

issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

**Fall
2009**

Some people seem to enjoy being afraid Around Halloween people even giggle at the sight of usually fearsome objects and give treats to little scary beings. But when fear grips the soul of an individual, nation or world there is no joy in it.

Fear is a natural instinct. We need it to help us recognize and avoid real, dangerous situations. Sometimes fear can take over society and then response to that fear can be exaggerated and change how people view regular situations and cause actions that are violent. We see signs of this fear around us in society, government and church.

So what do people fear? People with unfulfilled needs may fear losing identity and their security. In our fast paced and ever changing world we can fear that our young people could be losing their faith, abandon ideas that we value, and that we are losing control. People with a history of oppression, persecution or feelings of inferiority may fear other people and live in anxiety and dread. Fear can cause irrational behavior both personally and in a group. We may cling to the past, refuse to be open, and put down people or beliefs that aren't from our own past. In an extreme, we dehumanize the other and give ourselves permission to attack them under the guise of protecting what we love.

Fear matters. James F. Mattil, author of *Flashpoint: Guide To World Conflict* says, "The common thread that weaves violent political movements together is fear. It is not the only motivating factor behind political violence, nor necessarily the most obvious, but it is virtually always there. Whenever we ask why people hate, or why they are willing to kill or die for a cause, the answer is invariably fear."

Leaders can use fear for political advantage. Leaders need support to stay in power. One way to get or keep that support is to play on fear that is real. Fear deepens and people lose the energy needed to confront situations with creativity. People can be lead to attack.

So what do we do? First we recognize the level of fear around us and situations that trigger reactions. We tone down our language. We dialogue and respect the experiences that lead to enhanced fear. We speak the truth firmly and with confidence. We stay secure in our belief that most people are good and that we can trust each other and other nations. We try to remember that the more secure one group feels, the less they feel a need to attack other groups. This is true for the bully on the playground, usually an insecure child, and for the bully in the international system. We can't threaten each other. Often, others aren't our enemies they are hurting people.

Change of attitude will take awhile. Meanwhile we respond to real fears and we don't let our lives be run by them.

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IJPC is thrilled to welcome our new talented staff members

Nick Caprino is our new AmeriCorps member and will serve with IJPC until August 2010. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Economics and Peace Studies. Between graduating in June and joining our team in September, Nick found time to move to Northside and get married to Laura! Congrats to Nick! This year he will be supporting all of the staff and working closely with peace

issues. "I am excited to spend this year with IJPC. I have learned so much in the short time I have been here, and I hope to learn much more so I can increase the impact of my service with IJPC and later in life." Nick is already facilitating student trainings, staffing the guidance counselor program, and getting IJPC up to speed on many technological issues. We are delighted to have Nick on our team. Nick is full time on the team and can be contacted directly at the office Monday through Friday.



Sara Haines recently took the reins of Families That Matter. Sara graduated from Xavier University with a BA in Theology and minors in Peace Studies and Religious Education. At Xavier she was involved in many peace and justice clubs and events especially Students Against Sweatshops and Shantytown. Sara comes to us after finishing a year of service with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Los Angeles, CA. She served at Dolores Mission School in East Los Angeles as the Physical Education teacher. In 2009 Sara ran 3 marathons !!!! WOW! With all of the recent activity in the death penalty community, Sara has already completely emerged herself in her work, "I am super excited to work at IJPC and have a desk! I love all the work that IJPC is involved in, my co-workers and everyone that hangs around the office." If you are looking for Sara, she will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and other days too.



... and very grateful for our two interns from Xavier University



We are delighted to introduce you to Morgan Miller from Xavier University. Morgan is a senior Liberal Arts major with minors in Peace Studies and Theology. Morgan is President of President Pi Upsilon, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc and active with Interfaith Community Engagement at Xavier. She will pursue a Master's of Education post-grad and looks forward to teaching reading and history to primary school students. Morgan is excited to gain experience working in a non-profit setting and is ready to learn more about how IJPC serves the Cincinnati and global communities. Morgan has just started the Teach for America application process and is anxiously awaiting the next steps. Morgan has long-term hopes to stay in the Cincinnati area and serve in a full-time capacity. Morgan will be working part-time on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays.

Welcome to Samantha Groark, a first year Xavier student from St Louis MO. Sam is a graduate of Incarnate Word Academy high school. In St. Louis, she was involved in peace and social justice initiatives and various poetry circles. At Xavier, she is majoring in English and Post-Colonial International Studies and minoring in Peace Studies and Gender/Diversity Studies. Sam joins the IJPC team with many interests including: women's rights, environmental justice, economic justice, and religious tolerance, justice in the third world, and peace in all aspects, from self to society. According to our new intern Sam, "I am really excited to be working at IJPC. As soon as I walked in, I knew I was in a very special place with very special people." Sam has completely plunged into our Afghanistan work and has been a brilliant support for many peace programs. You can find Sam in the office every Tuesday and Thursday mornings.



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Countering the Influence of Military Recruiting

The international situation at this time consists of ongoing wars, greater need for troops, and an economic recession. At the same time, schools across the nation have to deal with fewer guidance counselors due to budget cuts, high-pressure tactics from military recruiters and students largely unaware of the realities of military service and alternatives available to them.

