

THE GAMALIEL INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

ORGANIZING

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WELCOME

to *ORGANIZING*, a source of information about all the Gamaliel network. Our intent is to inform, assist, inspire and connect. But most of all this newsletter is dedicated to community organizing, its history and its potential. Whether it's UCM's success in saving a sheltered care center or a political campaign using organizing techniques to win the presidency, we know the power of people coming together to right wrongs and effect change. Those are the stories we will write about.

You will find our next issue in your e-mail inbox sometime in January.

Please send us your stories—your successes, your not-so-successes, your plans, and your opinions—to nhoch@sbcglobal.net.

Inside you will find articles about the man sharing our cover as well as reports from affiliates in the Network, and much more.



**COMMUNITY ORGANIZER
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

For Such a Time as This

For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place, but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed; and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this . . . and Esther said, "I will go in unto the King, which is not according to the law, and if I perish, I perish." Esther 4

Our new President Elect likes to tell this story about an incident that occurred between President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his Labor Secretary, Frances Perkins. The Labor Secretary had just laid out a progressive program for workers. The President responded, "It sounds great, now make me do it."

President-Elect Barack Obama has stated that he will be able to move an agenda that benefits the people **only** as far as the people demand that it be moved.

For such a time as this the Gamaliel Foundation has worked to build a national network that can address issues on a national level.

We have structured ourselves through the National Leadership Assembly, through the Council of Presidents, through the Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus, through the African American Leadership Commission, through our Rolling Thunder and Faith and Democracy Campaigns, and through our work on immigration and now on health care, to be in a position to play a strong role in the national debate around the values that we espouse.

For such a time as this the Gamaliel Foundation has worked to build alliances with the Center for Community Change, with ACORN, with SEIU and Unite HERE, so that we can help forge a national progressive force. For it is only when all progressive forces – civil rights, environmental, women's, labor and community organizations – align can we develop the necessary power to push through the reactionary forces resisting change.

For such a time as this the Gamaliel Foundation has built nationally recognized training programs, recruited and developed competent and committed staff at the national, statewide and local levels, and built 60 organizations in 21 states, so that we can have the reach and relationships, the breadth and depth, to be recognized at the national level.

For such a time as this the Gamaliel Foundation has cultivated relationships with Congresspersons and Senators. It is through these relationships that we will have access to those circles of power that will shape the public policy.

For such a time as this the Gamaliel Foundation has become international. The problems we face are global and so must be the solutions.

Barack Obama was an organizer in the Gamaliel network. He has acknowledged many times and in many settings the formative influence this experience has had on his life. His wife Michele has said that her husband is still an activist looking for new ways to express his belief in the people and to fight for his values.

Our organizer-turned-President, along with a new Congress and new Senate, will have a once in a century opportunity to make fundamental changes in the manner of government.

Obama was recently asked if the problems in the banking and economic sectors and the trillions of dollars of deficit, piled onto the domestic and international problems, made him question his desire to have the job of President. His answer was insightful and bold, "It is only in such times that fundamental change can take place."

The Gamaliel Foundation must work on two fronts over the next four, and we hope, eight years:

One: we must continue to expand to new metropolitan areas, build statewide organizations, recruit and train more competent staff, continue to engage and develop gifted leaders, forge new relationships with local and national religious, labor, philanthropic, business, and political organizations, and engage and win local and statewide campaigns.

Two: we must have the courage and the competence to engage in campaigns that will change national policy.

May Gamaliel have the faith and the strength of the woman Esther.



GAMALIEL AND THE OBAMA CONNECTION

President-elect Barack Obama has throughout his political career made repeated references to his time as a community organizer on the South Side of Chicago.

At this time, it is important that we all understand the connection between Barack and Gamaliel.

In 1980 Mary Gonzales and I created the United Neighborhood Organization of Chicago. In 1982 we decided that we needed some expertise from someone who had done faith based community organizing. A person who had worked as such an organizer in Illinois and in Pennsylvania approached me about joining our organizing team.

His name was Jerry Kellman. Jerry helped Mary and me become better organizers.

