



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

NOVEMBER 2017

Support for Immigrant Families:

MFSA is part of the Sanctuary Coalition, offering support for immigrant families facing hardships due to ICE raids. Currently there are immigrant families in Des Moines who have been torn apart from detentions and deportations, leaving mothers and children here with significant financial strains. If you would like to help, you may send a check to Walnut Hills UMC, 12321 Hickman Rd., Urbandale, IA 50123. On the Memo, write ICE Raid Family Support. These donations are tax deductible.

Meet My Religious Neighbor:

[The Comparison Project's](#) next open house will be held on **Saturday, November 4 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at the Islamic Center of Des Moines**, 6201 Franklin Avenue. A potluck dinner is available.

Nourishing Justice:

Churches/persons involved in the Sanctuary movement are invited to a potluck and film on **Monday, November 6th, potluck at 6:00 PM, film at 7:00, at First Unitarian Church**, 1800 Bell Ave. in **Des Moines**. The film is "Who Is Dayani Cristal?" a story about the body of an unidentified immigrant found in the Arizona desert. Please bring a dish to share. Drinks, plates, silverware provided. The purpose is to build relationships among faith communities involved with Sanctuary.

No Way to Treat a Child:

The Middle East Peace Education Coalition of Central Iowa is showing the film, "**Detaining Dreams**" on **Monday, November 6th, 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Franklin Avenue Library**, 5000 Franklin Avenue in **Des Moines**. The No Way to Treat a Child Campaign seeks to challenge and end the Israeli Military's prolonged occupation of Palestinians by exposing the widespread and systematic ill treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli Military Detention System. The showing is free and open to the public. Discussion will follow.

Alternative Discussion Group:

The group will meet on **Tuesday, November 7th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM** in the **dining room at the Hy-Vee on 32nd** (at the intersection of 32nd Street NE & Oakland Road NE) in **Cedar Rapids**. They will discuss their new book, *A World in Disarray*, by Richard Haas, finishing Part II.

Support UN Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons:

Today the possibility of a nuclear holocaust is closer than it has been in decades. But there is hope. In July 122 nations voted for a nuclear weapons ban treaty. The treaty opened for signatures on September 20th. Once 50 nations have signed and ratified, it becomes law 90 days later. **Now is the time to contact our Senators, urging them to take a leadership role in support of signing and ratifying this treaty!** In addition, you can **sign a petition** to the President and the US Senate urging them to support the treaty. The petition, sponsored by WILPF (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom) is attached, and you are urged to sign and to invite others in your church or community to sign as well. You can also sign online at:

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/support-the-nuclear-weapons-ban-treaty>

Children of Abraham Conversations:

The November Conversation is "Responding to the Abuse of Power." It will be held on **Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 PM at First Congregational UCC**, in **Dubuque**.



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Standing Rock & the Growing Pan-Indigenous Movement for Life: Honoring What the Creator Has Made:

The Small-Thomas Lecture Committee presents a lecture by **Lyla June, of Navajo and Cheyenne lineages on Wednesday, November 8th, at 6:30PM in the Cornell College Hall-Perrine Room in Thomas Commons at Cornell College in Mount Vernon.** She will explore her experiences at Standing Rock, events and issues at Standing Rock and the ancestral paradigm that lead protectors to take the position they held. For more information, please go to: cquehl-engel@cornellcollege.edu.

CORR to Offer Training:

The Commission on Religion and Race (CORR) will offer a training event for all laity or clergy on **Friday, November 17th, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, at the Iowa Annual Conference Center, 2301 Rittenhouse St., in Des Moines.** The Training will assist UMCs that are transitioning to a cross-cultural/cross-racial appointment, explore cross-cultural/cross-racial blessings and challenges and more. The event is free, and lunch will be provided. **Pre-Registration is required.** For more information, please contact Felicia Coe at: 515-974-8911, or at: Felicia.coeW@iaumc.org. To register, <https://iaumc-reg.brtp.com/2017CORRCross-CulturalTraining>

Urban Immersion for Adults:

Join the Center for Social Ministry for this in-depth exploration of the needs of our community. It will take place from **5:00 PM on Friday, November 17th until 12:00 Noon on Sunday, November 19th.** Through community-building activities, simulations, and visits to organizations that help those in need, participants will learn how to follow the call to care for others. For more information, or to register, please contact Susie Tierney at: centerforsocialministry@gmail.com, or at: 515-782-3054.