To confront this problem, trained IJPC volunteers meet directly with guidance counselors, social workers, other school support staff, parent teacher organizations, and school groups in Cincinnati area schools that are most targeted by army and marine recruiters to balance the situation in Ohio. We have excellent unbiased packets of information about things to consider before enlisting as well as local alternatives. Last year 12 IJPC volunteers met individually with 70 guidance counselors and social workers and received positive feedback about the usefulness of the materials.

This year we have an even more targeted, school specific plan to deliver the information to the schools most in need. Thanks to data from the Freedom of Information Act, we targeted nine schools based on high percentages of active-duty army recruits in the 12th grade class. This list was then altered to reflect the schools that appeared more under-resourced in regards to student teacher ratios, the number of guidance counselors, and other factors. From these standards, we have decided to focus directly on Western Hills University, Western Hills Design Tech, Newport, Mt. Healthy, Virtual, Finneytown, Deer Park, Woodward Career Tech, and Holmes. By specifying the schools we would like to work with we hope to develop more detailed information about the nature of recruiter practices at the school and create positive relationships with guidance counselors, student

groups, and others. This will more effectively relay to students their rights when dealing with recruiters and the important questions to ask when considering the military and post-high school alternatives to the armed forces. We hope to expand this new plan to any church or peace group that would be willing to "adopt" one of our targeted schools to create an ongoing relationship.

Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. A point person will be assigned to each school to relay important information to us at IJPC, and the point person may have other volunteers helping him or her gather information and making contacts. If you or your group would like to get involved to make sure high school students are making informed decisions about joining the military, come to our Peace Committee meeting at the Peaslee Neighborhood Center (215 E. 14th Street) on the third Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will be October 21 from 7pm-9pm. You may also call Nick at IJPC (513-579-8547), or email him at nick@ijpc-cincinnati.org.

In some great news related to countering the influence of military recruiters in high school, Toledo has experienced a great victory. The military entrance test called the ASVAB determines which students would be desirable military recruits, has been banned in Toledo Public Schools (TPS). This test is not only used to score students according to military standards, but also to provide military recruiting agencies with contact information to make it easier to contact those students the military would like to recruit. Most students and parents remain unaware of this fact. TPS has also required its schools to present a visible "opt-out" form to parents and students, which will help them make privacy decisions. We are not sure how long this victory will last, but it is a huge step forward in protecting our Ohio students.

Cincinnati's Proposed Water District

The proposed Water District may seem complicated, but many Cincinnatians can respond to some key issues of the planned transformation of Greater Cincinnati's Water Works (GCWW).

Economic Democracy: The pivotal question is one of economic democracy. GCWW is effectively controlled by elected city officials at this time. These elected city officials are subject to relatively intense and frequent public pressure. The proposed water district while it claims to be public is in fact *covert privatization*. The process of nomination, the qualifications required, and the entire set-up of operation of the water district board gives members significant protection from pressure of citizens.

Worker Justice: Despite reassurances in the proposal's executive summary that labor agreements will be honored, on page 7-3 it states, "There is no obligation under Ohio law or any provisions in the current collective bargaining agreements with these four entities (AFSCME, Building Trades, CODE, and Teamsters) to transfer their contracts to a new regional water district."

Access to healthy, clean, and affordable water: People in the Greater Cincinnati area have benefitted from plentiful access to healthy, clean, and affordable water from a financially solvent department. The GCWW has pioneered advances in water purification technology, been recognized nationally for its contribution to the water industry, and routinely scored high in independent customer satisfaction surveys. "The 2008 survey shows the highest positive ratings of taste, quality, and safety of the drinking water..." (page 3-9 of the Regional Water District Feasibility Study).

We recommend taking a close look at these aspects before you vote on the issue (Issue 8). Keep in mind that a "Yes" vote will, "prohibit the city...from transferring or selling any assets of the City of Cincinnati...without first submitting the question...to a vote of the electorate of the City." A "Yes" vote will not necessarily stop the transformation of GCWW, but slow the process for Cincinnatians to vote on the issue directly. For unbiased information on Issue 8 please check out the League of Women Voters website at <http://www.smartvoter.org/2009/11/03/oh/hm/issue/8/>.

A funny thing happened on the way to the healthcare forum . . .

As the tenor of healthcare townhalls has disintegrated into violence in some cases, disruptive heckling, hate mongering & threats in other cases, I have been wondering what an effective constructive response might be. In September, three people trained in dialogue and nonviolent intervention agreed to join me in a attending Senator Sherrod Brown's Health Care Town Hall at UC and exploring what might be possible by using our skills. We spread out and positioned ourselves among the 1200 others in the Great Hall.

A few minutes into the town hall the heckling began. Our experiences were interesting. Originally, there were six people in the row behind me shouting such things as "Obamacare is going to kill you", "We have the best healthcare in the world", "Liars", "Tort Reform", "I won't pay for your healthcare" and so on. When the shouting became louder, more constant and distracting I made a decision that engaging them would probably be less distracting for the majority of people in the audience. I began turning around, periodically paraphrasing and periodically asking them questions such as "You sound really frightened about this healthcare reform possibility. What scares you . . ." The woman immediately behind me said things like "You are so naïve", "you don't have a brain cell in your head", "We don't even breathe the same air. I can't talk to you." Others said angrily and insistently, "The show is in front. Turn around".

