



# MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator [www.mfsaiowa.org](http://www.mfsaiowa.org)

SEPTEMBER 2019

Dear Friends, The Labor Day weekend has become a kind of “last fling” holiday, one last time to enjoy the great out-of-doors before colder weather and busier schedules kick in. It is also a time to honor workers and to rededicate ourselves to the cause of justice for workers everywhere, a cause that has been a core issue for MFSA since its beginning in 1907. Many of those concerns are still with us. So, I hope you have a great holiday, but I also hope you are pledging to continue the struggle for dignity and justice for workers.

Joy and peace,  
Eloise

### **Fall Statewide Gathering Set:**

MFSA’s Fall Statewide Gathering will be held on **Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 9:45 AM.** It will be held at **Trinity Las Americas UMC**, 1548 8<sup>th</sup> Street, in **Des Moines**. The keynote speaker will be **Ann Naffier**, attorney with JFON, who will speak about immigration, the situation on the border and the work of JFON. Devotions will be led by **Rev. Emily Ewing**, Social Justice Pastor at Trinity Las Americas. Lunch will be provided for a free will offering. The plenary, which follows will include the election of officers for the Executive Committee for 2020.

### **Mission U: Learning Together for the Transformation of the World:**

The Conference UMW is continuing its legacy of 150 years as it hosts this annual event. Fall dates are: **October 18-20**. Studies include “The Gospel of Mark: Radical Discipleship,” with Rev. Dr. Lanette Plambeck; Anniversary Study, “Women United for Change;” and Social Issue Study, “What about our Money? A Faith Response.” For more information, please go to: <https://www.iaumc.org/missionuformerlysocm>.

### **Sister Parish Delegation to Guatemala and El Salvador:**

Maria Van Der Maaten and her son will be joining a Sister Parish Delegation to Guatemala and El Salvador in November. Upon their return, Maria will share with MFSA and others [date and place TBD] what they learned and how we can move forward as grace-filled persons of faith. The Sister Parish model of building long-term relationships between communities in the U.S. and El Salvador or Guatemala fosters a space for mutual learning and seeing one another’s humanity. [Read the letter from Maria on our website for more details](#). Financial support is appreciated via check made to “Sister Parish, Inc.” and send to Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz or Maria Van Der Maaten, 4118 Aurora Ave., Des Moines 50310 by September 15.

### **“Finding Humanity at the Border” Immigration Resource Fair at Luther College:**

**Francisco Cantu**, author of *The Line Becomes a River*, will be the keynote speaker, presenting in the form of an onstage interview with Wanda Deifelt, professor of religion. Representatives of several local organizations and groups who will have tables set up throughout the lobby following the interview. The event will be held on **Wednesday, September 4 from 7:30-9:00 PM at the Center for Faith and Life, Luther College**, 700 College Drive, Decorah. [More at Luther.edu](#)

### **Prairie Awakening-Prairie Awoke Native American Celebration:**

Dallas County Conservation Board’s 21<sup>st</sup> annual celebration will be held on **Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 9:00 PM, at the Kuehn Conservation Area, in Earlham**. Enjoy drum, song and Native dance. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Concessions will be available on site. No pets please.

### **An Evening of Palestinian Food and Music:**

MEPEC (Middle East Peace Education Coalition) is sponsoring this fundraising event on **Saturday**,



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**September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM, at First UMC**, 1001 Pleasant Street, **Des Moines**. Tickets are \$30.00 for adults and \$15.00 for students. Proceeds will be used to continue to Educate, Advocate and Mobilize for a just peace in the Middle East. For tickets, please contact Christine Anders at: [discipleship@dmfirstchurch.org](mailto:discipleship@dmfirstchurch.org). MFSA is a member of MEPEC. [Online event post](#)

## **NE Iowa Citizens Climate Lobby:**

This monthly meeting will be held on **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:00 PM**, at the **Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center**, 119 Winnebago Street, in **Decorah**.

## **Race: Are We So Different?**

The **Grand Opening** for this Art Exhibit will be held on **Tuesday, September 10, 5:00 – 6:30 at the Luther Center for the Arts**, 505 High Street, in **Decorah**. The Exhibit is on loan from the Science Museum of Minnesota. Beverages and appetizers will be served. Please RSVP by September 3<sup>rd</sup> at: [neipjc@gmail.com](mailto:neipjc@gmail.com).

## **Movie Viewing: Poverty:**

The Viewing is sponsored by State Poor People's Campaign a national movement led by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharris. The event will be held on **Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 PM, at Jubilee UMC Resource Center**, 1621 E. 4<sup>th</sup>. Street, **Waterloo**.

## **Re-entry Simulations:**

This simulation illustrates the enormous barriers faced by those returning from incarceration. The event will be held on **Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**, in the Parish Hall of **St. John's Catholic Church**, 24043 302<sup>nd</sup> Place, **Adel**. The event is free, but registration is required. For more information, please contact: [www.centerforsocialministry.org](http://www.centerforsocialministry.org).

## **Explore Immigration in the United States:**

SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) and Plymouth Welcoming Migrants Committee sponsor this event. Learn more about the reality of immigrants in the US and support local immigrants. "America First: The Legacy of an Immigration Raid" (fundraiser for Justice for Our Neighbors) plays **September 13 at 7:00 PM, at Plymouth UCC**, 4126 Ingersoll Ave., **Des Moines**.

