

issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

“PLANNING AHEAD ”

For many, summertime is a symbol of more relaxed living. How wonderful! The reality is that for many organizations, it is a time to look ahead and plan programming for the upcoming academic year. IJPC offers a variety of educational, action and dialogue possibilities.

- Ohio has already scheduled six executions before the end of 2009. Many more people are at the end of their appeals. The death penalty is an appropriate topic for a Lenten speaker or any other time. Churches or civic groups are invited to consider a study of the death penalty that could lead to the signing of a moratorium resolution.
- Immigration reform legislation is expected this Fall. IJPC's Loving Our Immigrant Neighbor program shares information, answers questions and facilitates dialogue. Organize a letter campaign to support the DREAM ACT (see story on page 2). A great youth group activity!
- Peace is everyone's desire. How about a program on peacemaking in the home, nonviolence, a dialogue with someone of a different faith tradition or alternative ways to deal with conflicts (personal to global)?
- Looking for a time limited project? Groups to lead a station at the Way of the Cross/Way of Justice are always needed.
- Want to take a stand? Join, as an individual or with a group, "Women in Black" for a Monday afternoon vigil.
- IJPC has art done by death row inmates (paintings and jewelry). Would you like to host an art show or sale?
- In need of time & space for reflection or a retreat? The spirituality or theology that motivates and informs justice work makes for a thought provoking day or evening of reflection or a weekend retreat.
- Does your group need someone to facilitate open discussion or dialogue on an issue or value? We may be able to help.

Interests and issues change throughout the year. IJPC tries to stay current and take time to reflect on a variety of issues and situations. We have wonderful speakers available on a variety of justice and peace topics (poverty, fair trade, human rights, etc). If we don't have the expertise you need, we are happy to refer you to friends.

**Summer
2009**

Inside . . .

Support the DREAM ACT	P. 2
Days of Dialogue Facilitator Training	P. 2
Anti-Death Penalty News & Actions Steps	P. 3
Ohio Clemency & Execution Dates	P. 4
Who Will Control Cincinnati's Water	P. 5
Calendar	P. 6
Peace News	P. 7

Volunteer Opportunity! The IJPC Member Database Needs Design Help from Someone Who Knows Microsoft Access 2002.

We need help with designing and connecting the standard input and query, and report display pages. We estimate 16-24 hours needed. Please contact: Kristen Barker at (513) 579-8547



dreamact2009.com

What is the DREAM Act?

- **The DREAM Act** (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) is bipartisan legislation that addresses the situation faced by young people who were brought to the United States years ago as undocumented immigrant children, and who have since grown up here, stayed in school, and kept out of trouble. In the US Senate it is S-729. In the US House of Representative it is HR-1751.
- **Why is the DREAM Act needed?** Each year about 65,000 U.S.-raised students who would qualify for the DREAM Act's benefits graduate from high school. These include honor roll students, star athletes, talented artists, homecoming queens, and aspiring teachers, doctors, and U.S. soldiers. They are young people who have lived in the U.S. for most of their lives and desire only to call this country their home. Even though they were brought to the U.S. years ago as children, they face unique barriers to higher education, are unable to work legally in the U.S., and often live in constant fear of detection by immigration authorities. Our immigration law currently has no mechanism to consider the special circumstances of such students. The DREAM Act would eliminate this flaw. It is un-American to punish them indefinitely without remedy for decisions made by adults many years ago. By enacting the DREAM Act, Congress would legally recognize what is de facto true: these young people belong here.
- **What is the DREAM Act's Current Status?** There are 22 cosponsors for S-729 in the Senate and 66 cosponsors for HR-1751 in the House of Representatives. (Follow progress at <http://www.govtrack.us/>)
- **How do I get Involved?** Write (email is good) or call members of Congress and tell them of your support for this legislation. <http://www.house.gov/> or <http://www.senate.gov/index.htm> Go to <http://www.ijpc-cincinnati.org/> to download a one-page information and organizing sheet.

Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center

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Days of Dialogue: Facilitator Training

When: Saturday,
September 12
9am-12:30pm
Where: TBD

Have you enjoyed participating in our Days of Dialogue? Would you like to take it to the next level and learn how to facilitate respectful dialogue? Skilled trainers lead an interactive, experiential process that builds and reinforces active listening skills, constructive inquiry skills, and facilitation skills. This training is free and open to the public.