I took a breath and kept at it. The mocking of me continued. Eventually, a man responded to my question about what he

wanted to see in terms of our health care. When I paraphrased his answer, he said "Exactly." His expression softened, he lowered his voice and stopped shouting. After a while similar conversations took place with three of the others. Finally, the only one shouting in the row behind me (but shouting remarkably loudly) was the woman directly behind me. I took to looking at her directly and lovingly. She really didn't like this. She continued taunting me, making cracks about my intelligence, using patronizing voices with me, telling me in no uncertain terms that I should turn around, that she didn't like it, that I was rude and stupid, etc. I kept repeating quietly that I'd be happy to turn around if she would promise to quit shouting. I kept telling her that I could hear the speakers better when I was looking at her. After about fifteen or twenty minutes, she said, "You won't turn around? Fine. Are you happy now, I'm leaving." She shouted her way out of the forum as she left. At the end, one of the former loud and angry detractors behind me, smiled, shook my hand, and wished me luck with my daughter.

The three others folks accompanying me reported similar experiences with hecklers in their vicinity. What then, might be possible with a much larger contingent of trained peace team members? Join us and lets find out!

By Kristen Barker

Nonviolent Conflict Intervention Training

Take one practical step towards a less violent world . .

This workshop will introduce techniques you can use when faced with a conflict that might turn nasty or violent. By defusing the immediate situation, you create a space which gives everyone time to understand the root of the conflict and to resolve it in a peaceful way.

The one-day workshop is filled with hands-on exercises and role plays that will introduce you to:

- Basic nonviolent communication & conflict resolution methods
- How you can use these skills when you come across conflict in your daily life
- How local and international peace teams use nonviolent strategies in larger conflicts

Curriculum developed by Nonviolent Peaceforce North America.

When: Saturday, January 30th

Where: Peaslee Neighborhood Center (215 E 14th St)

Cost: \$25- includes materials and lunch

RSVP: Kristen Barker at 513.579.8547

Dialogue Update

On September 20, IJPC teamed up with the Northern Kentucky Forum to offer a dialogue entitled "Northern Kentucky's Culture of Inclusion –How Close Are We To Our Vision?" Feedback from the 45 people that attended was very positive.

Some participant comments include:

"It was helpful to be exposed to others experiences and to have the exercise in reflective listening."

"It opened up some new thinking for me."

"Such a rich array of opinions and experiences contributed greatly to my understanding."

"I liked the wide variety of backgrounds and experiences of the panel – as well as our small group."

On September 19, IJPC offered a dialogue facilitator training to ten new people.

Feedback included . . .

"Excellent! Such a lot of "real life" experience shared by the trainers really helped to answer all participants' questions."

"I thought it was well led and that the examples and role playing was very helpful."

"Excellent training. Years ago I facilitated a group numerous times without training similar to this so I am acutely aware of how valuable this training is."

We are currently working with three groups to plan dialogues for their specific communities. If you are interested in getting involved or finding out more, please call Kristen at 513-579-8547

Nationwide Healthcare Reform

The dire state of healthcare in the United States has led to intense political debate and often heated rhetoric. Information on healthcare has been abundant, but not always accurate, enhancing the polarization regarding the issue. We hope to briefly map out a few facts about the current state of healthcare and provide a general set of criteria that will lead to a successful implementation of healthcare reform.

Here is what we know about current healthcare situation:

- Many Americans remain uninsured as the U.S. Census Bureau reported that 46 million Americans were without health insurance as of 2007, and 1.3 million Americans lost their Health insurance in 2006.¹
- Poor and minorities are disproportionately affected. The percentage and the number of uninsured Hispanics increased to 32.1 percent and overall to 15 million in 2007.¹
- This does not only affect those who are unemployed or buy their own insurance, since health insurance premiums sponsored by employers have risen 119% since 1999, 4 times the rate of inflation.³ Costs continue to rise making affordability less likely for millions. By 2018 healthcare spending is expected to double from 2007 to 4.4 trillion, and expenditures are expected to grow faster than GDP.²

As of now, five bills have passed House and Senate and Committees. We should keep in mind a particular set of principles when favoring or opposing specific policies.

A Human Right

Adequate healthcare is a right of all people from conception until death. When addressing healthcare reform the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops stated:

In our Catholic tradition, healthcare is a basic human right. Access to healthcare should not depend on where a person works, how much a family earns, or where a person lives. Instead, every person, created in the image and likeness of God, has a right to life and to those things necessary to sustain life, including affordable, quality health care.⁴

Healthcare reform *needs* to cover everyone in the nation, including the poor and immigrants who are disproportionately affected by the rationing of care by the ability to pay. Coupled with the right of all people to have healthcare coverage is the stipulation of adequacy. A key aspect in achieving this goal is putting the needs of the patients above the desire for profit. All who use any healthcare service should receive the most effective care possible. Adequate healthcare can also include means for continuous coverage and, unconditional coverage of people with pre-existing conditions, and the ability to keep the same or similar quality coverage during job transitions. Individuals should not be denied coverage after a career change or a job loss.

Cost Containment

Healthcare reform should effectively address the exponential rise in the cost of care. Cost containment would effectively increase the number of individuals with healthcare insurance, and therefore facilitate the right of healthcare to all people. This could be achieved through insurance company regulations, re-evaluation and reorganization of current medical practices or procedures, or through various alternate options. Slowing the rise in healthcare costs will not only increase the overall health of society by making care affordable to more individuals, but will also benefit other aspects of our lifestyles as our personal and government funds become less tied up in high healthcare expenses.

