responsibilities very seriously and our only paid staff are one part-time Organizer, one full-time Organizer and a part-time Office Administrator. We also have two paid part-time SER employees paid through a grant program. All other tasks, including grant writing, event planning and task force leadership are carried out by unpaid volunteers. Our volunteer Board of Directors, made up of representatives of each of our member churches plus officers and executive committee members, are diligent in their monthly review of our budget and expenditures.

Sustaining Membership

Because grants can come and go and the success of fundraisers can vary, our most reliable source of income is from Sustaining Members who commit to supporting us annually, either through a once-a-year or monthly contribution.

Sustaining members will be particularly important as we continue to carry out our mission to inspire and mobilize faith-based congregations to address issues of economic and social injustice through education, advocacy and community organizing. We invite you to become a Sustaining member by filling out the form on the next page or by contacting the RIC office at 262-635-9532 or emailing us at ricracine1993@gmail.com. One-time gifts are, of course, also welcome and very much appreciated.

Legacy and Inheritance Giving

We have recently joined with WISDOM to create an Endowment Fund that will support legacy giving. You can ensure that the good work of RIC continues for years to come by remembering us in your will. Your gift, large or small, will help guarantee that we can always have great community organizers, that all our leaders, no matter their economic circumstances, will be able to access world-class leadership training, and that our fight for justice never wanes. If you are receiving an inheritance, you might also want to consider tithing – giving 10% of your inheritance back to the community. One result of generations of racial and social inequity is the great disparity in accumulated wealth. Donating a portion of your inheritance to justice organizations can be a way to repair that inequity.

For more information about legacy or inheritance giving, contact the RIC office.



RIC Sustaining Member Enrollment Form

Name(s): _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____ City/Zip: _____
E-Mail: _____ Congregation: _____

Monthly Giving

Yes! I would like to become a RIC Sustaining Member by enrolling in the monthly giving program.

Electronic Funds Transfer – Authorization Agreement for Direct Payments (ACH Debits)

I/we hereby authorize RIC to initiate debit entries to my (our) Checking Account or Savings Account for the amount listed below at the depository financial institution named below or on the enclosed voided check. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Please debit \$ _____ from my account monthly. I would like to begin on the 15th of _____ (Month)

Underline which account you would like your automatic withdrawal taken from.

Checking Account: ATTACH A VOIDED CHECK (not a deposit slip)

Or

Savings Account: ATTACH A SAVINGS DEPOSIT SLIP or fill in the information below

Routing Number: _____ **Account Number:** _____

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until RIC receives written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford RIC and the depository financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

If joint

Second Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Annual Gift

Yes! I am/want to be a Sustaining Member, but I prefer to make an Annual Donation (Renewable)

I have enclosed a check for: \$120 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other

REMEMBER: RIC is 501(c) 3 — Tax Deductible charitable organization



Racine Interfaith Coalition's history started 31 years ago



The Racine Interfaith Coalition was formed 31 years ago to enlist faith-based organizations in Racine to work for social justice, especially on behalf of those without wealth and power. According to Sister Jeanne Kimler, local lawyer Stephanie Lazzeroni saw the need for working with others in faith and talked to her pastor, Mark McDonough of Covenant Presbyterian Church. To learn more about organizing faith communities, the two of them attended a Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICA) meeting where they met MICA's Lead Organizer, Ana Garcia-Ashley, who later became the first organizer for RIC.

Eventually, leaders from about twenty congregations assembled to consider how their churches could combat racism, poverty, violence and other problems confronting Racine. Late in 1994, Lazzeroni and McDonough also arranged a meeting at the Siena Center with the Gamaliel Foundation where they and others saw a presentation about organizing faith-based communities. After that meeting, RIC became affiliated with Gamaliel.

News of the fledgling body spread quickly throughout the community and the Racine Interfaith Coalition was born. From 1993 to 1995, RIC's main thrust was to enlist as many faith-based organizations as possible. Between 1994 and 1996, RIC grew from 10 members to 15 and has grown since to include 27 congregations. During this time of rapid growth, RIC was able to hire an organizer to help direct the activities and recruit new members. Today, RIC has five active task forces, staffed by dozens of volunteers from local congregations and the community, who are working every day to fulfill the organization's original mission.

In January of 2000, RIC came together with organizations in Milwaukee (MICA) and Kenosha (CUSH) to form the WISDOM network. Since that time, WISDOM has expanded to Beloit/Janesville (JOB), the Fox Cities (ESTHER), Green Bay (JOSHUA), Manitowoc (RUTH), Waukesha County (SOPHIA), Eau Claire (JONAH), Wausau (NAOMI), Madison (MOSES), and the Menominee Reservation (Menikanaehkem).