While he was working for us, he connected with a group called the Calumet Community Religious Conference (CCRC) operating on the South Side in the South Suburbs of Chicago and in Indiana. CCRC had been formed in response to the massive shut down of major industry and the resulting job loss and all of the concomitant social tragedies.

Jerry and I reached an understanding that we would support his work in the South Suburbs so that he could become director of his own project.

It was Jerry Kellman who put an ad in the *New York Times* about an organizing position in the Chicago area. A young man named Barack Obama responded. Jerry interviewed him and offered him a position. Barack accepted.

Almost at this very time, Jerry persuaded an old friend of his to return to Chicago from Texas and work with him in this new organizing venture. His friend was Mike Kruglik. Mike and Jerry were Barack's first mentors in organizing.

CCRC, which spanned communities in Northwest Indiana, the South Suburbs and parts of the City of Chicago proved to be unwieldy. Jerry and I decided to split it into three parts.

Barack would work to found a new independent project in the south side of Chicago, Mike Kruglik would be the director of the South Suburban Action Conference and Jerry Kellman would develop organizing in Northwest Indiana. At that point Jerry asked me to become Barack's consultant.

At this same time we were just creating the Gamaliel Foundation.

I met with Barack on a regular basis as he incorporated the Developing Communities Project, as he moved the organization into action and as he developed the leadership structure for the organization. He would write beautiful and brilliant weekly reports about his work and the people he was engaging.

When Barack decided to go to Harvard Law School, he approached John McKnight, a professor at Northwestern and a Gamaliel Board member, for a letter of recommendation.

When Barack was leaving he made sure that Gamaliel was the formal consultant to the organization that he had created and to the staff that he had hired.

Barack has acknowledged publicly that he had been the director of a Gamaliel affiliate. He has supported Gamaliel throughout the years by conducting training both at National Leadership Training events and at the African American Leadership Commission. He has also attended our public meetings.

There are three human interest tidbits that people might find of interest.

1) At the Heartland Forum, after Barack addressed the crowd, he descended the steps from the stage, greeted me with a hug and said, "some have asked how I was able to put together an organization so quickly for my campaign and I tell them I was mentored by Greg Galluzzo."

2) Mike Kruglik was at the 2008 Democratic Convention. After his acceptance speech, Barack passed through a room of organizers. Mike positioned himself to greet the candidate. The candidate's bodyguards were pushing Mike out of the way when Barack said, "No, let him in; he is my friend." Barack asked Mike what he thought of the speech, and Mike, still the mentor, offered a few pointers. Barack gave him a big hug and said, "I love you."

And 3) Jerry Kellman was on the stage in Denver and addressed the convention. It was Barack's acknowledgement of the role organizing had played in his public life.

We are honored and blessed by the connection between President-elect Barack and Gamaliel.

COORDINATING THE PRESENT ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Four years ago, at the National Leadership Assembly, all the presidents of our affiliates gathered together to discuss forming “a more perfect union.” Rev. Turman (President, MOSES) laid out a rationale for the organizations to come together to act as one.

E pluribus Unum - out of many one.

Originally Gamaliel conceived its mission was to work with leaders to build independent, locally controlled organizations. Over the years, groups within Gamaliel began to work together in coalition. Some evolved into statewide organizations with local chapters. When we began to work on the issue of national immigration reform we projected ourselves as a unified national organization to participate in the national debate. Some of us began to see that we could do more as a coherent, structured, national power organization than we could as a loose coalition of local organizations.

We did not want to lose the original mission of local control, but we wanted to create a structure where groups could act together. And so the Council of Presidents was born. Rev. Turman, at the first meeting, accurately described the process as a ship under construction leaving port on a long journey. And so it has been.

The COP coordinates the work that the members of the Gamaliel Foundation do together. Its membership consists of affiliate presidents. It serves as the vehicle that assures that all affiliate organizations receive the same communications to function within the network.