RSVP to Kristen at 513.579.8547

New Mexico Abolishes Death Penalty!

On March 18, 2009, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson signed a bill to repeal the death penalty after the New Mexico House passed the bill with a 41-28 vote and the New Mexico Senate passed the bill with a 24-18 vote. New Mexico follows New York and New Jersey which have also moved away from the death penalty in the past two years.

"I do not have confidence in the criminal justice system as it currently operates to be the final arbiter when it comes to who lives and who dies for their crime. In a society which values individual life and liberty above all else, where justice and not vengeance is the singular guiding principle of our system of criminal law, the potential for wrongful conviction and, God forbid, execution of an innocent person stands as anathema to our very sensibilities as human beings. That is why I'm signing this bill into law."

~ Governor Bill Richardson

6th Circuit Judge Deems Death Penalty: "Flawed Beyond Repair"

"Now in my thirtieth year as a judge on this Court, I have had an inside view of our system of capital punishment almost since the death penalty was reintroduced in the wake of Furman v. Georgia, 408 U.S. 238 (1972). During that time, judges, lawyers, and elected officials have expended great time and resources attempting to ensure the fairness, proportionality, and accuracy that the Constitution demands of our system. **But those efforts have utterly failed.** Capital punishment in this country remains "arbitrary, biased, and so fundamentally flawed at its very core that it is beyond repair." Moore v. Parker, 425 F.3d 250, 268 (6th Cir. 2005) (Martin, J., dissenting). At the same time, the system's necessary emphasis on competent representation, sound trial procedure, and searching post-conviction review has made it exceedingly expensive to maintain. Make no mistake: the choice to pay for the death penalty is a choice not to pay for other public goods like roads, schools, parks, public works, emergency services, public transportation, and law enforcement." ~ **Judge Boyce Martin**

The whole opinion is well worth reading: Go to: www.ca6.uscourts.gov/opinions.pdf/09a0147p-06.pdf

Action Steps to Support a Study & Moratorium of Ohio's Death Penalty

1. **Cut out** Judge Boyce Martin's statement to the left and mail in to Governor Strickland and/or your representative with a handwritten note (it can be short!) urging them to support a study and moratorium on Ohio's death penalty:

Governor Strickland

Riffe Center, 30th Floor, 77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Find your representative or senator at:

<http://www.house.state.oh.us/> & <http://www.senate.state.oh.us/senators/>

2. Work to pass a moratorium resolution with your religious, school, or civic organization. Contact Julie at 579-8547.

The Contact Center and Bellarmine Chapel's Social Mission Core Team both recently passed a moratorium resolution!! Thanks for taking the time to study the issue!!

3. Schedule a speaker from Ohioans To Stop Executions Speakers' Bureau to come and speak to your group or organization in the Fall of 2009 or Spring of 2010. Contact Renee at 614-560-0654.

A SINCERE THANK YOU from Brett Hartmann's family:

"On behalf of our entire family, thank you to everyone who worked to save Brett's life!! We were overjoyed to learn a week before the scheduled execution that Brett received a stay and now has a chance to prove his innocence.

We are grateful to those who signed a petition, wrote a letter to the Governor, purchased one of Brett's paintings, mailed in a Christmas card to the Governor, and passed along the petitions to family and friends. We know that all the prayers, letters, and petitions helped to change the course of Brett's life and for that we are indescribably grateful. All of ours and your hard work brought about great success!!

We hope this inspires all those who took action and more to not give up on other cases. We may not always be successful, but there is immeasurable value in planting the seeds of doubt that move us one step closer to bringing about an end to the death penalty in Ohio. So, let's keep up the good fight together and look forward to the day we can celebrate no more executions in Ohio. " ~ *Carol Parcell, Brett's mother* (Brett & Carol pictured right)



WHY ARE THERE SO MANY EXECUTION DATES?

Ohio juries, today, are increasingly uncomfortable with the death penalty and Ohio prosecutors are seeking it less and less; **however**, there are around 20 men on death row who are at the end of their appeals process. Therefore, at the same time that there are growing concerns around wrongful convictions, the disparities within the system, the cost of the death penalty, we are seeing more execution dates being set. This is a critical time for the Ohio legislature and Governor Strickland to recognize that there are more reasons now than ever to take a step back from executions and to study the death penalty.

See "Support Ohio Study/Moratorium" on page 3

"I'm Going Home."

