

issues

A Newsletter of the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center

Reasons to Celebrate!

We seek to start each year with a look back at the hard fought victories—in order to look forward to 2010 with energy and wisdom!

Cadbury Goes Fair Trade

An iconic UK candy company became the first mainstream producer of Fairtrade sweets in July. Cadbury will sell its Fairtrade-certified chocolate bar at no extra cost, a move expected to triple the volume of Fairtrade cocoa sourced from Ghana. Globolexchange.org

Students Pressure Leads to Factory Re-Opening in Honduras

Congrats to United Students Against Sweatshops for their victory against Russell Athletics which closed their factory in Honduras after workers there tried to form a union nearly one year ago. Students at 96 universities persuaded their schools to suspend or sever ties with Russell Athletic, a major supplier of college spiritwear. In late December, Russell announced that they plan to re-open the factory and re-hire all 1200 workers.

Just Say No to Bovine Growth Hormone

In February, Yoplait and Dannon announced they would no longer purchase milk from dairies injecting their cows with Monsanto's controversial genetically engineered synthetic hormone, recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH).

Another Fair Food Movement Victory!

Coalition of Immokalee Workers and Bon Appétit Management Company built innovative new model for fair labor standards in Florida's tomato fields. Bon Appétit Management Company becomes the first food service company to establish game-changing fair labor requirements that integrate: minimum fair wage, worker empowerment stipulations, and incentives to growers who exceed minimum requirements of the agreement. www.ciw-online.org

The First Latina Justice

Sonia Sotomayor became the first Latina and the third woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice – a historic moment for the country and an especially important moment for Latinos.

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**Winter
2010**



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25th Anniversary

IJPC has stood for Peace and Justice, on the side of the poor since we began in 1985. Having a consistent voice educating, advocating and organizing for justice and peace in Cincinnati is important to all of us. This year, 2010, we ask you to join us in celebrating the people, the struggle, the work, the victories—as we forge ahead to meet the needs of the future. IJPC will be hosting many events throughout the year—please be a part of it—we need you!!!

Our main celebration will be September 25th—

SAVE THE DATE

IMMIGRATION REPORT

On December 15, Representative Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act (CIR ASAP). This nearly 700 page piece of legislation meets many, if not most, of the stipulations of religious and human rights leaders. Here is a brief summary heavily dependent on information put together by Reform Immigration For America.

Legalization: The bill would legalize undocumented immigrants, provided they register with the government, pass a criminal background check, pay a fine, show they've paid their taxes, and learn English and U.S. civics. They would be allowed to adjust to permanent status after the current immigration visa backlog clears (estimated to be six years). Immigrants who would be covered by the DREAM Act and AgJOBS would be covered.

Admissions Reforms: Spouses and children of Legal Permanent Residents would be treated the same as the spouses and children of citizens, exempting them from the annual immigration cap. Unused visas from previous years would be "re-captured" to reduce backlogs, and per-country ceilings would be increased. Employment-based visas would be increased, and for certain categories of highly-skilled immigrants, there would be no cap. Low-skilled immigrants for whom there have been no legal visas available (and who therefore have come primarily without authorization) would get up to 100,000 visas per year (allocated by lottery) for the first three years. After that time, the labor commission will make its recommendations regarding employment-based immigration admissions. There would be greater protections for H1B and H2B workers.

Border Security: The bill would focus more resources at border ports of entry to combat drug, arms and people smuggling, and it contains provisions to increase the accountability of border enforcement.

Detention: The bill includes standards for detention, governing access to medical care and telephones, a complaint process, and transfers. It promotes greater use of alternatives to detention and offers more protection for asylum seekers and other vulnerable populations including families.

Enforcement: Among other things, the bill repeals INA section 287(g), a provision of immigration law relating to cooperation between state and local enforcement agencies and ICE (and misused by some agencies bent on harassing immigrants or Latinos). It makes clear that the federal government is responsible for enforcing immigration laws, and the federal responsibility pre-empts state and local laws that have been passed to enforce immigration laws.

Electronic Employment Verification: The bill will make an Electronic Employment Verification System mandatory, but it would be rolled out over three years, conditioned upon the system's accuracy and ability to protect the privacy of individuals. Employers would face stiffer penalties for evading or misusing the system, and there would be due process protections for workers denied work due to erroneous records. It prohibits the creation of a national ID card.

