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BESTSELLING AUTHOR, ACTIVIST, AND FORMER DEATH ROW INMATE, ANTHONY RAY HINTON, TO HEADLINE THE NEIGHBORHOOD ACADEMY'S SPEAKER SERIES

The School's Sixth Speaker Series Event will Take Place on September 27, 2023.

PITTSBURGH, PA – June 13, 2023 – The Neighborhood Academy, an independent college preparatory school will host its sixth Nancy and Paul O'Neill Speaker Series event on September 27, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. featuring **Anthony Ray Hinton**: bestselling author, activist, and former death row inmate who was exonerated after 30 years for a crime he did not commit.

The event will be held both in-person at the school and virtually via Zoom. The in-person event will take place within The Neighborhood Academy's Hans and Leslie Fleischner Indoor Soccer Field. Guests will receive dinner, hear Hinton's presentation, and engage in a live Q&A session. Author's Circle VIP Guests will have the opportunity to meet Hinton in person before the presentation. Virtual attendees will receive admission to Hinton's presentation and may submit questions from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Hinton was wrongfully convicted for the murders of two fast-food managers in Birmingham, Alabama in 1985. Stunned, confused, and only twenty-nine years old, Hinton knew that it was a case of mistaken identity and believed that the truth would prove his innocence. With the assistance of the Equal Justice Initiative, led by attorney Bryan Stevenson, Mr. Hinton was freed in 2015. Hinton's New York Times bestselling book, *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* is a testament to the power of hope and is destined to be a classic memoir of wrongful imprisonment and freedom won.

"Anthony Ray Hinton's story is one of perseverance, devotion, and unwavering faithfulness. Even after all the struggles the world has unjustly put upon him, his continued selflessness serves as a true inspiration for the students of The Neighborhood Academy as well as the greater community. It's a story of never losing hope and never letting anyone hold you back," said Steve Harms, PwC Partner and co-chair of the event's Host Committee.

"Before the Speaker Series event, our students will have read Hinton's book in preparation for a riveting, personal Q&A between the author and the students. This traditional Q&A takes place during the school day and allows the students to not only put a face to the author, but delve deeper into the book... I would like to thank all the supporters



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who will make this unforgettable experience possible for our students,” said TNA’s Head of School, Dr. Anthony P. Williams.

“I am honored that we will host Mr. Hinton as our Speaker Series author this year. I want to thank all our supporters who have made this experience possible. The value of this experience for our students is immeasurable. I look forward to seeing how the intergenerational conversations between our scholars and Mr. Hinton ignite a spirit of advocacy and a hunger for criminal justice reform in our student body...and the community as well,” said TNA’s Dean of Student Affairs, Shannon Prentiss.

The Nancy & Paul O’Neill Speaker Series has become a platform for renowned authors to present and share works that not only describe the Black experience in America, but also challenge all of us to see the world through The Neighborhood Academy’s students’ eyes.

Previously featured speakers have included Ron Suskind, author of *A Hope of the Unseen*; Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*; Margo Lee Shetterly, author of *Hidden Figures*; Mark Whitaker, author of *Smoketown*; and Wes Moore, author of *The Other Wes Moore* and *Five Days*.

Event Sponsors as of June 12, 2023:

- Presenting Sponsor: The Nancy & Paul O’Neill Family
- **Silver Sponsors:** Calgon Carbon
- **Bronze Sponsors:** CIBC Bank USA, First National Bank, PwC, Burns White LLC

Sponsorships Available: <https://www.theneighborhoodacademy.org/events/speaker-series-2023.cfm>

For more information and ticket purchases, visit <https://www.theneighborhoodacademy.org/>. Students and Veterans should contact Jonathan Winkler at 412-203-0158. All proceeds benefit student scholarships.

About The Neighborhood Academy:

The Neighborhood Academy provides a holistic college-prep education for students in grades 6-12 whose families demonstrate financial need. The Neighborhood Academy is dedicated to developing the minds, bodies and spirits of our students so that they might become fully productive members of our society. 100% of our graduates attend college, and our alumni boast an 81% five-year college graduation rate since 2011.

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