The presidents first created the *COP Mission-Function-Structure* statement and then added *COP Operating Procedures*. These documents set forth orderly processes for working together as an organization. The heads of all Gamaliel tables--AALC, CRI, GNCC, ILA Board--are invited to attend all COP meetings. The COP then created *Rules for Establishment and Operation of National Tables* so that there is continuity within all the Tables and that they are established and function to fulfill the Gamaliel Foundation mission.

Gamaliel's 2002 adoption of Civil Rights of Immigrants as a national campaign created the impression of a top-down decision-making process. To prevent a reoccurrence of the discord this caused, the COP approved a *Process to Select a Gamaliel National Issue* to make sure all affiliates have an opportunity to review and discuss any recommendation for a national issue prior to its approval. Using that process, Gamaliel has since adopted the Reauthorization of the Voting Rights

Act and Comprehensive Health Care Reform as national issues.

The COP has played a pivotal role in the network's adoption and implementation of the Faith & Democracy Campaign and shaped the national platform used at all F&D public meetings. The culmination of this campaign is the December 4 “Realizing the Dream” Forum, in partnership with the Center for Community Change. At this event we will present our agenda to the new national administration which will be led by a former Gamaliel organizer, President-Elect Barack Obama.

The preamble of Gamaliel's *Vision Statement* created and adopted by the COP is:

The Gamaliel Foundation is a community of people living out our faith and values to collectively transform our society and bring about justice locally, nationally and globally. Gamaliel exists to form organizations that empower ordinary people to effectively participate in the political, environmental, social and economic decisions affecting their lives.

Gamaliel is re-inventing itself. The Council of Presidents will lead this process.

NOTE: All italicized documents are at www.gamaliel.org in the Print Shop.

ORGANIZING FOR POWER GROUNDED IN THE DIVINE

The Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus (GNCC) consists of dues-paying members dedicated to shaping the vision and reality of the Gamaliel Foundation network.

The center of our work is crafting an effective annual training for clergy and religious leaders to make their leadership real in local and regional contexts. This work is done by the Leadership Table with representatives from each state where there is a Gamaliel affiliate.

We agitate each other to build strong congregations, strong clergy and religious leader caucuses and strong organizations. We hold the task of keeping the work of organizing for power grounded in the power of the Divine.

This past year we took a new step in uncovering and moving comprehensive health care reform as a National Issue adopted by the Council of Presidents. Our theological statement, *For the Healing of the Nation*, is a resource for the whole network to use in health care reform work.

We have begun to develop a team of consultants to deepen the congregational impact of organizing through clergy and religious leader caucuses, supported by a generous investment by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We continue to strengthen the relationships with denominational and national religious leaders through our engagement in the Inter-religious Organizing Initiative (IOI).

The GNCC builds power by organizing people and organizing money. The money we organize is growing through increasing our dues-paying roster and especially through Power Partners--monthly contributors through automatic withdrawal.

Be a part of this visionary group and come to our annual training April 21-23, 2009, in Mundelein, IL.

The Rev. Sue Gaeta, President of the GNCC

AALC

NEW DIRECTOR FOR AALC

Rev. Charles Edward Mock brings an impressive resume to his new job as Director of the African-American Leadership Commission, as well as an abiding dedication for social justice. Equally important, his position as Executive Secretary of the Home Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc., uniquely prepared him for the challenging dynamics that a geographically dispersed organization such as the Gamaliel Foundation and AALC present.



Rev. Mock is very familiar with community organizing and the Gamaliel network. He was a founding member of CALL in Erie, PA, and served as its president. The initial meeting for CALL was held at Shiloh Baptist Church where Rev. Mock was pastor.

During his tenure with CALL, the organization was instrumental in getting a racial profiling study initiated by the Erie Police Department and increasing minority representation in jury pools and unions.

In addition to his mission duties and travels abroad for the National Baptist Convention, he was responsible for implementing a response mechanism for churches and pastors who are victimized by disasters. He was the primary point of contact for his office's Katrina Disaster Relief response.

"I'm very excited about Gamaliel's philosophy and its theological foundation and the possibility of promoting social justice at local and national levels," Rev.

Mock said. He has been directly involved in social justice movements locally, statewide and nationally for 35 years and has received numerous awards for academic and community achievements.