Grants and Special Donations

Grants

Clean and Prosperous America
Food, Faith & Farming Network
Greening Greater Racine
Microsoft Catalyst Grant
WISDOM

David Zabloutney
Debra Hall
Dr. & Mrs. James Gierahn
Jerold Hershberger
Jewish Community Foundation of
Southeastern and Northern Illinois
Joe Cushing

Lisa Musgrave
Lorraine Lee
Mike Frontier
Nikki Fisher
Norah McCue
Pamela Smiley
Renee Billman

Special Donations

Betty Brenneman
Blanche Jastrow
Brenda Trumbauer
Cathie & John Lehman
Connie Molbeck

John & Susan Willing
Judy Kober
Karen Kunesh
Karen Urban
Kenneth Welch & Anita Braun
Welch

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Richard Glasenapp
Ruth Bradford-Johnson
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Sisters of Saint Dominic



RIC 2024 Sustaining Members/Special Donors

Because grants can come and go and the success of fundraisers can vary, our most reliable source of income is from Sustaining Members who commit to supporting us annually, either through a once-a-year or monthly contribution, and from other generous community members who make substantial gifts to the Racine Interfaith Coalition throughout the year. Below is a list of all those who were so generous in 2024. We wouldn't exist without them.

Amanda Boyle
Amy Harrison
Belinda Thielen
Betty Brenneman
Bill Schalk
Brenda Trumbauer
Cathie & John Lehman
Charles & Nancy Bauer-King
Connie Molbeck
Daniel & Marcia Laehr-Tenuta
David Backmann
David Zabloutney
Debra Hall
Don & Julie Burton
Elaine Marie Kinch
Ellie Boldus
Ernest Ni'A
George Kafer
Gloria Randall-Hewitt
Greg Petro
Greta Neubauer
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Linda Lewis
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Richard Glasenapp
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Sue Spicer
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Susan Proctor
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Viva Crape
Wally Herman
William Garvey & Diane Lange
William Streeter
Yeprem & Judy Kelegian



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Saint Patrick Catholic Parish

Parroquia de San Patricio

1100 Erie St., Racine, WI 53402
262-632-8808 Fax: 262-637-1536
E-mail: church@stpatrickracine.com

Mass Schedule

Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Spanish
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	English
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	English
	10:30 a.m.	Spanish
	12:00 noon	Spanish
	6:00 p.m.	Spanish



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Congratulations to RIC on its work to enhance the well-being of our community.

Racine Education Association Retired

Supporting Racine educators through affiliation with the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) and the National Education Association (NEA)

"ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF RACINE, I CONGRATULATE AND THANK THE RACINE INTERFAITH COALITION FOR PROMOTING PEACE AND JUSTICE IN OUR CITY. YOUR SERVICE TO THE CITY IS INVALUABLE."



MAYOR CORY MASON



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We are a new project of Racine Interfaith Coalition that aims to offer affordable and accessible legal expertise for immigrants.

Our services are limited to availability. If you have questions about our program and services, please get in touch with us at immigration@ricracine.org.

ricracine.org

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for all of the work you do
for Justice in the
Racine community

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TOLL FREE (888) 534-0066

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WEB

legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/66/neubauer

Congratulations to the Racine
Interfaith Coalition for their
faithful community service.



St. Rita Parish

4339 Douglas Ave.
Racine, WI 53402

Phone: 262-639-3223

Website: st-ritas.org

Email: parishoffice@st-ritaracine.org

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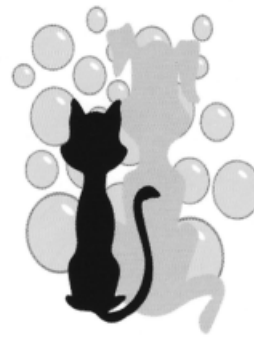


We are all connected...

Jay and Melissa Warner
Racine, WI

Congratulations, RIC, on another successful year! Thank you for your diligent work in making Racine a safer and better community for ALL

Wally Herman



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Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice

*Join the Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice to support peace and justice in Racine and the world.
E-mail us at RCPJPeace@gmail.com*

The Kenosha-Racine Quakers congratulate our fellow RIC members for their contributions to the Racine community; they bring us closer to our Quaker testimony:

***“Do rightly, justly, truly,
holily, equally to all
people in all things.”***

Our Quaker Worship Group meets every Sunday at 10am.

For information contact
tdarrowmke@gmail.com



*To the Racine community, thank you for 13 years
of marvelous relationships.*

*Pastor Ernest Ni'A
Retired Pastor of Wayman AME*



Our Vision

*A Beloved Community where every member
contributes to the health and well-being of all
and inclusion, justice, equity and
compassion prevail.*

**Thank you to all of our supporters,
patrons, volunteers, clergy,
community members and
congregations that work every day
to help us achieve that vision.**



**Beth Israel Sinai-New Jewish Outreach
Congregation**



**Martyn Adelberg
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847-529-1609

rabbimartyn@gmail.com
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We strive to transform the lives of the broken and lost by sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.



