



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator <http://www.mfsaiowa.org>

MAY, 2014

## **Decriminalize Marijuana: What's at Stake? What Do You Think?**

MFSA's second Spring Regional Gathering will be held on **Saturday, May 3, at 10:00 AM at Wesley House, 2718 University Ave., on the Drake Campus in Des Moines.** Panelists include **John Zimmerman**, candidate for Johnson County Attorney; **Devon Paige**, Drake student; **Dr. David Kaptan**, from Powell Chemical Dependency Center. **Please join us for this important discussion!**

## **Mr. Hilary Shelton to Keynote MFSA's Awards Event**

Mark your calendars for MFSA's Awards Event on **Saturday, June 7, at 5:00 PM, in Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Level 3,** with keynote speaker **Mr. Hilary Shelton**, NAACP Washington Bureau Director and Senior Vice President for Advocacy and Policy. His topic is, "**Racism and the Church.**" Social Action Awards will be presented to **Jim Thomas and Lucille Wilson.** **Tickets are now available** from Rita Carter at: [ritaac@mchsi.com](mailto:ritaac@mchsi.com), or by calling 515-633-0037, or 515-979-0605. Tickets include Meal Station Choice. **Deadline** for ordering tickets is **May 30<sup>th</sup>.** (flyer attached)

## **Annual March for Peace and Social Justice**

This year's March will begin at **12:10, on Monday, June 9.** It will start at the **south side of Hy-Vee Hall and proceed to Hansen Triangle,** corner of Watson Powell, Jr. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. This year's theme is, "**Imagine: Bridges, Not Walls.**" Sponsors of the March include MFSA, the Board of Church and Society, the Board of Global Ministries, UMW, COSROW, the committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and Do No Harm. Participants include **Bishop Julius Trimble, Dr. Lellene Rector,** President of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and others. (flyer attached)

## **JFON Luncheon**

The Iowa Justice For Our Neighbors and Mission Education Standing Committees invites you to lunch during the Iowa Annual Conference, at Noon on **Saturday, June 7** at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1548 8th Street in **Des Moines.** **Charissa Shawcross,** the North Central Jurisdiction Mission Interpreter will be the speaker. Reservations for the lunch can be sent to [dorknight1@cs.com](mailto:dorknight1@cs.com) The price will be established after the caterer has been engaged.

## **Prayer Vigil for Immigration Reform**

Please join a prayer vigil for immigration reform **each Tuesday, at 12:15 PM, at Rep. Latham's office, 2700 Grand Ave. in Des Moines.**

## **Children of Abraham Dialogue**

"**How Each Religion Sees the Other**" is the topic for the Dialogue to be held on **Sunday, May 4, 2:00 – 4:00 PM at Temple Judah, 3221 Lindsay Lane SE, in Cedar Rapids.** Presenters include **Father Fred Shaheen,** St. George Orthodox Church, **Imam Taha Tawil,** Mother Mosque of America, and **Rabbi Todd Thalblum,** Temple Judah. The event is sponsored by the Inter Religious council of Linn County.

## **Loess Hills Prairie Seminar**

This Seminar will be held **May 30 – June 1** at the **Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area,** Northeast of **Onowa.** For more information, please contact Gloria Kistner at: 712-222-6080 or at: [gkistner@nwaea.org](mailto:gkistner@nwaea.org). Registration information is at the Northwest AEA website [here.](#)



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## **“Walking with Palestinian Christians for Holy Justice and Peace**

The **first-ever** UM Church-wide **Conference on Israel/Palestine** will be held at **Ginghamsburg UMC, Tipp City, Ohio, on Thursday and Friday, August 7 – 8**. The Conference, co-sponsored by the General Board of Global Ministries and Ginghamsburg UMC, will include prayer, fellowship and study. For more information, please go to: <http://ginghamsburg.org/grow/ministries/books-conferences/palestinian-christian-conference>.

The Conference will be followed immediately at the **same location** on **Friday and Saturday, August 8 – 9**, by the **first All-Inclusive Gathering of the Quadrennium for UM Kairos Response!** Participants will include **Palestinian Christians**. **Rev. Alex Awad**, dean of Bethlehem Bible College is planning to be there. For more information, please go to: [info@kairosresponse.org](mailto:info@kairosresponse.org).

## **Street Witnessing for Peace**

A vigil for peace will be held every **Friday, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and 1<sup>st</sup> St. NE, in Cedar Rapids**. (It’s across from the old Federal Building at the Tree of Five Seasons.) The witness is held regardless of the weather. You are invited to bring your own sign or hold one of theirs. For more information, please contact **Bob at 319-360-5119**.

## **Connect with National and Global MFSA!**

Want to know more about justice issues around the globe? See what other MFSAers are taking action on? Connect with MFSA on a national and global scale? Then sign up for **MFSA’s bi-weekly eNews!** We promise not to spam you, sell your email, or publish it for the world to see. We do promise to share the work of MFSA on issues of peace, poverty, people’s rights, progressive issues and justice in the UMC—social holiness at work! Sign up now by going to [http://mfsaweb.org/?page\\_id=212](http://mfsaweb.org/?page_id=212)

## **Please Send Information**

We want to publicize **events around the state** that might be of interest to MFSA folk. Please send information about events in your area by the last week of each month for the next month’s E-Mail Memo. You can contact me at: [ecranke@mchsi.com](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com)

## **Questions about Membership?**

Contact Mike Biklen at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761, or by phone at: 563-263-1439, or by e-mail at: [mwmbiklen@juno.com](mailto:mwmbiklen@juno.com). Contributions can also be sent to Mike.

**REMINDER:** When responding, please use this address: [ecranke@mchsi.com](mailto:ecranke@mchsi.com)