Rev. Mock is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he received a Master of Divinity Degree.

He and his wife, Jennifer, have been married for 35 years and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of their second grandchild in January.

NTOSAKE

CARRYING HER OWN THINGS WALKING WITH LIONS

Developed in 1993, Ntosake was named by Rev. Brenda Hayes. The word "ntosake" is from South Africa and carries a double meaning: she who carries her own things; she who walks with lions.

Ntosake has proven itself viable and valuable to the Gamaliel network. Ntosake women have consistently moved into the highest positions of leadership at local, state and national levels. The leaders who train are recognized as some of the best in the network and, in fact, this is the only training opportunity offered by Gamaliel which is planned and led more by leaders than organizers.

Two training tracks are offered: one for women new to or with little experience in organizing, and one for women in leadership positions and/or have already attended Ntosake-Track One. The main focus of both tracks is *Self*.

For women in Track 1 the curriculum consists of helping women clarify and claim the *Self* that is needed to move them to claiming power and bringing transformation to their communities, congregations, and lives.

Track 2 helps women to clarify the new *Self* that develops as a woman's power and experience increases. Both tracks include topics of *Self Interest, Public and Private Worlds, Obstacles, Power, Agitation and Strategic Planning*. Women leave with a plan-of-action outline that covers a variety of issues in their congregations, their communities and their organizations.

Ntosake meets in a different affiliate city each year allowing women in different organizations the opportunity to help plan and execute the event.

By changing the behavior of women, the work of the ecumenical and interfaith community is greatly impacted. The world will be transformed when women are concretely involved in the decision making process. Ntosake gives women the tools they need to bring

transformation to their lives, their congregations, their communities and the world.

She will bring her own things and she will walk with lions!
The Rev. Susan Sneed



Next Ntosake Event
January 29-31
2009
St. Louis, MO

Registration: www.gamaliel.org
More Information: Rev. Susan Sneed
ssneed@gatewaydistricts.org

CRI

LEADERS MOVED POWER

Gamaliel Metro Chicago

A Chicago City Council Resolution on a Moratorium on ICE Raids was introduced at a press conference, October 8, held by GMC leaders Martha Sanchez and Rita Aguilar.

They were joined by seven city council members and members of the Ya Basta Coalition in fighting for the moratorium on raids, deportations and separation of families, and to participate in a series of activities aimed at getting candidates running for election to commit to the moratorium.

SSAC and PNCC leaders joined Latino aldermen as rules were suspended and a resolution passed urging all candidates to support the moratorium.

PNCC leader Carmen Velasquez pinned Congressman Luis Gutierrez at the October 19 Faith and Democracy Public Meeting to commit to attending the "Realizing the Promise" meeting in Washington, D.C. Over 1000 people witnessed the event.

Metropolitan Congregations United

In August, St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay and St. Louis County Executive Mike Jones publically stated their support for the 2008 U.S. Conference of Mayors' Resolution calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform and an end to all raids and deportations that have no national security implication at a press conference organized by MCU youth leaders. The press conference was the beginning of a campaign to build grassroots support for CIR among local mayors.

At the October Public Meeting, Mayor Joseph Adams of University City and President of the St. Louis County Municipal League, stood in support of the resolution and MCU's effort for CIR.

In September, the MCU Immigrant Task Force and youth leaders registered approximately 550 "New Americans" and first-time, native-born voters. These new voters included Bosnians, South Asians, Africans, Latinos, and native-born young adults.

Justice Overcoming Boundaries

JOB's CRI initiative focused on phone banking and following up with 900 immigrants who were processed for citizenship in 2007 to see where they were in the naturalization process. Those that had become citizens were registered to vote.



All of the new citizens and other first-time voters (5,000) were reached via a Get Out the Vote campaign which included phone banking to ensure that they went out to vote on November 4.

A local campaign was kicked off at the F&D meeting regarding driver's license checkpoints in San Diego and a 30-day impound hold for driving without a license.