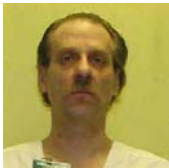


Daniel Wilson was executed by the State of Ohio on June 3, 2009. Dan contributed a great deal to the prison community and will be sorely missed. He worked as a librarian, typist, and G.E.D tutor and participated in community service projects

when possible. Dan's final words were, "First I would like to apologize to Mr. and Mrs. Doug Lutz for what I did to Carol. I would like to say to my family and friends I'm sorry I didn't do better. I believe in Jesus. He is my Lord and Savior. I'm going home."

Please send any expressions of sympathy for his family to Daphne Miller, Xavier University, McDonald Library, 3800 Victory Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45207.

Upcoming Execution Dates & Reasons for Clemency:



John Fautenberry—Execution Date July 14th, 2009

- His trial attorney did not adequately communicate with him.
- At trial, investigation into his organic brain damage was never done.
- The jury did not hear about: his personal struggle with depression & the connection between his abusive childhood and the commission of these murders.



Marvallous Keene—Execution Date July 21st, 2009

The mitigating factors that exist in Mr. Keene's case that warrant executive consideration are:

- Mr. Keene's youth, clean record, and mental disorders.
- His remorse and confession.
- The repeated, traumatic loss of father figures from his life.



Jason Getsy—Execution Date August 18th, 2009

- Jason Getsy was sentenced to death for his involvement in a murder-for-hire homicide.
- John Santine, the defendant who initiated, contracted for, and paid for the murder was sentenced to life imprisonment. Two additional defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment.
- The Ohio Supreme Court expressed its dismay about these inconsistent results. Governor



Romell Broom—Execution Date September 15th, 2009

Broom's trial was constitutionally ineffective since it failed to conduct a thorough investigation into his dysfunctional and traumatic childhood, which included:

- Parental drug and alcohol abuse; exposure to violence.
- Dropping out of the 10th grade to care for his siblings and the shooting death of one of his childhood friends.



Darryl Durr—Execution Date November 10th, 2009

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



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.

To sign each petition: Go to <http://www.petitiononline.com> & search for their names.

WHO WILL CONTROL CINCINNATI'S WATER?

The proposed transformation of Cincinnati Water Works into a "Water District" is seen by many as a technical question best resolved by experts. However, the key transformational issues that all Cincinnatians can respond to are:

- A "Water District" will take control of the Cincinnati Water Works from the hands of elected city officials and give that control to a board insulated from the people of Cincinnati and weighted in favor of the corporate power structure of this city.
- The proposed water district impacts worker justice issues
- The proposed water district also affects the future of healthy, clean, and affordable water.



Mt. Airy Water Towers—For Sale—New Price?

Water District Structure is an Attack on Economic Democracy — The pivotal question is one of economic democracy. Cincinnati Water Works is effectively controlled by elected city officials at this time. These elected city officials are subject to relatively intense and frequent public pressure — a key element of economic democracy. The proposed water district while it claims to be public is, in fact, *covert privatization*. Almost immediately the hubbub and noise of the public speaking out becomes muted because the new water district board would be immediately removed and insulated from the direct election of the people. This setup is perfect for the assertion of corporate control over public resources. The process of nomination, the qualifications required, and the entire set-up of the operation of the water district board gives board members significant protection from direct lobbying and pressure from the people as a whole. Historically, whenever this occurs money and prestige and corporate power reassert themselves in the vacuum provided by lack of direct election of board members.

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."

Pete McLinden, Director of AFSCME District 8, has said that the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System will seek to take over the Cincinnati Water Works retirement funds and remove them from the Cincinnati Retirement System thus destabilizing the Cincinnati City retirement system. The Cincinnati AFL-CIO, AFSCME, NAACP, and the Cincinnati Steering Committee of the Blue Green Alliance have all come out in opposition to the proposed water district and in support of the current structure of the Cincinnati Water Works.

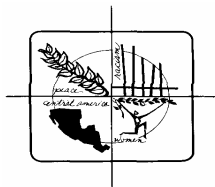
Access to Healthy, Clean, and Affordable Water — People in the Greater Cincinnati area have benefitted from plentiful access to healthy, clean and affordable water from a financially solvent department. The Greater Cincinnati Water Works has :

- Pioneered advances in water purification technology
- Been recognized nationally by receiving a Gold Award for its contribution to the water industry
- Has 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; and the highest ratings of courteousness of GCWW employees and satisfaction with GCWW handling of questions or problems." (page 3-9 of the Regional Water District Feasibility Study)
- Customer friendly water policies for those who occasionally have trouble paying their affordable water and sewerage rates

Why risk these positives by handing control over to an unelected regional board that is more vulnerable to corporate priorities?