Pursuit of the Common Good

Overall, healthcare legislation should pursue the common good. Economics and regulations should not compromise our moral values. This principle can manifest itself in an infinite number of ways as the variety of proposed policies increases. It includes preserving respect for religious and ethical values and our freedom of conscience in the delivery of healthcare. Pursuing the common good also comprises a fair

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wage for *all* healthcare workers, since the healthcare system is supported by more than just doctors. To fully pursue the common good in our quest for healthcare reform it is important to understand the shared responsibility of all actors involved, including the private sector, public sector, and the individual. The private sector should pursue healthcare reform in a manner that accounts for the fact that healthcare should not be treated “just like another business,” while the government needs to fulfill its obligation to the people. Individuals must continue to be proactive when it comes to their health to lead to a more efficient and effective healthcare system.

The pursuit of the common good in health care extends far beyond our society’s health. Healthy people are necessary for a well functioning economy. We must recognize that caring for one another is a duty and a privilege, and all benefit when affordable healthcare is available to everyone, making us a stronger society on all fronts.

Need for Open-mindedness

There is not only one way to solve the problem of the current state of healthcare in our nation. It may take a very innovative approach. Therefore, an open mind is essential to allow for a solution that is beneficial to distinct people with distinct needs and values. Getting caught up in the partisanship that the debate seems to be entrenched in will only fuel the animosity that has prevented passage of reform thus far. In its statement on healthcare reform, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati declared:

Our Church views this as an opportunity that should not be buried by partisan politics or misleading exaggerations of what the emerging legislation does or does not include. The Catholic church does not endorse any particular prescription for what a revamped system should look like. But we hope that civil dialogue will produce...comprehensive and affordable healthcare for every person living in the United States.⁴

Despite what rumors are heard about what future healthcare will or will not look like, one must constantly question and search multiple sources for facts before becoming steadfast in one position or another. Dialogue is an appropriate and even preferable way to gather reliable information. This dialogue can take place with healthcare experts and even averages citizens who will offer everyday accounts of how healthcare is functioning and what it is missing. Even after extensive research to strengthen convictions, we must still allow for at least a sliver of compromise, since the presence of so many diverse proposals make it impossible for every persons’ idea of perfect healthcare to be implemented. A healthcare system that takes a step towards the principles expressed above, but may not go as far as we would like, is still much more acceptable than a healthcare system that takes a step backwards, or remains stagnant.

Here are some sources that will help people learn about and understand the complex healthcare problem and the potential solutions:

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops

<http://usccb.org/healthcare/>

National Coalition on Healthcare

<http://www.nchc.org/>

Center for Immigration Studies

<http://www.cis.org/HealthCare-Immigration>

NETWORK: A National Catholic and Social Justice Lobby

http://www.networklobby.org/issues/2009%20Issue%20Agenda/healthcare_page.htm

¹DeNavas-Walt, C.B. Proctor, and J. Smith. Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007. U.S. Census Bureau., August 2008

²Siska, A, et al, Health Spending Projections Through 2018: Recession Effects Add Uncertainty to The Outlook Health Affairs, March/April 2009; 28(2): w346-w357

³The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Employee Health Benefits: 2008 Annual Survey. September 2008

⁴US Conference of Catholic Bishops, <http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/>

⁴Archdiocese of Cincinnati, www.catholiccincinnati.org/socialaction/HealthCareStatement.pdf



Afghanistan

Some Frequently Asked Questions . . .

Is a military solution possible in Afghanistan?

There is no "military solution" in Afghanistan. Obama's advisors agree the war in Afghanistan "cannot be won on the battlefield", and military think tanks like the Rand Corporation agree that political, local law enforcement and peacekeeping solutions are a more effective alternative to increases in foreign military force. Afghan security must be led by Afghans.

Do Afghans want us there?

A September 29th news story posted by ABC described the majority of Afghans resonating with this statement: "By bringing more forces it will not bring security. It will bring insecurity," says Abdul Jalil, a resident of the Nara district in Kunar Province. "Because all the people -- whether they are civilians, whether they are mujahedeen [religious fighters], or whether they are Taliban -- they all are hate foreign soldiers... If they come they can't succeed in the country because of the history. Foreigners were here in the past, and more of them will create more fighting."

Situation of women in Afghanistan?

Situation of Afghan women initially improved after NATO victory over the Taliban, but under the parliament with an increasing number of fundamentalist war lords, women's rights have been steadily chipped away. On July 27, the Shia Personal Status Law went into effect codifying discrimination. Among other things the law gives a husband the right to withdraw basic maintenance from his wife, including food, if she refuses to obey his sexual demands. The law grants guardianship of children exclusively to their fathers and grandfathers. It requires women to get permission from their husbands to work. It also effectively allows a rapist to avoid prosecution by paying "blood money" to a girl who was injured when he raped her. (Human Rights Watch)

What you can do . . .

Get involved with local efforts to end the war:

- Attend monthly peace vigils the third Fridays
- Join the Peace Scribes—Sign up to write emails to legislators and/or letters to the editor about Afghanistan. Contact kristen@ijpc-cincinnati.org
- Join in our meetings with local legislators.
- Attend peace committee meetings on 3rd Wednesdays which includes an Afghanistan study group
- Host a screening of Rethink Afghanistan
- Sign petition Demand Civilian Solutions for Afghanistan <http://rethinkafghanistan.com/>

Support civil society & redevelopment projects:

- www.JobsForAfghans.org
- www.afghans4tomorrow.com
- www.afghanwomensnetwork.org

Further Resources . . .