Integration and Citizenship: The bill provides for a grants program for organizations that help immigrants apply for immigration benefits and prepare for citizenship. It waives the English and civics naturalization requirements for permanent residents who have graduated from a U.S. high school, and for certain older persons. It provides incentives for employers and others who help immigrants learn English.

What's Next?

Representative Gutierrez is seeking more co-sponsors for his bill. You can urge your representative to co-sponsor the legislation or thank your Member if he or she has already signed on. Actual debate on this legislation and the introduction of a bill in the Senate could happen in late January. There already is much opposition, (coming from both political parties) to many of the provisions. Church groups and human rights groups will be initiating programs to educate people and encourage voters to make their voices heard.

Greater Cincinnatians, mark **January 16** on your calendar. A **rally** supporting **Immigration Reform** is planned. We need a large turnout. **PLACE:** Hartwell Center 59 Caldwell Dr. **TIME:** 2 pm, call 513 546 1015 for more details—
Stephanie Beck Borden

Intercommunity Justice & Peace Center

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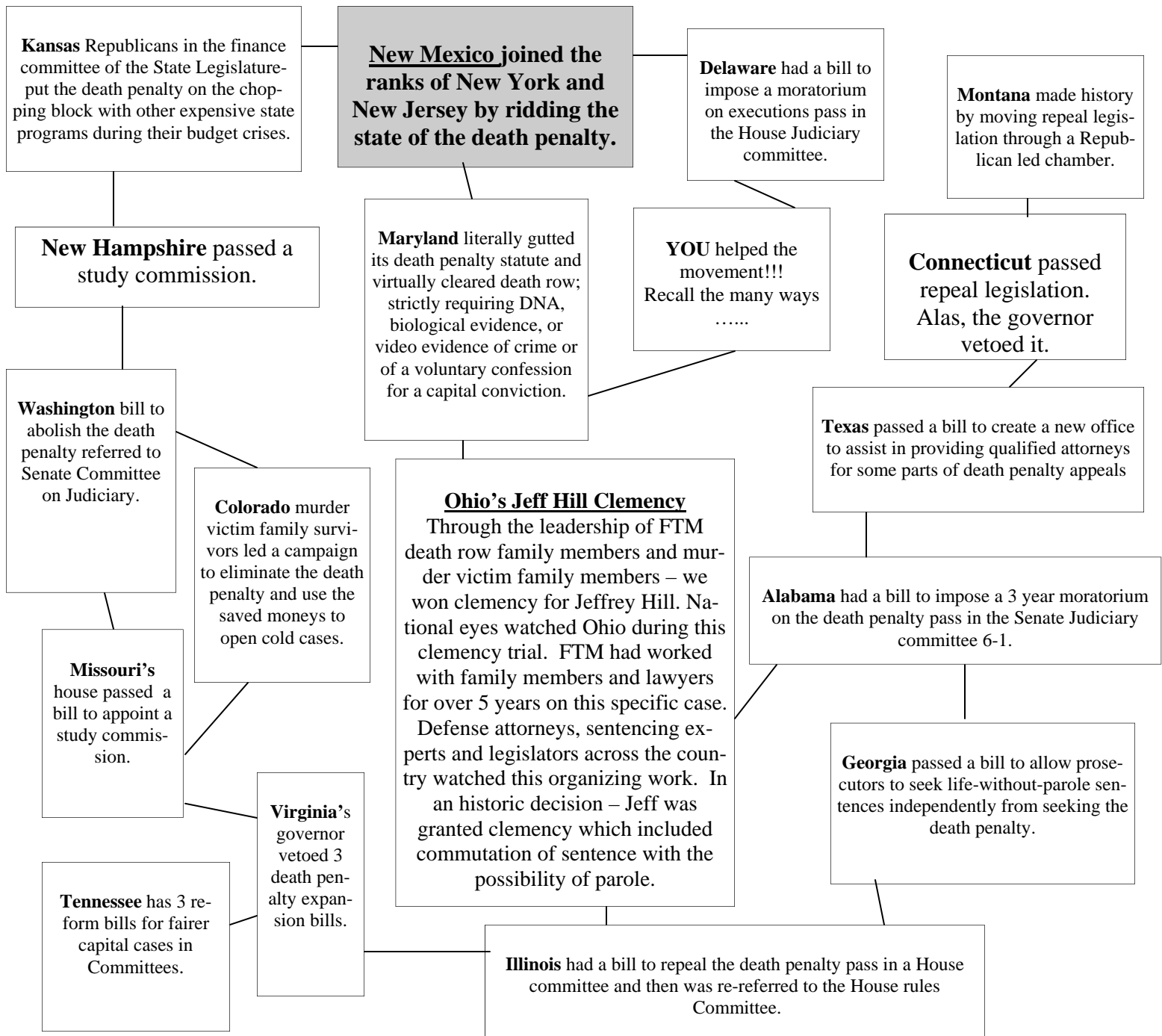
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CELEBRATE!