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BCDR+



Burlington Coalition For Dismantling Racism Plus

Burlington Coalition For Dismantling Racism is a grassroots community organization pursuing racial justice and equity, while reconciling people of all races within our community and schools.

Our Vision: For people of color to experience Burlington as a racially safe, equitable, and inclusive community.

Our Mission: To expose, disrupt, and dismantle racism and racist systems while simultaneously rebuilding the Burlington community.



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MISSION

To actively challenge and eliminate racism through building collaborations.

VISION

To create a genuine inter-racial community where all people have equal voice and access to resources and opportunities.

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept and celebrate those differences."

-Audre Lorde



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As a founding RIC member, I feel blessed to have been a part of this organization. This work has allowed my justice gene to make the difference in the world.

Nancy Holmlund

DJ ALTO



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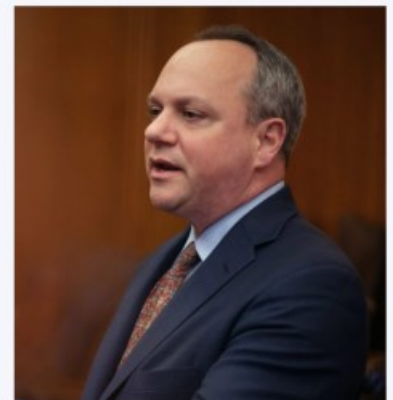


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Church Office Hours: Tues.-Fri. 10:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M

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May your journeys be filled with
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Shout out to Racine Interfaith Coalition

*God
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to accept the things I cannot
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to change the things I can,
and the
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to know the difference.*

**Thank you for Standing, Marching, and
Raising a Voice for those who cannot!**

**In Loving Memory of my Darling
Jennifer Rose**

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Dining Sites**

Must be age 60 or better.

Reservation is necessary by 9:00 a.m.
the day before by calling **262-833-8766**

Mount Pleasant Place
5820 Lincoln Village Drive
Meals served at 11:30am
Mon, Wed, Friday only

Salvation Army
1901 Washington Ave
Meals served at 11:30am

Burlington Senior Center
587 E. State Street
Burlington
Meals served at 12:00pm

Bruno's
730 Cornerstone Crossing,
Waterford
Serving 11:00am - 12:30pm
Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday
Every 2nd and 4th Friday
No reservations needed.



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Racine Interfaith Coalition



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FESTIVAL HALL

MEMORIAL HALL

ROTARY PARK

2025 FEATURED EVENTS

www.FestivalPark.com

Weddings, Quinces, Expos, Conferences, Concerts, Festivals

Memorial Hall 72 7th Street - Festival Hall 5 5th Street

January

**WISCONSIN'S
Ultimate Wedding
& Quinceanera
Expo**

February

**HERITAGE
BALL**

March

**Empty Bowls
Shenanigans
Racine Home Expo**

April

QUAD CON
COMIC BOOKS TOYS ART GAMES

May

**Racine Prom
Dinner**

June

**Harbor Fest
Lighthouse Run**

July

**Salmon & Ribs
Racine, WI**

August

**RACINE RIVER FEST
Fiesta Latina**

September

**BARK
on the 7th**

October

**Lighthouse
Quilters Guild**

November

**5K
Turkey Trot**

December

**Festival of
Trees**

Enjoy our newly renovated multi-purpose facility. With advanced audio/video options and a large secure parking area. Our venues are suitable for a wide variety of activities and events to serve the community.

5KEVENTS.ORG

www.5Kevents.org

Endurance Challenges

- ✓ Geneva Lake Challenge
- ✓ Root River Pathway Challenge
- ✓ We Run the Parks
- ✓ Holiday Mile

Run / Walks

- ✓ 2.8.25 Be Mine 5K
- ✓ 3.15.25 St. Pat's Day 5K
- ✓ 4.19.25 K9-5K
- ✓ 5.3.25 CincoKMayo
- ✓ 5.10.25 Paddle Challenge
- ✓ 5.25.25 Chocolate City 5K
- ✓ 6.14.25 Lighthouse Run
- ✓ 7.12.25 North Beach 5K
- ✓ 7.18.25 Kenosha Lakefront Run
- ✓ 7.19.25 Trails to Ales
- ✓ 8.2.25 River Fest 5K
- ✓ 9.6.25 Bacon5Kegs
- ✓ 9.20.25 Pound the Pavement 5K
- ✓ 10.18.25 Spooktacular 5K
- ✓ 11.27.25 Turkey Trot
- ✓ 11.29.25 Leftover 5K
- ✓ 12.20.25 Stuff the Sleigh 5K



www.FestivalPark.com



262.636.9229



Downtown Racine



events@FestivalPark.com

A photograph of a family walking away from the camera on a paved path. The sun is low in the sky, creating a strong backlight effect and long shadows. The father is on the left, the mother on the right, and a small child is in the center, holding both parents' hands. The path is flanked by trees and foliage.

helping make
our community a
better place

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