



MFSA IOWA CHAPTER MEMO

Eloise Cranke, Iowa Chapter Coordinator www.mfsaiowa.org

JULY 2021

July the 4th, a time for picnics, fireworks and fun times with family and friends! But it is more than that. It can be a time of gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy, but also a time of repentance for freedoms we've denied others. It can be a time we pledge to address the inequities and injustices that events of the past months have made so obvious. So, let's celebrate! But at the same time, let's continue to work to make our country more just and loving for all its people.

Happy 4th of July!
Eloise

Seeking a New Coordinator:

Long-time Coordinator, Eloise Cranke will retire at the end of 2021, and MFSA is seeking someone who is passionate about MFSA and its work of justice to replace her. A link to the job description and application form is at: mfsaiowa.org. Applications are due **July 31st**.

MFSA Fall Statewide Gathering:

We are excited that the presenter for our Fall Statewide Gathering will be the **Rev. Dr. Jacqueline Thompson!** Her keynote address is "**Stand Up and Speak Out: Moving From Silent Non-racist to Brave Anti-racist.**" The Gathering will be held on **Saturday, October 30th**. Social Action Awards will be presented at that time. The recipients are **Kate Milligan and the Rev. Alejandro Alfaro-Santiz**. There will also be election of officers for 2022. We hope that the Gathering will be held both in person and virtually, so watch for additional information in the months ahead as the plans develop.

Summer Matinee Movies from UMW:

UMW's Office of Racial Justice is offering a matinee movie and discussion series, on **Tuesdays, 2:00 PM**, with remaining films **July 6, 13 and 20**. The sessions are free, but require separate pre-registration for each. For information about topics and registration, please contact: ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

"The Way Between"

Book Club from World Beyond War presents "**The Way Between,**" by Rivera Sun on **Wednesdays at 1:00 PM, beginning July 7**. Issues addressed include conflict resolution, anti-bullying, peace and nonviolence. https://actionnetwork.org/ticketed_events/book-club-the-way-between-with-rivera-sun

"Other Side of the Hill:"

The Interfaith Power and Light network is offering this 30-minute film as a hopeful, inspiring look at leaders in rural America who are leading climate action in their communities. The film will be available for free online viewing **July 10 – 25**. Registration opens July 1. For information, please go to: info@interfaithpowerandlight.org.

Needed: Communication Intern:

Wesley Center, at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, is recruiting for a **Communications Intern**. The intern will help Wesley connect with students and better share stories with the community of support. Information is available at: www.iowawesley.org/communications-internship/

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Observance:

This year's observance will be in two parts. **Friday, August 6 at 7:00 PM**, a remembrance and memorial service at the **Japanese Bell, on the Capitol grounds**, including poetry, music, and the traditional ringing of the bell and placement of flowers. Then on **Sunday, August 8**, an educational event will focus **Global Zero and the reinstatement of the JCPOA** (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), known also as the Iran nuclear deal. More details to come.

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Shut Down DM's Drone Command Center:

Weekly vigils continue to be held on **Saturdays, at 4:00 PM**, at the **Air National Guard Drone Command Center**, 3100 McKinley Ave. in Des Moines. Contact Ed Bloomer at 515-305-5591 or Frank Cordaro at: 515-490-2590 or: frank.cordaro@gmail.com

Lay Down My Sword and Shield:

This eight-week course offered in **July and August** is part of the "School for Social and Cultural Change," and is designed to help participants clarify their views about participating in, paying for or in any way tolerating warfare. Articles, interview, films, art, literature and data will be presented, and there will be a one hour Zoom conversation each Saturday. For more information, www.sccc.teachable.com

MLK Freedom Bus Tour 2021!

Plan ahead for this week-long journey exploring iconic human and civil rights spaces in Memphis, Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma. Dates are **November 8 – 12**, starting from Allen College in Waterloo where participants may leave their cars for the week. Cost is \$399, with checks or money orders to: MLK New Jerusalem and sent to: Waterloo Commission on Human Rights, 620 Mulberry Street, Waterloo, IA 50703. **Deadline for payment: October 15.** Contact Rev. Abraham Funchess: Abraham.funchess@waterloo-ia.org, or 319-291-4441. ([flyer on MFSAIowa website](#))

Immigration Working Group:

A project of the Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center (NEIPJC), the Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. They provide education, advocacy, accompaniment/transportation for Check Ins in Cedar Rapids, Omaha and Des Moines and food to food insecure families, as well as connecting with IMMJ, Catholic Charities, Private Attorneys and others working with immigrants. Contact: www.neipjc.org.

Sidewalk Solidarity:

You are invited to join a vigil **each Friday, 4:00 – 4:30 PM, at DMIEC**, (Des Moines Intentional Eucharistic Community), 3306 University in **Des Moines**. Meet in the west parking lot where posters honoring Black lives that have been lost at the hands of police will be distributed. The vigil will open with prayer, the names will be spoken, followed by silence for nine minutes. These weekly vigils will continue through the summer. (Cancelled if there's rain.) Wear a mask.

Pronouns 101:

NEIPJC's Pronoun Education Project offers these trainings. For information about cost, details and scheduling, contact: NEIPJC: www.neipjc.org

Letters to People Incarcerated:

Freedom for Immigrants is looking for people to write letters to people who are incarcerated. Contact: rev.emily@trinitylasamericas.org or 970-471-1595.

Black Lives Matter Signs: Cost is \$20.00. Contact NEIPJC: www.neipjc.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

Membership and Contributions

Mike Biklen at 515 East Eleventh St., Muscatine, IA 52761 PH: 563-263-1439, wmbiklen@hotmail.com.

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