2009 Death Penalty Historic VICTORIES

Every movement has its moment. The 2009 session proved to be the moment across our country for the death penalty to be repealed! 2009 was an amazing legislative session.



**We must build on the momentum of this amazing year.
We need you now more than ever!**

Reasons to Celebrate!

Continued from front page

ASVAB Banned in Toledo Public Schools

After 4 years of organizing efforts led by Learning Not Recruiting, Toledo Public Schools passed by unanimous vote a revision to their entire policy manual on military recruitment. They have become the first district in the country to ban the Armed Service Vocational Aptitude Battery Test (ASVAB), the military entrance test, from being given in any high school in the district!

Bye Bye Missile Defense

In September, the Obama administration eradicated Bush era plans to deploy missile defense components in Poland and the Czech Republic. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jan/28/russia-missiles-kaliningrad-obama>

Climate Change

Tens of thousands of people from around the world took to the streets of Copenhagen to call for meaningful action to address climate change, despite continuous attempts to squelch it. Inside Copenhagen's meeting halls, indigenous peoples from small island nations and the Himalayas spoke powerfully about their rights and their needs.

Corporations are not People

Three towns in Maine—Shapleigh, Newman, and Wells—have passed ordinances that strip corporations of the rights of "personhood," a legal concept that allows companies to claim the same rights as individual citizens. (YES.org)

New coal plants cancelled

According to Green America the November cancellation of the proposed 960 megawatt coal plant in Meigs County, Ohio was the one hundred first new coal plant to be canceled since 2002. <http://www.greenamericatoday.org/> Also, See ohiocitizen.org

Kimberly Clark -An Emerging Leader in Sustainability

In August, after years of pressure from GreenPeace and others, Kimberly-Clark, the company that makes Kleenex, Scott, and Cottonelle, announced a new policy that places it among the industry leaders in sustainability. Kimberly-Clark set a goal of obtaining 100 percent of the wood fiber for its products — including its flagship brand, Kleenex — from environmentally responsible sources. By the end of 2011, the company will no longer use any pulp from the Boreal Forest unless it is Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified. The policy also prevents the company from cutting endangered forests, and increases the company's use of FSC-certified pulp and recycled fiber globally. <http://www.kleercut.net/en/>

US Commits to Limit Greenhouse Gas Emissions

In June, the House of Representatives' passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES), which marked America's first national commitment to limiting greenhouse gas emissions. <http://ase.org/content/article/detail/5614>

350.org spearheads largest day of global climate action

On October 24th, people at over 5200 events in 181 countries came together for the most widespread day of environmental action in the planet's history. www.350.org Copenhagen

Tiny town sends multinational packing!

A six year campaign by McCloud, CA residents forced Nestle to abandon their plan for mega water bottling plant. <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/>

Community Garden Bonanza in Cleveland

Access to open land in Cleveland has incited a community garden explosion. By various counts, more than 200 community gardens -- neighborhood grow-your-own collaborations -- have sprung up on empty lots. http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2009/07/clevelands_forprofit_urban_gar.html

Taking Back the Land—Responding to Foreclosures in Miami

A grassroots initiative through the organization, Take Back the Land is finding temporary housing for homeless families in Miami, FL. Homeless families are being matched with houses that have been foreclosed on, and are owned by the local government or a bank. The hope is that by allowing homeless families to live in vacant homes, they will be given the opportunity to conserve their resources and find permanent housing of their own. (Ode Magazine, March 2009) more information at www.takebacktheland.org

Most Significant Conservation Victory in 15 years

Two million acres of wilderness in nine states will receive new protection under a bill signed into law by President Obama on March 30. The measure has been called the most significant conservation victory in the last 15 years. Yesmagazine.org

Hawaii will be 40% powered by Renewable Energy

The state of Hawaii and the Hawaiian Electric companies have allied to dramatically expand renewable energy. Their agreement requires that 40 percent of the island to be powered by renewable energy.