**FAITH &
DEMOCRACY**



PUBLIC MEETINGS MAKE IMPACT

“Change” has long powered our strategies. This pivotal election year, we launched a coordinated effort to ensure that “change” made a lasting impact on policy makers.

As Greg Galluzzo emphasized, “Those we serve are concerned by a shift away from the social aspect of values and spirituality, where it was important for neighbors to care about each other and the common good.”

Results indicate that the meetings have made a strong impact in their local communities.

The 37 public Faith and Democracy meetings held across the country were attended by more than 20,000 people. (At publication time for this newsletter, several meetings were still to be held). Most importantly, government officials were able to hear, respond and commit to specific recommendations.

The 3,200 people at ISIAH’s meeting in St. Paul, MN, included 200 elected officials. Two state senators joined more than 23 other public representatives at JOSHUA’s meeting in Green Bay, WI, attended by some 250 people.

There were also successful buy-ins of municipal, state and congressional officials or candidates at other meetings held by ABLE in Atlanta, GA, BRIDGE in Baltimore, MD, GENESIS in Oakland, CA, and PIIN in Pittsburg, PA.

Other reports on meetings can be found in this issue’s “Network News” section and in our next publication.

Commitments to the grassroots issues identified at these meetings will be sought at the federal level in a culminating event in Washington, D.C. “Realizing the Promise: A Forum on Community, Faith and Democracy” will be held December 4. Congressmen representing both major political parties have pledged to reaffirm their commitment at the forum.

“What was different about this campaign is that we are making challenges to leaders at the national level,” explained Southern Territory Director Ana Garcia Ashley. “We believe our elected officials will have more appreciation for the abundance of faith and community that have made our country strong. We want that kind of values-based approach incorporated into decisions about healthcare, education, immigration, housing, transportation, jobs and economic development.”

Let’s make sure policy makers continue hearing our message of change throughout the coming year.

ABLE's Action Attracts Media

Atlantans Building Leadership for Empowerment

ABLE's visit to the Gwinnet sheriff's office made headlines in *Mundo Hispanico*, the Spanish affiliate of the Atlanta Journal Constitution, on October 2.

The visit was in regard to Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act that "authorized the secretary of Homeland Security to enter into agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies, permitting designated officers to perform immigration law enforcement functions," according to the U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement website.

This act provides training to local law enforcement and correctional officers as well as increased resources and support in more remote geographic areas. The website also notes that "the program is credited for identifying more than 70,000 individuals, mostly in jails, who are suspected of being in the country illegally."

Mundo Hispanico reported that Father Armando Herrejon (St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Lilburn) said he had heard of "several cases of people being jailed and deported in his county" and that many of his parishioners were fearful. "It's very painful for the community," he said.

On Thursday, September 25, approximately 20 of ABLE's leaders visited the sheriff's office to express their concern about the possible implementation of this program in Gwinnet and the possible initiation of the deportation process of undocumented individuals from jails.

The sheriff and the police chief both refused to meet with the ABLE delegation. Finally, the police department's Public Information Officer met with them. She explained that the 287(g) agreement had not yet been implemented by the police department. According to information *Mundo Hispanico* got from ICE, the department had applied to the program but federal authorities have not as yet signed the agreement. If approved, it could not be implemented until next year as officers would have to be trained.

The delegation discussed racial profiling and an instance when a police vehicle parked in front of a church's door waiting for parishioners to come out of a Sunday service.

Thanks to *Mundo Hispanico* for reporting on this important action on Immigration Reform.

ARISE's Meeting A Stand-Up Event

A Regional Initiative Supporting Empowerment, Albany, NY

"In the midst of all this mess, there are people here who are going to change things," said ARISE President, the Rev. Victor Collier, at the Faith and Democracy Public Meeting in Albany. The mess he was referring to was, of course, the condition we find ourselves in nationally and locally. The meeting was held at Christ the King Roman Catholic Church on October 14.

ARISE is focusing on three vital issues for hope and restored community: universal healthcare, humane immigration reform, and more money for mass transit.

