



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are in the midst of the most critical election of my lifetime. Whatever the outcome, the impact will last for decades. We are also entering a season of Thanksgiving. But what if the election doesn't go "my way?" How can I be thankful then? I can be thankful that however the election goes, there is work to do as a community of faith to bring about a more loving and just society for all people. Thank you, God, for both allowing and requiring me to be a part of that work!

Joy and peace, *Eloise*

Thanks!

Thanks to all who attended MFSA's Virtual Fall Statewide Gathering on October 24th. National Executive Director, **Bridget Cabrera** guided the group as we considered aspects of "Intersectional Justice" and the many ways it impacts all of us. Watch for other opportunities as we continue our work on examining and combating racism within our own organization.

Thanks from SYA:

We are delighted to announce that MFSA has entered into a covenant relationship as an Ally of Simpson Youth Academy (SYA), a program offered at Simpson College under the direction of **Eric Rucker**. SYA is "...an ecumenical community of youth and adult mentors who explore deep faith-based questions and take action, in order to equip youth to live into their vocations as agents of peace and service in the church and world." (from their Mission Statement)

Here is a link to a brief video of youth expressing their appreciation for MFSA's support:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViCfUABcZul&feature=youtu.be>

UMW Faith Talks:

These are monthly conversations hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer, Spotlight PR, exploring themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. The topic for **Thursday, November 5th, at 2:00 PM**, is "Faith in the Midst of Uncertainty." Register for it at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x525F2BIStKfVjRSj7jO1w. The topic for

Thursday, November 19th, at 2:00 PM, is "International Women and Missions." Register for it at: **https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_x525F2BIStKfVjRSj7jO1w**.

After the Storm: Interpreting the Implications of the 2020 Election:

This will be the topic for "Intersections" offered online by the Interfaith Alliance of Iowa on **Friday, November 6th, 11:50 – 1:00 PM**. Rachel Paine Caufield, professor of political science at Drake University will discuss the results at the federal and state level and implications for both.

Reservations can be made at:

<https://interfaithallianceiowa.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=31>

UMW Racial Justice:

This meeting will be held on **Saturday, November 7th, 10:00 AM – Noon** and will feature **Rev. Abraham Funchess** of Waterloo, speaking on racial inequities, and **Rev. Sarah Rohret**, presenting a discussion of the UMW Reading List book [Pushout](#). Registration is required. To register, please send a message to Iowa Conference UMW with your name, email, phone and unit/church. For more information and to register, please contact Crystal Wilken at:

crystalwilken@gmail.com or call her at: 319-610-2069.



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

CMEP 18-35 Young Adult Summit:

Churches for Middle East Peace is offering this half-day webinar on **Saturday, November 14, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**. The topic is, "Intersections of Faith and Advocacy: A Focus on Peacebuilding in Israel-Palestine." Speakers include: **Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon**, Churches for Middle East Peace, **Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac**, Bethlehem Bible College, and **Carla Montilla Jaimes, Morghan Cyr and Josh Curtis**, J Street. These events focus on promoting holistic U. S. policies toward the Middle East, with an emphasis on advocacy around Israel/Palestine. For more information and to register, please go to:

<https://cmep.salsalabs.org/cme1835advocacysummit2020/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eid=e9364436-9481-488d-bb6698db-3e98a7e2>

Join the Virtual Delegation to Guatemala and El Salvador!

Sister Parish is offering this amazing opportunity to learn and to build community and promote solidarity, all without a need for passport or plane tickets. This week-long combination of live and pre-recorded events will connect you with new friends, new places, new tastes and new knowledge. It will be held **November 15-21**. Here is a link to a video invitation about the event, including registration information: <https://sisterparish.org/activities/2020-virtual-delegation/> You may also contact Maria Von Der Maaten at: maria.vandermaaten@gmail.com for more information.