A Victory for Ecuadorian Indigenous

Ecuadorian indigenous tribes have won a ruling against Chevron Corp., which owns Texaco. Their 16-year-old, \$27.3-billion liability suit concerns Texaco's nearly three decades of activity in the Lago Agria area of the Amazon, during which, plaintiffs say, the company dumped 18 billion gallons of toxic wastewater into the rainforest. Yesmagazine.org

Celebrate!

Lethal injection September 15, 2009 Ohio failed to execute Romell Broom. There were and are many problems with Ohio's lethal injection system. The botched execution was the catalyst for additional litigation and execution delays. The ODRC passed a single drug protocol, first in the nation, which was used to execute Kenneth Biros on December 8th.

While lethal injection litigation and appeals raise many questions of human rights, we feel it is the tip of the iceberg to the problems with the death penalty in Ohio. Broad consideration of public safety, murder victim family member services, cost and economy, and fairness and accuracy are worthy.

Community Safety: Criminologist and law enforcement experts have resoundingly said the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to crime. In a recent national poll Police Chiefs ranked the death penalty the absolutely least effective tool for preventing violent crime. All of the energy and money we spend on the death penalty would be better spent on tools that law enforcement officials need to combat crime and keep us safe.

The needs of murder victim family members: A death sentence keeps victims' families tied up in a process that can drag on indefinitely without providing any meaningful services for their healing. Funds spent on keeping our broken system in existence could rather be allocated to services for these families.

Our economy: The death penalty, which is far more expensive than life imprisonment without parole, does nothing to help us in these dire economic times. Our tax dollars would be much better spent ensuring we stop crime in the first place. In these tough economic times, we can not afford the death penalty.

Fairness and accuracy in our justice system: We have no way to guarantee we are not executing innocent people. In Ohio, five men have been released from death row because of their innocence, not to mention an alarming 139 innocent men nationwide. There is too high a risk of irreversible mistakes for Ohio to continue its broken death penalty system.

Dates set:

Vernon Smith (Abdullah Sharif Kaazim Mahdi) - January 7

Mark Brown - February 4

Lawrence Reynolds -March 9

Darryl Durr -April 20

Michael Beuke -May 13

Richard Nields -June 10

Sign petitions; change.org search their name.

Join us the Monday evening before each execution at 7pm at Holy Name Church in Mt Auburn. The morning of executions we meet at IJPC at 6:15 a.m. and travel SOCF Lucasville. We have a vigil and witness to the fact that the state is taking a human's life. E-mail Sara if you would like to carpool sara@ijpc-cincinnati.org.



KENNETH BIROS

Mr. Biros was executed on December 8th in Ohio. He was the first to be executed by a one drug lethal injection—a method never used before on a human.

Dialogue Scene & Heard

Day of Dialogue Program is experimenting with a new direction for 2010

What's the same- quality speakers on critical and timely topics and small group dialogue. All are welcome!

What's different- less focus on bringing together polar opposites and more oriented to seeking common ground among individuals and groups, particularly middle of the road toward progressive.

Purpose – increasing respect, understanding and connection among the fragmented moderate to progressive forces in society.

Two Upcoming Public Dialogues:

Dialogue on Capitalism: A Love Story

We will watch Michael Moore's documentary followed by small group dialogues. Location to be announced. Dinner options will be available. Call 513-579-8547 for more info—date TBA.

Dialogue on Media & Alternative Info Sources

IJPC's Northern Kentucky committee requested this dialogue and are helping to organize it. The dialogue will be held on March 6th from 9am-12pm at Madison Ave Christian Church (1530 Madison Ave, Covington). Call 513-579-8547 to RSVP.