Check out **RethinkAfghanistan.com** to view six parts of an excellent film on Afghanistan. The seventh part focuses on solutions and is only available on the CD which can be borrowed from our lending library.

Caught in the Conflict :Civilians and the international security strategy in Afghanistan www.oxfam.org/en/policy/civilians-caught-in-the-conflict-afghanistan (prepared for NATO by aid agencies on the ground in Afghanistan)

An excellent , illuminating read by Ahmed Rashid **Descent into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia**

ReTHINK Afghanistan: A Way Forward

Confused about what's going on in Afghanistan? Unsure of what we are doing there? Wondering about a way forward that protects lives and serves the interest of the Afghans as well as ourselves?

Join us Monday, November 9, for a teach-in on Afghanistan. Enjoy Middle Eastern food. Listen to featured Afghan speaker who recently returned from Afghanistan in disgust after working a private contractor there. See clips from the film Rethink Afghanistan. Participate in interactive sessions about concrete things people from the Greater Cincinnati area can do to end the war and help fund development projects.

When: Monday, November 9
6-8pm, food will be available beginning at 5:30pm

Where: Xavier University, exact location TBA

Sponsored by: Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center, Xavier University's Sigma Gamma Rho, and XU Peace Studies Committee

Call 513-579-8547 to RSVP

MEET US THERE

An Evening of
Afghan Poetry

Out beyond ideas of
wrongdoing and rightdoing

There is a field.

I will meet you there.



Rumi

Readings of **poems** from contemporary poets of **Afghanistan**— understanding what **Afghans feel** about what is going on in their **country**. Opportunity to learn ways we can help end the war and meet the humanitarian needs.

Saturday, October 30

Sitwells Coffeeshouse(324 Ludlow)

7:30-9pm

Sponsored by IJPC

DEATH PENALTY ——— No More Band Aids

For the first time since 1946 and the first time ever with a lethal injection, an execution was botched so badly that it was called off for the day. This is how Ohio is making history right now. Romell's botched execution is Ohio's third in three years. Romell's execution was called off after the execution team searched and poked at veins for two hours. The two other botched executions in the past three years were completed after an hour and a half and two hours of difficulties. Ohio has the longest and most frequent botched executions. Originally Governor Ted Strickland granted Romell Broom a one week reprieve and then the execution team would try out its failed protocol again. Fortunately, the U.S. district court granted Romell a hearing set for September 28th and then later changed to November 30th. This hearing will be focused on the adequacy of Ohio's lethal injection system and protocol.

Since the hearing was set for November 30th Lawrence Reynolds, who was scheduled to be executed on October 8th, was granted a reprieve until after the hearing. Darryl Durr, who was scheduled to be executed on November 10th, also received a reprieve. Both of these men now have execution dates in March and April, respectively. Governor Strickland is determined to use a band aid approach in addressing the situation. He seems confident that the lethal injection protocol will come out usable and the death penalty in Ohio can proceed with its bandaid on covering problems. Kenneth

Biros is still set to be executed on December 8th, 2009. Do we want Ohio to be known for its determination to keep executing? Ohio citizens need to call for a moratorium so that there can be a real study of Ohio's system and we can intelligently decide what to do from there. We will likely find that it is broken and not worth repairing.



Take Action

There are two actions you can take to help get Ohio on the right track:

1. **Contact Governor Strickland.** Call or write Governor Strickland to acknowledge he was right to grant reprieves to Lawrence Reynolds and Darryl Durr. While you have his attention, let him know you want to see him demonstrate leadership on the issue by urging the state legislature to develop a commission to re-examine the death penalty through a comprehensive study.

*Governor's Office
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108
Phone: (614) 466-3555*

2. **Change the conversation.** There has been a great deal of coverage about this development. While the coverage in many papers has been largely positive, the online postings are overly representative of a pro-death penalty faction. We know this isn't the view of all Ohioans, so be sure your voice is heard by adding your comments to an online story. This will also encourage reporters to write about the issue in a new context.

3 simple steps to change the conversation online:

- Find an article about the recent lethal injection events online from your local paper where you wish to post.
 - Create the username and password then wait a moment for the confirmation to arrive in your e-mail inbox.
 - Go to the link below to your paper, read the article then post your comments. You may be prompted to sign-in to your brand new account.
- **Write down your username and password for future comments you want to post.

Things you can mention in your online comments:

- *The debate over lethal injection misses the larger issue of whether or not we should be in the business of taking lives when our system has demonstrated to be chocked full of errors.*
- *Serious questions remain unanswered about the cost of the death penalty, the effect this punishment has on murder victims' families, and Ohio's ability to only convict the guilty.*
- *The state puts itself at risk of facing legal challenges by continuing to execute while problems exist which ultimately harm victims' family members.*
- *With 5 exonerations under our belt, Ohio has demonstrated its system is not error-proof and never will be. Life sentences will ensure we don't cause irrevocable harm by executing innocent people.*
- *It was prudent to acknowledge such huge problems with lethal injection can't be fixed overnight. We'd be wise to ensure that the same is true of our entire death penalty system.*
- *Recent events have highlighted the flaws imbedded in the capital punishment system. These imperfections need more than a band aid approach and a quick-fix.*

Ohio's Secretary of State Calls for a Moratorium on Executions

In the Huffington Post Jennifer Brunner wrote, "I call for an immediate moratorium on the death penalty to allow the dialogue to begin once again--not just about how people are put to death, but whether they should be."