Project Iowa: Free 8-week Online Training:

Looking for personal and professional development? Project Iowa's next FREE training program begins on **November 16**. They have partnered with different organizations in Central Iowa to provide additional technical training to select graduates for in-demand careers offering competitive wages! These trainings include TDL Certificate Training, Salesforce Certification Training, and IT Help Desk Certificate Training. Learn more at: <https://www.projectiowa.org/programs>

"Towards Educational Equity: Investing in the Beloved Community"

This is the topic for the Board of Church and Society's fifth annual Called Seminar, to be held **November 30 – December 3**. The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for students, teachers, and parents, challenges highlighting the inequities in our education system. This series of seminars will feature discussions with experts on what an equitable education system for all can truly look like. It will equip participants with tools and resources to continue the work of advocacy towards educational equity. All sessions are free and will be on Zoom. Registration is required. For more information, please contact Aimee Hong at: ahong@umcjustice.org

Children of Abraham:

These discussions are continuing virtually with some timely topics. Each Session will begin with a more structured interview of panelists, followed by the opportunity to talk with each other in large and small group formats. More information can be found at: www.cofabraham.org.

Refugee Admissions at Historic Low:

Church World Service (CWS) shares an urgent concern about the number of refugees to be admitted in the coming year. The Administration has set the number at 15,000, the lowest level in U.S. history. In addition, it is harmfully restricting refugee arrivals based on limited categories of persecution and country of origin, meaning even fewer than 15,000 refugees will actually be resettled. CWS is calling on all people of faith who care about refugees to **contact your legislators** immediately, urging them to speak out in support of refugee resettlement at 95,000, which has been the U.S.'s goal for nearly four decades, and to expand the categories of refugees who can be welcomed.



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

NAMI Greater Des Moines Fall Courses:

Delivering comprehensive outreach & education is the heart of our mission. Our goal is to ensure that mental health services and supports are readily accessible to everyone in need.

We've developed a series of educational courses created specifically for the issues facing our community. We've transformed the way these programs are delivered by launching new virtual sessions to improve accessibility and maximize community impact.

As always, these courses are absolutely free & everyone is welcome.

View courses and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/nami-greater-des-moines-19159213217>

Mark Your Calendar – Black Stories:

A new exhibit at the Des Moines Art Center, *Black Stories*, will feature a collection of artwork co-curated by local artists Mitchell Squire and Jordan Weber. This will be a chance to share their stories and reactions to the work. The exhibit is open now through **January 17**. For more information about the exhibit: <https://www.desmoinesartcenter.org/exhibitions/black-stories>

Support Urgently Needed:

The derecho and COVID 19 have hit immigrant and refugee communities disproportionately hard, and they often don't have the ability to access assistance programs for basic needs. Thus the help offered by the Iowa Sanctuary Movement (MFSA is a member) is more important than ever. Financial support can be directed to these funds. (See especially #5.)

- 1.) Donations for asylum- seekers and DACA recipients can be made through First Unitarian Church, 1800 Bell Ave., Des Moines, 50315. (Indicate the project you are supporting on the memo line.)
- 2.) For families affected by Mt. Pleasant ICE raid, contact First Presbyterian Church, 902 S. Walnut St., Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641.
- 3.) For families in Des Moines separated by ICE, contact Walnut Hills UMC, 12321 Hickman Rd., Urbandale, IA 50323-1810.
- 4.) For bail funds contact Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project, PO Box 3174, Iowa City, IA 52244-3174.
- 5.) A Central Iowa Emergency Fund has been set up for undocumented immigrants affected by COVID 19 (who cannot qualify for government relief). Contributions to this fund can be sent to AFSC, 4211 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312, designated for emergency relief for immigrants.

Looking for Good Reading Materials?

The Center for Social Ministry is offering some great reading at discounted prices. They have a collection of brand new books relevant to current social justice issues, and are offering them at a **20% discount** as long as supplies last. You can find their Book Catalog and Order Form here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Tzvo8Tn5nkyoMIKs3SkjdMDyitgata6I/view>.

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 email to ecranke@mchsi.com

Connect with National and Global MFSA! Subscribe to **MFSAVoices** at mfsaweb.org.