Outside Groups have been requesting dialogues:

Youth Dialogues on Racism is an effort to get young people of diverse backgrounds talking and listening to one another on their experiences with racism. This effort began with two parishioners from St. Vivian's parish who attended the dialogue facilitator training and felt the process would work well for this initiative. Youth from six regional parishes are to be invited by contacts within each parish to join the events at St. Vivian's Parish on January 16, February 13, and March 13. This is being offered in partnership with IJPC.

St. James of the Valley parish community requested an abbreviated Dialogue on **Immigration** on January 24th. Day of Dialogue is back by popular demand after rave reviews from last year's dialogue on foreign policy at the parish! One hallmark of last year's dialogue was deeply divergent opinions.

Northern Kentucky Forum has enlisted our help to facilitate a dialogue for elected officials and candidates in Kenton County about how local governments in Kenton County can work better together.

Great Oaks: After experiencing two Days of Dialogue, a member of the Inclusivity committee of Great Oaks Vocational School has requested our help with the design of a dialogue on people's experience of inclusion on campus. No date has been set at this time.

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 that 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 and 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, 9am-4pm

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

Cost: \$25- includes materials and lunch

RSVP: Kristen Barker at 513.579.8547

Rethink Afghanistan Teach-in

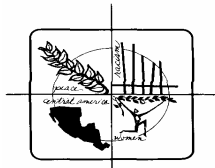
On November 9th about 75 people attended the "Rethink Afghanistan: A Way Forward" Teach-in. The event took place during Xavier's VegOut where delicious vegetarian Afghan cuisine was served. The teach-in consisted of a brief presentation on the history of Afghanistan, some clips from the documentary "Rethink Afghanistan," presentations of peacemaking skills, and small group discussions about the most effective ways to change the direction of U.S. foreign policy in Afghanistan. The event concluded on a very high note as about 40 individuals made commitments to specific actions ranging from contacting public officials, to sponsoring "call parties" where groups get together to call the representatives. The Teach-in proved to be an engaging, informative and fun event that brought further understanding to the issue and served as a call to bring a civilian solution to Afghanistan. Sigma Gamma Rho, Xavier University Peace Studies, and IJPC all cosponsored the event. We look forward to organizing another Teach-in in March. If you would like to help please contact Nick at IJPC at 513 579 8547 nick@ijpc-cincinnati.org.



On Saturday December 19th, IJPC Partnered with Immigrantes Unidos En Accion to host a Christmas party for over 80 new immigrant families. Santa delivered toys for all!

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS:

- MONDAYS** **WOMEN IN BLACK** 4:30 pm; Island on Central Pkwy & Vine; Alice Gerdeman: 513-579-8547
- 2nd TUESDAY** **CINCINNATI - OHIOANS TO STOP EXECUTION MEETING** 7-8 pm—IJPC Peaslee Center, 215 E. 14th Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 Sara Haines, 513-579-8547
- 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
- NKY PEACE BELL VIGILS** Vicki Dierig 859 291 9579
- 3rd FRIDAYS** **IRAQ MORATORIUM: NEIGHBORHOOD PEACE VIGILS**
NEWPORT AND MOUNT HEALTHY 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.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 16 **Rally for Comprehensive Immigration Reform** Hartwell Center 59 Caldwell Dr 2pm
Stephanie Beck Borden 513-546-1015
- Jan 17 **Muslim/Christian Dialogue** 1-3pm St Monica St George
328 W McMillian franciscannetwork@cincirr.com
- Jan 18 **MLK Celebration “Love, Peace, Hope, Change? YES We Can!”**
10:30 Walk from Freedom Center to Fountain Square to Music Hall
- Jan 19 **My Prison, My Home : One Woman’s Story of Captivity in Iran** 7:30pm
Duff Banquet Center in Cintas at Xavier University Cummins@xavier.edu 513-745-3922
Without Sanctuary—Lynching Photography in America Jan 19- May 31 513-333-7705
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center 50 East Freedom Way www.freedomcenter.org
- Jan 24 **MUSE Concert to Celebrate Esme Kenney’s 14th Birthday** 3pm
St John’s Unitarian Universalist Church Details www.stjohnsuu.org 513-961-1938.
- Jan 24-25-26 **Merton Lecture Series “Thomas Merton as Autobiography”** St Monica St George
7-9pm 328 W. McMillian Lawrence Cunningham 513 381 6400
- Jan 27-28-29 **Building an Ethical Economy : Theology & the Marketplace** 5-7pm
Christ Church Cathedral 318 East 4th Street 513- 621-4567
- Jan 28 **Healthcare not Warfare Rally** 4-6pm
Clifton Ave at MLK contact: Nick at IJPC 513-579-8547
- Jan 29-31 **Voices For Change**—Student performances 7:30-9pm Gallagher Student Center Studio theater
macmorinet@xavier.edu 513-745-3576
- Jan 30 **Non Violent Conflict Training** 9-4pm Peaslee Neighborhood Center 215 E. 14th St
IJPC Peace—contact Kristen Barker 513-579-8547 fee \$25 materials and lunch
- Jan 31 **Mid Winter Respite for Women** 1-5:30pm Sisters of Charity Motherhouse
5900 Delhi Rd 513 751 3358
- Feb 19-20 **Come and See Providence** Congregation of Divine Providence Motherhouse
Melbourne KY Sr Fidelis Tracy vocations@cdpkentucky.org
- Feb 26 **A Lenten Retreat: Becoming Communities of Forgiveness**
St Monica St George 328 W McMillian 513-381-6400
- March 6 **IJPC Dialogue Media & Alternative Communication** Madison Ave Christian Church
1530 Madison Ave, Covington 9-noon contact: IJPC 513-579-8547
- March 7 **Women’s Holistic Directed Retreat** Sisters of Charity Motherhouse
5900 Delhi Rd 513 751 3358
- March 14 **David Montgomery : DIRT The Erosion of Civilization** 7-9pm Schiff Family Center
Xavier University ERS Series free and open to the public smythe@xavier.edu
- March 20 **Out of Afghanistan NOW** National March on DC 202-265-1948 ANSWER Coalition
- March 24 **30th Anniversary of Archbishop Romero’s Murder in El Salvador**