Some of Secretary of State, Jennifer Brunner's points: "I believe that a government that treats its citizens with fairness, equality and respect, brings peace and justice to its citizens. In this framework, killing in retribution for killing has no place... I cannot condone a system that perpetuates the pain from which sprang the punishment. A civilized society does not abide barbarism to ease its pain."

Ohio's death penalty is "**not administered fairly or accurately** due to inadequate procedures to protect defendants, including failure to require the preservation of biological evidence for as long as a defendant is on death row, failure to provide adequate legal services to all capital defendants and death row inmates, **racial and geographic disparities** in capital sentencing (i.e., those who kill whites are 3.8 times more likely to receive a death sentence than those who kill blacks, and there is a much greater chance of a death sentence in Hamilton County than in Franklin and Cuyahoga counties), and insufficient safeguards to protect the rights of capital defendants and death row inmates with mental disabilities."

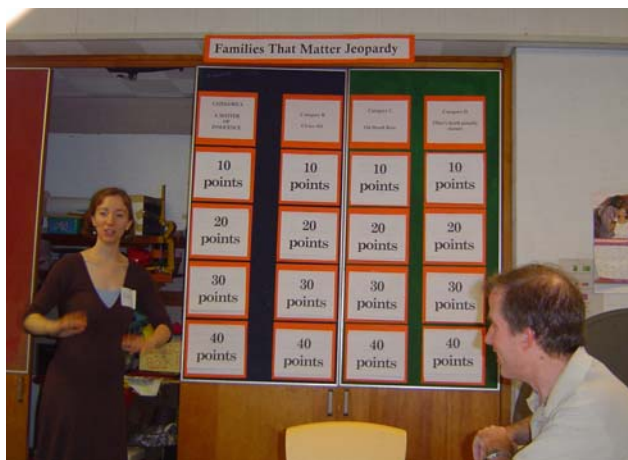
"The failed attempted execution of Romell Broom is the latest reason to end the death penalty in Ohio. Since 1976 Ohio has executed 32 people. That puts Ohio in the top 10 of states and it's a top 10 we must exit."

"There is **no reversal** of the ultimate sentence...DNA tests today are increasingly proving that **not all convicted are guilty.**"

"Research has proven that the death penalty is **not a deterrent** and is more **expensive to taxpayers** than life in prison without parole." "Canada's homicide rate has decreased 27 percent since the death penalty was abolished."

"Now is the time to rethink, first, how we kill, and then move on to the larger question of whether we even should kill in the first place."

Read more at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jennifer-brunner/time-for-a-moratorium-to_b_298511.html



IJPC former staff Julie P leads Families that Matter Members during the Spring training—the focus of this training highlighted lobby skills and how to best deliver your message to your elected official. Families That Matter offers trainings in organizing and messaging to family members of those on Ohio's death row. IJPC receives support from CCHD to fund this project.

Join us! Ohioans To Stop Executions Cincinnati Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm. We meet at Peaslee Neighborhood Center, 215 E. 14th Street. Come to learn more and take action to stop executions.

Mark your calendar for a day of information, questions and encouragement to join the movement to abolish the death penalty in Ohio.

Special Guest Speaker: **Reverend Carroll L. Pickett**

Rev Pickett spent fifteen years as the "death house" chaplain in Texas, ministering to 95 men before they were put to death by lethal injection.

**Day of Witness Against the Death Penalty
Sunday, October 25, 2009**

**Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church
103 William Howard Taft Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45219**

The Day's Events:

- 9:45- Adult Encounters (The Geier Room) featuring Eddie Sanders of Families that Matters
- 11:00- Morning Worship (Mt. Auburn Sanctuary) led by Reverend Pickett
- 4:00- Witness Against the Death Penalty (Mt. Auburn Sanctuary)
Rev. Pickett speaking Q&A
Immediately Following- Reception (Social Hall)

Three Lives TAKEN



John Fautenberry was executed by the State of Ohio on July 14, 2009. John at different times contributed to the prison community as a Material Handler, Laundry Worker and Porter. He also voluntarily participated in community service projects at Mansfield Correctional Institution and at the Ohio State Penitentiary. His last visitor was a Catholic priest with whom he spent several hours. John declined making a last statement.



Marvallous Keene was executed by the State of Ohio on July 21, 2009. He was the 1,000th prisoner executed by lethal injection in the United States. Marvallous contributed to the prison community as a food service worker and porter. Since 2006 Marvallous lived in the extended privilege block of the penitentiary. Marvallous directed his lawyers to present no evidence at his parole board clemency hearing because he did not want to inflict anymore pain on the victims' families and his family. Marvallous' last words were "no, I have no words."



Jason Getsy was executed by the State of Ohio on August 18, 2009. Jason contributed to ministry within the prison community with music, words, and love. While incarcerated Jason passed his GED and taught himself to play the guitar and keyboard. He participated in weekly religious service programs including bible studies and worship services also he contributed his musical talents in several of these services. Jason also participated in community service projects. Jason had a very supportive family that will miss him very much. He was an inspiration to his Grandma, whom he called almost every day. He said he lived every day feeling devastation and pain for Mrs. Serafino's son and daughter. Jason was recommended for clemency by the parole board, but was denied by the governor. Jason asked for clemency because he said that if he were able to live he would further reconciliation and healing with the Serafino family. He also wanted to live so he could do a prison ministry mentoring young inmates "to show others that carrying the love of Christ in your heart is better than carrying around a lot of anger."

