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PRESS RELEASE

Toledo, OH -- October 14, 2009

THE CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM – COMMON THREADS, COMPLICATED FABRIC **TRAVELING EXHIBIT, SPEAKERS & FILM** **COMING TO ST. URSULA ACADEMY**

EXHIBIT:

St. Ursula Academy will host the *Children of Abraham* exhibit from **Oct. 20 – Nov. 4, 2009**. This traveling exhibit, developed by the Ohio Humanities Council, examines the commonality of beliefs shared by Christianity, Judaism and Islam and seeks to help people understand the similarities, differences, and common roots. Visually striking panels explore the origins, prophets, holy texts, sacred spaces, and core beliefs of the three Abrahamic religions.

The exhibit is free and open to the public beginning at 6:00 p.m. the evening of speakers (below). In addition, self-guided or group tours may be arranged by contacting Maryanne Hodge at mhodge@toledosua.org.

SPEAKER:

Abukar Arman

Commonality within the Abrahamic Religions

October 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ursula Academy

Topic: While, in general, people of faith share basic beliefs that could serve as the foundation for cultivating peace and preventing injustice, none have more in common than the Abrahamic religions of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Mr. Abukar believes that, of late, these faiths seem to be growing apart. He explores what can be done to reverse this course.

Abukar Arman is a writer, peace activist and interfaith bridge-builder. Abukar, a published author, believes that people of faith have a responsibility to create an environment conducive for peace and understanding. Moreover, he believes that “any interfaith collaboration toward the

common good could play a critical role in removing the biggest divide and perpetrator of hate known to mankind: ignorance.”

SPEAKER:

Cynthia Crane, PhD

The Story of Divided Lives

October 29, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ursula Academy

TOPIC: Most attention on the Holocaust rightfully focuses on the plight of Jews in concentration camps, but not all victims of Nazi persecution were put to death. Many survived, lost in a social and political limbo, shunned by friends, neighbors, and oftentimes family because of their mixed religious heritage.

Cynthia Crane is the author of *Divided Lives: The Untold Stories of Jewish-Christian Women in Nazi Germany*. Inspired by the experiences of the author’s paternal family, the book tells the dramatic true stories of girls and women who endured persecution because of their mixed religious heritage.

FILM AND DISCUSSION:

“Promises”

October 24, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Ursula Academy

Documentarians Justine Shapiro and B.Z. Goldberg traveled to Israel to interview Palestinian and Israeli children ages 11-13 to hear their views on living in a society afflicted with violence, separatism, and religious and political extremism. The film culminates in an astonishing day when two Israeli children meet Palestinian youngsters at a refugee camp. Discussion to follow. This program is free and open to area students in grades 8 -12.

Paulette Schroeder, OSF, will be joining us and leading the discussion of the documentary on October 24. Sr. Paulette has frequently traveled to the Middle East and worked extensively for peace in Palestine.

Both the exhibit and speakers are funded in part by The Ohio Humanities Council and a gift from a generous St. Ursula Academy alumna.

Name of Organization: St. Ursula Academy

Contact Information: Maryanne Hodge mhodge@toledosua.org

Event Title: Children of Abraham - Common Threads, Complicated Fabric

Location for all events: St. Ursula Academy, 4025 Indian Road, Toledo, OH (between Talmadge and Indian Roads.

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