What You Can Do:

- Contact Doug Sizemore at the Cincinnati AFL-CIO at (513) 421-1846 to get involved
- Contact the NAACP and find out about their petition opposing the transfer of water works. (513) 281-1900
- Contact Cincinnati City Council members and voice your concern (See www.natiprotectourwater.org for their contact information and a way to send them an email correspondence. There are also other helpful resources to be found at the site)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS:

W e e k l y & M o n t h l y	Mondays	Women in Black 4:30 pm; Island on Central Pkwy & Vine; Alice Gerdeman: 513-579-8547 * Suspended for July and August and resumes in September, if wars have not yet ended. 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 Tuesdays	Cincinnati - Ohioans to Stop Execution Meeting 7-8 pm—IJPC Peaslee Center, 215 E. 14th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, 513-579-8547
	3rd Wednesdays	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 Peace and Justice Group 7 pm; Mother of God Church, 119 W. 6th St. Covington, KY
	2nd Thursdays	CeaseFire Cincinnati 9:30am Church of the Living God, 430 Forest Ave. For more info: (513) 675-4102 www.ceasefirecincinnati.org
	3rd Fridays	Peace Vigil in Mt. Healthy 4:30-5:30 pm; Heritage Park on Hamilton Ave. at Mt. Healthy exit of R. Regan Xway Peace Vigil in Northern Kentucky 4:30-5:30 pm; Peace Bell, Monmouth and York Streets, Newport, KY: Vicki Dierig - vrdirig@yahoo.com
	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 Sundays	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 .

J U N E - A U G U S T	Margaret Block — June 19 A combination of story, song, and poetry, will recount her involvement in the American civil rights struggle and 1964's "Freedom Summer". 10 am Freedom Center.
	Run for Freedom for Leonard Peltier and other Prisoners of Conscience — June 20th 8:00am at Chief Little Turtle Statue in Covington KY & ends June 21st at Serpent Mound Park, Peebles, Ohio
	World Refugee Day — June 20 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees http://www.unhcr.org
	LOCAVEGAN — June 21 A celebration of locally-grown/created vegan products and services. 2 pm Imago Earth Center Visit http://Cincinnati.EarthSave.org for more info.
	The Seeds of Our Experience Blossom into the Fruits of the Kingdom: A Summer Retreat with Fr. Sebastian MacDonald, CP — July 5-11 Registration deadline: June 24. \$375., \$75 non-refundable deposit. Moye Spiritual Life Center, 1000 St. Anne Drive Melbourne, KY 41059 859-441-0700 x 325 moyecenter@cdpkentucky.org
	Discipleship in the Gospel of John: With Fr. Dan Havron, OFM — July 19-26 Registration deadline: July 10. \$375., \$75 non-refundable deposit. Moye Spiritual Life Center. 1000 St. Anne Drive, Melbourne, KY 41059, 859-441-0700 x 325 moyecenter@cdpkentucky.org
	Rites of Passage — July 31-Aug 2 A weekend retreat for girls and women to support the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual journey of girls on the path to womanhood. Grailville. Reservations Required: go to www.grailville.org
Homegrown Permaculture — August 8 Water Use Workshop to plan systems for the best use of rain water and purchased water to maintain humans and crops. 9:30 am - 4:00 pm at Grailville	
Sustaining Spirit/Sustaining Earth — August 21-23 A weekend retreat to explore and experience what it means to live as ecological beings within the vast ecological and evolutionary whole. Open to both men and women. Grailville, Reservations Required, go to www.grailville.org	

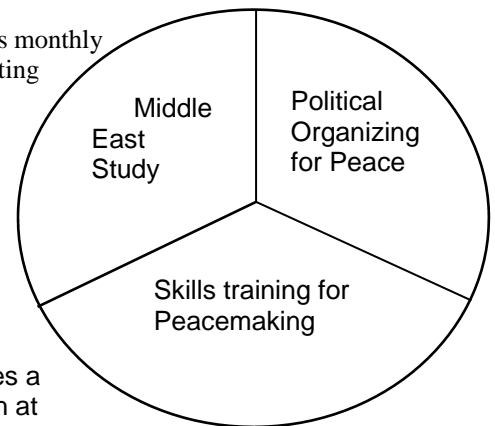
Peace News

Help Keep up the Pressure to End the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan!