Afghan Poetry Night

IJPC’s Afghan Poetry Night took place on October 30 at Sitwells Coffee-house, where about 30 people were in attendance. At the inspiring event, David Logan, Dale Hodges, and Sam Groark (pictured) read poetry from Afghanistan. The several moving poetry readings and book excerpts were broken-up by read-backs from the audience, in which individuals would recite a particular line or word from a poem that struck them. Some of the poets read were Rumi, Lida Abdullah, Kahled Hosseni, and members of the Afghan Women’s Writing Project. After hearing the poems and read-backs from the poetically rich country, the emcee, Kristen, gave a call for action to end the war in Afghanistan and advocate a civilian solution to the conflict. The artistic component of the event added an alternate dimension to action against the war by appealing to hearts and emotions, as well as minds.



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Adopt a School Update

We have made great progress in our newly formed Adopt a School project, and we are excited for what is to come.

In September, IJPC compiled high school Army recruiting statistics made available by the Freedom of Information Act. We used these to focus on the Cincinnati area high schools that are most targeted by Army recruiters and have the least resources to make sure that students know all of the questions to ask before they consider military enlistment. We have targeted Deer Park, Finneytown, Holmes, Mt. Healthy, Newport, Western Hills, Woodward, and Virtual high schools to send volunteers to present packets of unbiased information on what students need to know before they enlist, and what alternate local post-high school options are out there.

We have met with volunteers who are forming groups or utilizing already existing groups to “adopt a school.” These volunteers commit to:

- A two-hour training by IJPC to learn the packet of resources for students and practice presentations to school support people.
- Meeting with three school support people to present our materials. These support people may include guidance counselors, social workers, career support people, or librarians.
- Learning any information or finding contacts for student groups, PTOs, or school newspapers that would be interested in experiencing a presentation by IJPC.
- Providing IJPC with updates and information along the way, and letting us know of any support needed.

Although we have made exciting progress with some of the targeted schools, we still need many more volunteers to help. If you or your group wants to get involved, call IJPC at 513-579-8547, or email Nick at nick@ijpc-cincinnati.org.



Jabari and Aqueelah Davis of Clark Montessori High School help set up Brett Hartman's art display.

7th Annual St Nick Day Sale— GREAT Success

Thanks to all who supported IJPC's St Nick Day Sale. This year several local not-for-profits joined us to help fun and fundraise. Your purchasing power raised money for us and sent dollars to people in El Salvador, Madagascar, Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala, and Ghana. Thank you for your generosity.