



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

DECEMBER 2018

“Bearing Witness: Families on the Border”

Hear about the firsthand experiences of three women who went to the border on separate service trips with different missions to provide support and extend compassion to Immigrant families. The event will be held on **Monday, December 3rd, 5:30 – 7:00 PM, at the Marshalltown Public Library, 105 W. Boone Street, in Marshalltown.** Panelists include: **Ann Naffier**, attorney with Iowa JFON, **Jody Mashek**, with American Friends Service Committee, and **Sister Christine Feagan**, St. Mary’s Hispanic Ministry. The event is sponsored by Iowa Justice for our Neighbors (JFON).

Alternative Discussion Group:

The group will meet on **Tuesday, December 4th and 18th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM in the Dining Room at Hy-Vee, on 32nd at the intersection of 32nd Street NE and Oakland Road NE, in Cedar Rapids.** They are reading *The Soul of America* by Jon Meacham, and will discuss Chapter 7 on the 4th.

Democratic Revolution vs. Corporate Rule: It’s Up to Us!

Join Move to Amend’s Outreach Director, **Greg Coleridge**, for an inspiring call-to-action and discussion on the nationwide movement to end corporate rule. The event will be held on **Wednesday, December 5th, at 6:30 PM, at Friends Meeting House, 4211 Grand Ave., in Des Moines.** Following the presentation **Jan Corderman** will talk about local efforts by Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. The event is free and open to the public. MFSA is a co-sponsor.

Immigration Series: The Border Is Everywhere:

You are welcome to attend informational and interactive sessions about welcoming migrants in Des Moines and Iowa. They will be held in the **Greenwood Room of Plymouth Church, 4126 Ingersoll Avenue, in Des Moines.** Sessions are on **Wednesdays, 6:00 – 7:30 PM.** The two remaining are: **December 5:** “Borders Are Everywhere: Barriers Migrants Face Here in Des Moines” and **December 12:** “Finding God’s Call for Us in Migrant Stories”

IPN Annual Open House:

IPN’s (Iowa Peace Network) Annual Open House and Alternative Gift Fair will be held on **Saturday, December 8th, 2:00 – 4:30 PM, at Stover Memorial Church of the Brethren/Walnut Creek Highland Park** fellowship hall, 4100 6th Ave., in **Des Moines.** **Julie Brown** will be the guest speaker. Julie is a CPT volunteer, serving in Iraqi Kurdistan. There will be vendors for your alternative Christmas shopping.

IRCLC Annual Meeting:

Members of the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County (IRCLC) are invited, along with spouses and significant others, to attend the **Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 13th, at St. George Orthodox Church, 3650 Cottage Grove Ave., SE, in Cedar Rapids.** Dinner will be served at **6:00 PM**, and the meeting will begin at **7:00 PM.** Cost of the meal is \$10.00 per person. Please **RSVP by December 10 to:** pastor Ritva Williams at: 319-693-2087.

Christmas Concert:

Trinity Las Americas UMC is excited to announce its long-awaited **Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 23rd, at 3:00 PM,** featuring its newly restored **historic pipe organ.** The concert will be in the beautiful sanctuary **Trinity Las Americas, 1548 8th Street, in Des Moines.** Accomplished Iowa organist, **Carl Gravander** will perform. Plan to attend this epic concert and transition from commercial Christmas season to the sacred remembrance and celebration of Jesus’ birth.



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Feast of the Holy Innocents Retreat & Witness:

The Des Moines Catholic Worker and the Des Moines Veterans for Peace are hosting their 2nd annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Retreat and Witness at the **DM Drone Command Center**, 3100 McKinley, in **Des Moines**. The Retreat begins on **Thursday, December 27th, at 7:00 PM, at Dingman CW House**, 1310 7th Street, in **Des Moines**. It will be led by **Wes Howard-Brook**, who teaches theology and scripture at Seattle University and at churches and gatherings around the Pacific Northwest. His topic for that evening is, "Matt.2:16, Innocents Killed, Then and Now; There and Here." On **Friday, December 28th** the reflection will continue at **Berrigan House**, 713 Indiana Ave., **9:00 – 11:00 AM**, followed by planning for the Witness and Direct Action. **Lunch** will be served at **Noon at the Dingman House**, followed by the **Witness and Direct Action at 1:30 PM**, at the entrance of the **National Guard Drone Command Center**. For more information, please contact Frank Cordaro at: frank.cordaro@gmail.com or 515-490-2490 or Gilbert Landolt at: peacevet@hotmail.com

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.

Exploring Migration: A Faith Journey:

This program will be offered by The Center for Social Ministry, inviting participants to look at some of the central questions related to migrations in the 21st Century, through the lens of our Christian faith. This 8-session module will be held at **St. Mark's Episcopal Church**, 3120 E. 24th Street, in **Des Moines**. The program will begin on **Thursday, January 24th, 9:00 – 11:00 AM**. For more information please contact: centerforsocialministry.com

MFSA Spring Statewide Gathering:

MFSA's Spring Statewide Gathering will be held on **Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 9:45 AM, at St. Mark's UMC**, 2675 E. Washington Street, in **Iowa City**. The program will be information and conversation about the decisions made at the February 2019 General Conference on the Way Forward. It will be led and guided by **Rev. Sean McRoberts and Rev. Katie Dawson**. Please put it on your calendars, and watch for more details in the coming months.

Vacation Habitat-Style in 2019:

For a different vacation experience, consider volunteering with Habitat for Humanity for a week in another country. Join one of their Global Village trips, led by the Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity and experience building homes and cross-cultural connections. Currently teams are being recruited for **Malawi, Africa** (June 29 – July 7) and **Nepal, Asia** (November 3 – 10). For more information, please contact Brendalyn Shird at: bshird@gdmhabitat.org or at: 515-471-8686 x 112.

Save the Date!

Thursday, January 17th: "Who's Killing Our Children? What Can We Do?" Watch for details.

SQB Online!

MFSA is now moving toward providing the SQB online. However, you may still choose to have it mailed to you, if that is your preference. As you may know, the SQB is published three times a year, plus the Annual Conference Edition. Please send me a note or [an email](#)