

NCJW|MI Fall Focus 2021 Panelists

Hate is Hate: We are all at risk!

What can we do TOGETHER?

Wednesday, October 27, 2021, 7PM



Senator Stephanie Chang, the first Asian American woman elected to the Michigan State Senate, served two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives where she chaired the Progressive Women's Caucus. Senator Chang was a co-founder of the Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus.

As an activist, writer and speaker who is concerned with air quality protection, education and criminal justice reform, Senator Chang has earned the respect of her colleagues in the state legislature.

The senator served as state director for NextGen Climate Michigan, as Deputy Director for the Campaign for Justice and as an organizer for Michigan United/One United Michigan, a non-profit organization for economic and racial justice. Chang is a founder and board member of Rising Voices for Asian American Families and serves on the board of the Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center. Chang has been a mentor with the Detroit Asian Youth Project.

Senator Chang earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in public policy and social work from the University of Michigan. Born in Detroit, she lives in the city with her husband, Sean Gray, and two children.



Saeed A. Khan is Senior Lecturer at Wayne State University, Detroit, in the departments of Near East & Asian Studies and Global Studies. He teaches Islamic and Middle East History, Politics and Culture, and Global Issues. He is a Fellow at the Center for Study of Citizenship at Wayne State University.

Professor Khan is a recognized scholar and educator, known for his expertise and concise presentations, as well as his good humor and eloquence.

Professor Khan is a former Honorary Fellow at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne, Australia. His primary area of research is the identity politics of Muslim diaspora communities in the USA, UK and Europe. Khan has been a contributor to several media agencies such as Al Jazeera, C-Span, NPR, Voice of America, and is a regular panelist on Turning Point and with international media outlets.

Khan is host of a podcast, 1400 OMG. He has participated in conferences around the world, including the 2006 and 2016 Doha Interfaith Conference and the FAIR Islamophobia Conference in Doha, 2016.

Professor Khan has an extensive list of publications including, "Manufacturing Bigotry: A State-by-State Legislative Effort to Push Back Against 2050 by Targeting Muslims and Other Minorities," in which he predicted the rise of right-wing populism and its anti-minority agenda.



Shirley Stancato, Principal of SRS Advisory Services, is a seasoned executive, prominent civic leader, expert on race relations and a social justice advocate. For almost 20 years, Stancato served as President and Chief Executive Officer of New Detroit, Inc., Metro Detroit's prestigious coalition devoted solely to race relations which serves as an essential forum for discussion and advocacy for racial equity.

Stancato enjoyed a long career at what is now Chase Bank, where she became Senior Vice President. She earned both a Bachelors and Masters degree at Wayne State University where she now serves on the Board of Governors.

Stancato has received numerous honors and awards including the Neal Shine Award for Exemplary Regional Leadership, Champion of Justice Award from the Michigan Delegation of the Congressional Black Caucus, and Michiganian of the Year by the Detroit News.

In 2021, Stancato was inducted into The Michigan Business Women's Hall of Fame.

Active in the Metro Detroit area, Stancato serves on numerous boards including Fifth Third Bank of Eastern Michigan, International Women's Forum Michigan, Teach for America Detroit, The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Zoological Society, Coleman A. Young Foundation, and Warrior Women Against Poverty.



Rabbi Asher Lopatin, Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council/AJC, has served in his position for a brief time but has already made an impact in the area of community relations in the Detroit metropolitan area. Under his direction, there has been extensive outreach and collaboration with the Muslim, Chaldean, Black, and Hindu communities.

Rabbi Lopatin serves as the founding rabbi of Kehillat Etz Chayim of Detroit. He is the founding director of the Detroit Center for Civil Discourse at Wayne State

University, a groundbreaking project for people of disparate views to learn and practice civil discourse. Rabbi Lopatin, a Rhodes Scholar and Truman Fellow with a Masters of Philosophy in Medieval Arabic Thought from Oxford University, has done doctoral work at St. Antony's College, Oxford, England, in Islamic Fundamentalist attitudes towards Jews and Israel.

Rabbi Lopatin has written chapters for over 20 books and numerous articles.

Prior to his move to Detroit, Rabbi Lopatin served as President of Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in New York and, prior to that, as rabbi of Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel Congregation in Chicago. He is a permanent member of The Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the board of New Detroit. Rabbi Lopatin and his wife, Rachel, have four children.