AFSC Iowa's Centennial Celebration!

Celebrate AFSC Iowa's history of work for justice and peace on **Saturday, November 18, 3:00 – 8:00 PM at Grand View University in Des Moines.** The keynote speaker will be **Jeanette Vizguerra**, a Sanctuary leader from Denver and one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People for 2017.

Creating a Welcoming Community:

The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County is holding its **Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving service on Monday, November 20th, at 7:00 PM at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 6621 C Ave., NE, in Cedar Rapids.** The keynote speaker is **Stacey Walker**, Linn County Supervisor. A freewill offering will be taken for the Linn Community Food Bank. Refreshments and fellowship follow the service. For more information, please go to: <http://www.IRCLC.org>.

MFSA Spring Statewide Gathering:

MFSA's Spring Statewide Gathering will be held on **Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 9:45 AM.** The program will feature the **Rev. Dr. Heechoen Jeon**, who will address Korea, some history, the current situation, and how we, as persons of faith should respond. Please put it on your calendars, and watch for more details in the coming months.

Save the Date:

January 18: Legislative Advocacy Day at Wesley UMC and the Capitol



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Holy Land Trip:

Palestinian Christians are asking us to “come and see” their day to day reality. On this tour of the Holy Land we will visit many of the holy sites but we will also spend a great deal of time listening to the stories of our Palestinian brothers and sisters, including Archbishop Elias Chacour, families affected by the Settlements, a former Israeli soldier and others. We will be traveling to Nazareth, Tiberius, Ibillin, Haifa, Capernaum, Cana, Nablus, Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Jericho. **Unlike many tours, this tour will meet all the United Methodist Holy Land Tours recommendations as set forth in the 2016 Book of Resolutions!**

Tour dates are **April 16-27, 2018**. The cost is between \$1,850 and \$2,000 (depending on the size of our group). This cost does not include airfare (currently running around \$1,400), drinks at hotels and restaurants, all personal expenses and mandatory insurance. **Registration deadline** for the trip is **December 3, 2017**. **Exciting News...** Recently MFSA announced that they will be offering **three \$500 scholarships** for this trip. Those applying must be a member of MFSA and must not have previously traveled to the Holy Land. If interested, please submit a letter indicating that you meet those two requirements and briefly stating why you want to go. For a detailed itinerary and application, contact tour leader Christine Anders at Christine@dmfirstchurch.org or call her at 515-244-6209 ext. 3.

Peace Vigils & Walks:

DES MOINES: Join members of local peace groups who gather each **Thursday, 11:45 – 12:15, in front of the Civic Center, 221 Walnut**, to protest war and the coming of drones and to insist that “War Is Not the Answer!”

IOWA CITY: Demonstrate for peace each **Friday, 4:45 – 5:15 PM** at the **southeast corner of the Pentacrest**, intersection of Washington and Clinton Streets in **Iowa City**.

CEDAR RAPIDS: Street witnessing vigil for peace is held every **Friday, 4:30 – 5:30 PM, at 1st Ave. and 1st St. NE** (Across from the old Federal Building at the Tree of Five Seasons.) The witness is held regardless of the weather. Bring your own sign or hold one of theirs. For more information, contact **Bob at 319-360-5119**

CEDAR RAPIDS: Walkers for peace walk **every other Sunday, beginning January 8, at Lindale Mall, 2:00 – 2:45 PM**. Please gather in the center of the Food Court. Participants may opt to wear anti-war T-shirts.

Connect with National and Global MFSA!

Want to know more about justice issues around the globe and connect with MFSA? Then sign up for **MFSA’s bi-weekly eNews!** http://mfsaweb.org/?page_id=212.

MFSA IOWA CHAPTER NOTES:

MFSA has established a **Memorial Fund** for gifts that are given from time to time in memory of a person who has died. These funds will be used as appropriate in support of progressive causes that promote peace and justice. Send gifts to MFSA in care of Mike Biklen (address below) and designate “Memorial Fund.”

Check out MFSA Iowa Chapter updates at our website www.mfsaiowa.org.

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

Questions about Membership?

Contact Mike Biklen at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761, by phone at: 563-263-1439 or by e-mail at: wmbiklen@hotmail.com. Contributions can also be sent to Mike.