## **Be Smart: Moms Demand Action – September 14:**

Learn about guidelines to help parents and other adults prevent child gun deaths and injuries. Presenters are **Temple Hiatt and Lori Durian**. **Holly Sanger** will then introduce Moms Demand Action. Coffee and treats will be served. A sliding scale (\$5.00 - \$15.00) donation will be received at the door. For more information, please contact: [neipjc@gmail.com](mailto:neipjc@gmail.com).

## **Meet My Religious Neighbor: Masjid An-Noor:**

This Open House will be held **Saturday, September 14, 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM at the Mosque**, 1117 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, **Des Moines**. Meet your Muslim neighbors, enjoy multi-cultural snacks, take a tour of the Mosque and learn about Islam. Please note: You are welcome to dress comfortably. Shoes need to be removed prior to entering the prayer rooms. No head covering is necessary to participate in the Mosque tour.

## **CAUCUS 2020 PEACE PROJECT:**

Anyone interested in Middle East peace is welcome to join this potluck, planning and discussion meeting, to be held on **Sunday, September 15, 12:30 – 2:30 at the Iowa City Library**, Meeting Room A, 123 South Linn Street, **Iowa City**. Discussion will include effective strategies for talking to presidential candidates and distribution of talking points on these issues: Yemen/Saudi Arabia, Iran, Israel/Palestine, military spending.



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## Pilgrimage in the Prairie:

An interfaith prayer service during the Season of Creation will be held on **Sunday, September 15, 1:30 – 2:30 PM, along the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt**, next to Holy Cross Church, located at 12704 NE 98<sup>th</sup> Street in **Maxwell**. Please bring a chair and wear walking shoes. The event will include a self-guided walk through the prairie, and a Reflection by **Matt Russell**, Director of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light.

## Nikole Hannah-Jones to Speak:

Ms. Hannah-Jones' topic is, "Separated and Unequal: Considering Modern Day Segregation and the American Constitution." Her deeply personal reports on the black experience in America offer a compelling case for greater equity. The event will be held on **Monday, September 16, at 7:00 PM in the Great Hall of the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center**, 8201 Dakota Street in **Cedar Falls**.

## Two Events with Jack Jezreel of JustFaith – September 17 & 18:

The Center for Social Ministry hosts **Jack Jezreel**, founder of JustFaith Ministries for two events: "**Transformed People, Transformed Church, Transformed World**" - **Tuesday, September 17, 6:30-8:30 PM, at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church**, 1240 66<sup>th</sup> Street, **Windsor Heights**. Jezreel will speak to the vision of God's healing presence in the world and offer a program called JustFaith for individuals and churches who want to deepen and expand the work of social transformation. This event is free, but registration is required at: <http://bit.ly/Jack/Jezreel-DSM>. "**Taking the Next Step!**" on **Wednesday, September 18, 7:00-8:30 PM at St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral**, 815 High Street, **Des Moines**. Cost for this session is \$25.00. For more information, please contact: [centerforsocialministry@gmail.com](mailto:centerforsocialministry@gmail.com)

## Children of Abraham Conversations:

The first meeting of the season will be on **Thursday, September 19, at 7:00 PM, in the Alumni Center Ballroom at Loras College**, 1450 Alta Vista Street, in **Dubuque**. The topic is "heavenly Minded and Earthly Good."

## International Day of Peace:

This observance will be held on **Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM, in the Peace Garden at Cowles Commons**, 221 Walnut Street, **Des Moines**. **Rev. Nikira Hernandez-Evans**, Associate Minister at Plymouth Congregational Church, will speak on the theme, "**Climate Action for Peace**." Music will be provided by the **Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus**.

## Iowa Climate Strike:

This event will be held on **Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 AM at the Iowa State Capitol, Des Moines**. Watch for details in the next weeks.

## Paris to Pittsburgh Film:

**Aldersgate UMC**, 3600 – 75<sup>th</sup> St., in **Urbandale** will host the showing on **Tuesday, September 24, 6:30-8:30 PM**. The film is a National Geographic documentary about what's been happening in the US since the Paris Climate Accord, and it includes a focus on Iowa. The movie is **FREE** and open to church members and others interested in climate actions. A brief discussion/action time will follow the film, which will be shown in the Wesley Room, located in the accessible upper level of the church. Sponsors are National Interfaith Power & Light, along with United Methodist Women and Aldersgate UMC locally for this showing. Contact Rita Carter [ritaac@mchsi.com](mailto:ritaac@mchsi.com) or 515-979-0605.



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## **White Eagle Multicultural Pow Wow:**

The Pow Wow will be held on **September 27-29, at the State Fairgrounds**, 3000 E. Grand Ave., on Bill Riley Stage, Rock Island Ave., in **Des Moines**. This party brings the community together to celebrate our differences through music, dance, food and storytelling. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Food and other vendors will be available. Open to the public of all ages.

## **Coming to DSM this Fall!**

Beginning this fall CSM (Center for Social Ministry) will provide a full slate of programs designed to assist you in identifying the issues you are passionate about and equipping you to address them. These will include: **Cultivating Nonviolence** (practice of nonviolence, peace); **Exploring Migration** (migration, immigration, human trafficking); **Just Engagement: Power to Change** (organizing for advocacy, creating social change). For more information about dates and locations, please go to: [www.CenterForSocialMinistry.org](http://www.CenterForSocialMinistry.org).

## **Save the Date!**

**October 26:** Called to Climate Action in Cedar Rapids

**November 9:** Re-Think Poverty in Des Moines

**Peace Vigils & Walks – [information on recurring events on mfsaiowa.org/memo](http://mfsaiowa.org/memo)**

## **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!** 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: [wmbiklen@hotmail.com](mailto:wmbiklen@hotmail.com). Contributions can also be sent to Mike.