"We must recognize and internalize that all are entitled to the basic rights as we the people have determined in our constitutions and entrusted to our courts to protect. And when one of us violates those rights, we must continue to abide by these principles in addressing it."

-Jennifer Brunner, Ohio Secretary of State

Upcoming Execution Dates & Reasons for Clemency

Kenneth Biros—Execution Date December 8th, 2009



- Kenneth Biros' family have testified to the emotional abuse he suffered as a child.
- He also suffers from depression and schizoid personality disorder.
- He did not receive adequate counsel during his trial.

Vernon Lamont Smith, nka Abdullah Sharif Kaazim Mahdienneth—Execution Date January 7th, 2010

- Vernon's trial counsel failed to consider jury racial and religious biases during selection resulting in an unfair trial.
- Appellate counsel was ineffective: failed to appeal the conviction on the grounds that the trial counsel was ineffective.
- The State Court of Appeals refused to consider residual doubt even though Ohio law recognized residual doubt as a mitigating factor in trial.



Mark Brown—Execution Date February 4th, 2010



- Mark was denied a fair trial
- the jury was coerced into a death penalty verdict by an impasse in the penalty phase deliberations
- Introduction of "other acts" as evidence that were not needed made the trial prejudiced against him

Lawrence Reynolds—Execution Date March 9th, 2010

- Lawrence was denied the opportunity of an evidentiary hearing
- Jury was biased in favor of the prosecutor by statements made by an officer during jury selection.
- His counsel failed to obtain proper experts to investigate and testify about experiences and injuries that impaired Lawrence's thought processes.



Darryl Durr—Execution Date April 20, 2009



- There was no psychologist at trial to assist with the mitigation investigation for Darryl.
- There is insufficient evidence for one of the aggravations.
- His trial counsel failed to object to improper jury instructions.

To sign each petition go to <http://www.change.org> and search for their names—Thank You

IMMIGRATION Update

About 12 million immigrants in the United States are living “in the shadows” waiting for a comprehensive immigration bill. President Obama has said that immigration legislation will be considered early in 2010. Hopefully that will happen.

However, people are suffering now. Immigrants are major victims of the economic downturn. Many have lost their jobs. The health care reform discussion has led to anti-immigrant sentiments and actions. Finally, the road to deportation has taken a new twist. In some parts of the country drivers licenses and car insurance have become the ticket to detention centers on the way to deportation.

Many areas in Greater Cincinnati do not have public transportation. A car is a necessity to get to work, take children to school, buy groceries, etc. In Ohio, as in most States, undocumented persons are not eligible for driver’s licenses. The smallest actual or perceived traffic violation can have a variety of consequences. In some areas the results may be a day in court and a \$200 – \$500 fine. This may mean that a family will have a trouble paying the rent or buying food. In other areas, the driver can go to jail directly or jail via court.

Once in jail, the “guilty” one can make the legal “one call” to a family member. That call may end communication until the person arrives in the home country weeks later. Families can’t possibly risk a visit to the jail where they will need to show picture I.D. and be subject to a computer search. Those detained may purchase telephone cards to call home but many don’t know this or have someone to bring the money to jail.

Even if a family member or friend can visit, that doesn’t necessarily mean the two people see one another face to face. In Butler County, for example, a visitor speaks for 15 minutes over a telephone to the detainee who appears on a television screen. Then one visiting day, without warning, the detainee is not there. There is no word for a week or more and the family has no idea what jail the detainee might be in on the way to the country of origin. The transfer usually takes place in the middle of the night with no advanced notice. Anxiety and worry are especially high for those who have come out of countries where disappearances and death were daily realities during the 1980s.

For immigrants, the consequence for a simple driving violation may be deportation. A visit to traffic court means families are separated. It’s hard to think that the punishment fits the crime here. Are immigrants who change lanes without using a turn signal really so dangerous as to warrant deportation?

It is true; the Obama administration is trying to do some things until an immigration bill can be passed. Some officials seem to know that the present system exploits immigrants to raise money to subsidize jails. Encouraging the end of “raids” as a means of deportation and purchasing hotels for detention centers to make the wait in jail more comfortable are two things that have been announced.

More needs to be done. In a just society the healthcare needs of undocumented immigrants would not be ignored. They pay the same taxes. The U.S. government has decided that the h1n1 vaccine will be made available to everyone and no one will be asked to show immigration status.

As humans we recognize the inhuman ways that we are treating our sisters and brothers. We know that we are called to a global community of justice and peace with dignity. So we stand with our sister and brother immigrants for global anti-poverty strategies, reunification of families and a path to citizenship so that all are part of the global community called for in the Gospel.

◆.....◆

Date: Sat Dec 5, 2009

Time: 10am-2pm

*At Peaslee Neighborhood Center
215 East 14th Street*

Please join

**The Intercommunity Justice and Peace
Center
For the**

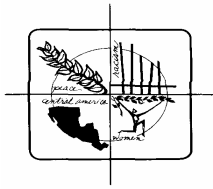
**7th Annual
St. Nick Day
Sale**

We offer...