A local newspaper described the meeting as "a gathering of about 200 people, but it drew quite an influential crowd." The reference was not only to ARISE members, but the special guests who attended. They included: County Executive Mike Breslin, State Sen. Neil Breslin, District Attorney David Soares, Albany Police Chief James Tuffey, Albany Common Council Members Dominick Calsolaro and Corey Ellis, Assemblyman Tim Gordon, and political candidates Fred Goodman (State Senate) and Terry O'Neill (104th Assembly District).

ALL of them agreed to meet with ARISE to implement a progressive agenda.

Rev. Collier spoke for all in the network when he told the crowd: "While major banks have received massive multibillion dollar taxpayer-supported subsidies and incentives, ARISE and its allies believe we cannot, we must not, lose sight of the workers and people at the base of our economy and the moral imperative of investing in workforce and infrastructure, especially in a time of crisis."



Connectedness: The Theme At The MORE² Public Meeting

Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity, Kansas City

MORE²'s public meeting spanned across Missouri as an audio link with MCU in St. Louis was utilized to get commitments from both gubernatorial candidates. Republican candidate Kenny Hulshof in Kansas City and Democratic candidate Jay Nixon's representative in St. Louis both agreed they would meet with MORE² and MCU when

elected. This link underscored the two organizations connectedness and power.

As an organization whose membership represents two states and three counties, More²¹'s Transportation Team is a testament to connectedness. Its hard work was a vital component in Sunday bus service being returned after two decades to Wyandotte County, on the Kansas side of the Kansas City metro.

The meeting was energized by Rev. Heather Entrekin's (Prairie Baptist Church, Prairie Village, KS) remarks on Community Organizing, which are here printed in part:

I must confess that I took offense at a comment by a political candidate in a speech this summer. It was a comment about community organizing to the effect that community organizers don't do anything! I'm guessing that the speaker never attended a public meeting.

There is, however, some truth in that statement. Community organizers do not sit back and blame others for what is wrong in our community.

Community organizers do not support partisan politics.

Community organizers do not take no for an answer when they see something wrong that hurts, oppresses, neglects, takes advantage of people.

We are not here because of what community organizers don't do. We are here because of what we do.

We do believe that people of faith must live their faith and take risks for their faith, not just talk about it.

We do join hearts, hands, dollars, voices, vision with people of all economic circumstances, all races, cultures, ages, political persuasions, theologies, and denominations,.

We do proclaim that we are one human family, inextricably linked, so that the joy of one is the joy of all; the suffering of one is the suffering of all; the injustice of one is the injustice of all.

We do work, hour upon hour upon hour, with our congregations, city halls, educators, boards, Mid America Regional Council, contractors, unions...wherever decisions are made that can affect human lives for good.

We do know that peace happens when people participate in the decisions that affect their lives. It is democracy. Peace also happens when people's basic needs are met. It is justice. And peace happens when people live in harmony with the earth and other living beings. It is ecological well-being.

We do understand that we are not perfect, and sometimes we don't even like each other, but we have faith in one God who loves everyone us, Democrats and Republicans alike, and trusts us with a mighty purpose in which we must not, cannot fail.



Big Housing Win For NJRC

New Jersey Regional Coalition, Trenton, NJ

Regional Contribution Agreements, RCAs, were officially abolished in New Jersey last July 17 when Governor Jon Corzine signed New Jersey Assembly Bill 500. "This is the most important housing reform legislation enacted in the nation in the past two decades—and its approval is one of the most significant community organizing victories ever, thanks to the hard work of the churches of the New Jersey Regional Coalition," David Rusk proclaimed in his remarks at the signing ceremony.

RCAs were the loophole that concentrated poverty and let rich towns pay poor towns to take their low-income housing. No more.

Governor Corzine said the day was one "of hope, but it's also a day of accepted responsibility. The right to an affordable home in New Jersey is just that—it's simply a right."

Another highlight of the new policy is \$160 million in new annual funds for affordable housing.

Bishop Joseph Galante, Camden diocese, noted that RCAs had "concentrated the poor in the most impoverished cities, locking them into enclaves of disadvantage. Out of sight and out of mind with jobs and opportunity out of reach."