Local Opportunities:

- **Get Informed!** Attend the monthly peace committee meeting which includes a Middle East Study Group. Peace Meetings are the Third Wed. of the month at 7pm at Peaslee.
- **Be visible.** Attend the Iraq Moratorium Vigils on the Third Friday of the month or Women in Black each Monday in June. See calendar!
- **Speak Up.** Join the next congressional visit to talk about Afghanistan. Peace Committee members recently met with Sen. Sherrod Brown's regional director Brooke Hill. Call Kristen to get involved at (513) 579-8547

The structure of IJPC's monthly Peace Committee meeting



Help Build A Culture of Peace -

- Did you know our monthly peace committee meeting contains a nonviolent peacemaking **skills** building component? Practice your skills! Learn some new ones. Join us the Third Wed. of the month at Peaslee.
- Participate in the **Day of Dialogue Program**—Invite us to organize a dialogue for your group or join in one of the upcoming opportunities: Sept 12 - Day of Dialogue Facilitator Training (see box on page 2)
Sept 27 - Day of Dialogue in Northern KY (details available soon!)
- Invite us to offer a **Nonviolent Peacemaking Training** for your community! Our recent training for Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence, Ceasefire, and CHRC received rave reviews. Call Kristen at 513.579.8547
- Participate in the next "**Countering the Influence of the Military in Schools**" training to be offered later this summer. Call Kristen at 513.579.8547 for more details.

Ways Forward in Afghanistan

1. Set a timetable for the withdrawal of US and NATO troops.
2. End US missile strikes in Pakistan and Afghanistan.
3. Demilitarize aid operations and fund reconstruction efforts that benefit Afghans, not US corporations.
4. Promote peace talks between all parties involved in the conflict. Negotiations should include women's organizations and other progressive forces and uphold the principle that human rights, including women's human rights, are non-negotiable.
5. Compensate families and communities hurt by US military operations and pay war reparations.
6. Support local models of governance, such as the Loya Jirga, not a charade of procedural democracy that empowers war criminals.
7. Support demands of the Afghan women's movement to end violence against women, ensure women's access to critical services such as healthcare, education, food and water, and give real meaning to hard-won legal reforms meant to protect women's rights.
8. Create a fund to meet Afghans' urgent humanitarian needs. After 30 years of intervention and war, the US owes Afghanistan nothing less.
9. Support Afghan civil society, particularly women's organizations, which are a crucial counter-force to warlordism, terrorism and government corruption and a key to rebuilding Afghan society.
10. Recognize that ultimately, decisions about what happens in Afghanistan should be made in Afghanistan, not Washington.

Source: MADRE, international women's human rights organization <http://www.madre.org>



**Farewell, Julie
IT'S AN OPEN
HOUSE**
August 19, 2009
2-5 PM at the IJPC Of-
fice

Celebrate the GREAT
WORK Julie Przybysz
has done with IJPC for
the last 3 years.

Wish her every blessing as she moves on to lan-
guage school and then grad school.

Mark the DATE NOW

Position Opening at IJPC

IJPC (Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center) is seeking a dynamic, motivated, justice oriented person to fill a part-time staff position (20 hours per week). The position includes primary responsibility for IJPC's anti-death penalty work as well as involvement in other issues as time permits or necessity demands. All staff contribute to the newsletter, facilitate meetings, do educational programming, cooperate with other justice organizations, work with volunteers, and organize witnesses, rallies, etc. The small staff functions collaboratively, uses consensus in decision making and shares common office chores. Applicants are encouraged to review IJPC's website. www.ijpc-cincinnati.org
Send resumes to Sr. Alice Gerdeman 215 E. 14th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202 or email alice@ijpc-cincinnati.org.

Conserve Trees

Get your IJPC Newsletter by E-mail only.

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

Subject: E-subscribe

Hi, this is Xxxx Yyyyyy;

I'd like to get my newsletter
by E-mail! Thanks, Xxxx



**Join in a Celebration
of St. Mary of Magdala**

Apostle to the Apostles

July 21, 2009 7:30pm
St. Anthony Church
6104 Desmond St.
Cincinnati, OH



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

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