- * *Hand crafted products from around the world including finely detailed crèche sets from Ecuador, beautiful scarves from Ghana, and more*
- * *Calendars, books and cards from Syracuse Cultural Workers*
- * *Fair Trade coffees, cocoa and chocolates*
- * *Selections from local artists and authors*

Call IJPC at 513-579-8547

*Holiday Refreshments
will be provided
...ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS:

W e e k l y & M o n t h l y	1st MONDAY	CEASEFIRE CINCINNATI 6 pm; Bush Recreation Center, 2640 Kemper Avenue, (513) 675 - 4102 www.ceasefirecincinnati.org
	MONDAYS	WOMEN IN BLACK 4:30 pm; Island on Central Pkwy & Vine; Alice Gerdeman: 513-579-8547 TALK, ACT, LISTEN, "KONNECT" 6:30-8:30 pm; Women's Connection 4022 Glenway Ave. Contact: Alisa Franks at (513) 471-4673 ext 17 afranks@thewomensconnection.org
	2nd TUESDAY	CINCINNATI - OHIOANS TO STOP EXECUTION MEETING 7-8 pm—IJPC Peaslee Center, 215 E. 14th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Julie Przybysz ,513-579-8547
	3rd TUESDAY	CEASEFIRE CINCINNATI 5:30-6:30 pm; Avondale Pride Center, 3520 Burnet, (513) 675 - 4102 www.ceasefirecincinnati.org
	WEDNESDAYS	THE DAY LABOR ORGANIZATION PROJECT 9 am; Our Daily Bread, 1730 Race St; 621-5991
	3rd WEDNESDAY	IJPC GENERAL PEACE COMMITTEE 7– 9 pm; Peaslee Neighborhood Center, 215 East 14th St. Kristen Barker, 531-579-8547
	1st THURSDAYS	BENEFITS RIGHTS ADVOCACY GROUP Noon– 1:30 pm; Contact Center 1212 Vine St; Lynn Williams 381-4242 NORTHERN KENTUCKY JUSTICE & PEACE COMMITTEE 7 pm; Mother of God Church, 119 W. 6th St. Covington, KY
	FRIDAYS	WOMEN IN BLACK VIGIL IN NORTHSIDE 4:30-5:30 pm; Hoffner Park (Blue Rock & Hamilton) Elizabeth Motter: 683-2340
	3rd FRIDAYS	IRAQ MORATORIUM: NEIGHBORHOOD PEACE VIGILS 4:30-6:00 pm; Call for details (513-579-8547) or see IJPC web site calendar http://www.ijpc-cincinnati.org/calendar.htm
	2nd SATURDAYS	AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 2-3:30 pm; Panera Bread in Hyde Park, 3806 Paxton Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45209 Please confirm that this meeting is happening as scheduled by contacting Laura Osborn Coffey at (513) 734-6043, or lozcoffey@cs.com
3rd SUNDAY	STUDENTS AGAINST RACISM TOWN HALL THINK TANK 3-5 pm; Essex Place 7610 Reading Road Contacts: Akosua Favors & Ben Sea via e-mail at star@nku.edu or revol-radio@hotmail.com .	

O C t	Oct 27	Practicing Peace in a Time of War Call 513-347-5449, visit www.srcharitycinti.org/spirit.htm
	Oct 27	She Screams Without Sound - Vigil Against Domestic Violence and Abuse 6:45 pm Hamilton County Court House steps http://shescreamswithoutsound.weebly.com/
	Oct 28	“Soil Not Oil: Food Security in Times of Climate Change Schiff Family Conf Center 7pm 513 745 3026
	Oct 29	OTRCH Fundraiser 5:30-8:30 "Evolving with the Neighborhood," a speech by Kalima Rose, Senior Director of PolicyLink
	Oct 30	AFGHAN POETRY NIGHT Sitwells Coffeehouse(324 Ludlow) 7:30-9pm Readings of poems from contemporary poets of Afghanistan— understanding what Afghans feel about what is going on in their country

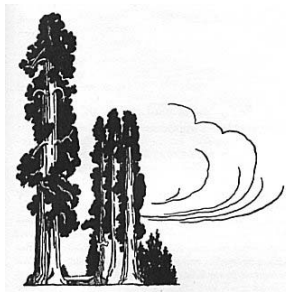
Second Reminder

Get your IJPC Newsletter by E-mail only.

Send us an E-mail to: info@ijpc-cincinnati.org

Subject: E-subscribe

Hi, this is Jane Adams;



I'd like to get my newsletter by

E-mail! Thanks, Jane

JOIN US.....

An Evening of Afghan Poetry

Saturday, October 30

Sitwells Coffeehouse(324 Ludlow)

7:30-9pm

Sponsored by IJPC 513.579.8547

As **Election Day** approaches, it is important to stay informed on the multitude of candidates and issues. Here is a short list of resources that will help map out the complex questions presented to all voters:

-League of Women Voters of the Cincinnati Area Education Fund's Smart Voter site

<http://www.smartvoter.org/>

This resource will provide a detailed, non-partisan explanation of people and issues on your area's unique ballot by simply typing in you zip code in the right column.

-NAACP Cincinnati Voters' Information

<http://naapccincinnati.org/>

Select the "VOTERS Info for Nov. 3, 2009" tab on the left-most column.

***Intercommunity Justice
& Peace Center
215 East 14th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202***

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