Rusk predicted that New Jersey is re-building "the alliance—the Grand Coalition" of the Civil Rights Movement, which is necessary for our country to move ahead. He pointed out that all the ingredients are there: a just and noble cause; a court that asserts simple fairness is a constitutional obligation; courageous plaintiffs; indefatigable attorneys; bold, skilled legislative champions; unwaver-

ing, dedicated executive leadership; and, above all, people of faith rallying for justice and equal opportunity--trained, organized, and mobilized by the hundreds and thousands.



Jobs, Diversity and More From UCM

United Congregations of Metro-East, Madison, IL

JOBS NOW . . .or never!

UCM's JOBS NOW Task Force recently took actions to see that Illinois does not waste a once in a life time opportunity for local participation in the building of the new Mississippi River Bridge and related projects. UCM has gained support from the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, which adopted a resolution to support the UCM JOBS NOW provisions.

UCM's relationships with the Black and Hispanic state legislative caucuses, our sister Gamaliel affiliates of Metro-Chicago, and other allies are paying off. A bill to generate funds for Illinois Works Capital Projects passed the Illinois House September 10. One percent of the funding will be for job training for low-income, minority, and women apprenticeships leading to journey-men status. It is awaiting Senate consideration.

On August 12 leaders from UCM and other Gamaliel affiliates in Chicago and Springfield had a productive meeting with IDOT Secretary Sees. Since then we learned that MODOT and IDOT have agreed to our request to follow the successful methodology of our earlier I-64 agreement for the new Mississippi River Bridge. Because of the I-64 agreement, over 60 low-income people of color and women were trained and are now working.

Ron Trimmer

O'Fallon UCM Works on Diversity

UCM leaders joined with O'Fallon Mayor Graham, school board members, superintendents and citizens to implement best practices to increase racial diversity within the staff of the schools. The mayor, O'Fallon City Council members and UCM congregations are also working to protect the rights of O'Fallon citizens who may be dislocated by the closing of the Rock Springs Estates and the building of condominiums. The work focuses on maintaining economic diversity in O'Fallon housing. Exciting plans for both were shared at the October 30 Public Meeting.

Leader Receives Award

Cheryl Sommer received one of the Partnership in Justice Awards given by the O'Fallon Metro-East Branch of the NAACP. She was recognized for her work in the community to promote justice and equity. She is Pastoral Associate at St. Clare Catholic Church, active in the St. Clair County Cluster, and on UCM's Executive Committee.

Johann Ellerbrake

Referendum to Save Sheltered Care Home

Congratulations are in order on winning an advisory referendum urging the Madison County Council to keep a sheltered care home open. The vote passed 96,096 to 22,601. The sheltered home serves people who need help with daily needs, but not a 24-hour skilled-care nursing home.

UCM leaders and the home's residents got the lion's share of the 10,000 signatures to place the issue on the ballot. One resident, Billy, gathered 2,000 signatures on his own. UCM and its allies, including unions, mounted a grassroots campaign that included large phone banks, yard signs and a public meeting to bring the issue to voters' attention. Despite opposition from the powerful and popular Madison County Executive, who are reelected November 4, UMC prevailed spectacularly.

Laura Barrett



WISDOM Wows In Wisconsin

WISDOM's nine, count them, public meetings, rocked the hills and dales of beautiful Wisconsin in October. The nine local affiliates that comprise WISDOM—AMOS in La Crosse, CUSH in Kenosha, ESTHER, in the Fox Valley, JOB in Rock County, JONAH in Eau Claire, JOSHUA in Green Bay, MICAH in Milwaukee, RIC in Racine and SOPHIA in Waukesha-- presented their local issues, state issues, and the national Gamaliel issues.

Treatment Instead of Prison has been WISDOM's statewide issue for several years. Local affiliates have seen successes in a rise in Alcohol Treatment Courts and a lessening in the halting of prison expansion. WISDOM continues to push for full funding of *Alternatives to Incarceration* and expanded alternative options throughout the state.

MICAH leads the charge for *Jobs and Economic Development* which secured a community benefits agreement with Milwaukee County. This agreement will en-

sure that the development of a valuable piece of land in downtown Milwaukee will result in hiring local residents at prevailing wages, ensure environmental protection, and contribute to affordable housing.

JONAH has identified that Eau Claire ranks near the bottom in wages among cities in the Midwest, and has begun a campaign to see what can be done about that.

Three of WISDOM's organizations, JOSHUA, ESTHER and SOPHIA, have identified *Workforce Housing* as a priority. Their goal is to stop the segregation of their communities, schools, and parks by ensuring that planned new development includes a mix of affordable housing. Their motto is: "If you are good enough to work here, you are good enough to live here."

GAMALIEL's national *Civil Rights of Immigrants* campaign resonates with ESTHER, JOSHUA, and RIC, which have functioning Spanish-speaking arms of their organizations. Others are under development with the assistance of WISDOM's Immigration Organizer. These organizations, along with their local affiliate, are fighting anti-immigrant ordinances and racial profiling.

CUSH and AMOS have taken up the charge of Emergency Services and Hunger by finding a better way to improve delivery of these services while empowering the people in need of them.

WISDOM continues to work at the state level to find an equitable way to fund schools throughout Wisconsin. At the local level, SOPHIA is working to get a private health care provider to donate nursing services in Waukesha city schools. MICAH and RIC are working to expand access to dental care for children.

WISDOM joined Gamaliel in signing on to the *Health Care for America Now* coalition, and called for the principles stated by HCAN as a measure for any health care plan. Local affiliates, JOSHUA, ESTHER, AMOS, JONAH, SOPHIA, and JOB have held forums on this issue.

Safe Streets are targeted by RIC. Components of this issue are *Education*, where a *Violence No More* curriculum is used and teaches conflict resolution over violence; *Economics and Employment* will have job training groups to find decent work and mentoring for at-risk youth. *Emancipation and Empowerment* includes leadership development for marginalized groups in the community to empower them to effectively demand just treatment rather than using violent tactics

WISDOM'S ELLWANGER RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

One of our own was honored by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute's Board of Directors at the Institute's Sixteenth Anniversary Dinner, November 14, when WISDOM organizer Joseph Ellwanger was presented the prestigious Fred L. Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award. BCRI's Board of Directors selected Ellwanger as its honoree because of his outstanding legacy as a civil rights advocate.



Ellwanger, a retired pastor, was one of the few white Southern ministers who supported the American Civil Rights Movement. He helped plan the Birmingham demonstrations in 1963.

When the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham was bombed, Ellwanger was leading a service in his church a mile away.

Ellwanger was president of The Birmingham Council on Human Relations, which provided behind-the-scenes support for civil rights work. On March 6, 1965, Ellwanger organized a march in Selma, AL, to support voting rights.

Ellwanger returned to march in Selma on "Turnaround Tuesday" (March 9, 1965) and again on March 25, the last day of the Selma-to-Montgomery March.

Ellwanger was chosen by Dr. Martin Luther King, along with 14 other ministers, to meet with Gov. George Wallace following the march. He was part of a nation-wide delegation of 15 clergy that spoke with President Lyndon Johnson on March 12 about the necessity of the Voting Rights Act.

We send our proud congratulations to Rev. Ellwanger upon receiving this well-deserved award along with our deep gratitude for his past, present and future service. Well done!



Gamaliel International

We live in a global village.

The nations and peoples of the earth are interconnected racially, environmentally, electronically, economically, culturally, spiritually.

We need each other for our energy, our food, our minerals, our markets and our security.

We need each other for ideas, for hope and for inspiration.

Gamaliel has been an international organization almost from its inception. We have worked in Canada, Romania, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa and Great Britain. We have been invited to explore work in Honduras and

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Mexico. We have responded to these invitations because it is good for us.

We need to be reminded, educated, and energized by other people who are encountering the same problems we face in other contexts but often caused by the same global forces.

South Africa

Right now Gamaliel is working with four projects in South Africa. We have been working in South Africa for twelve years.

Terrance Jacob, our former African Territory Director, has migrated to the U. S. and is now working for the Lutheran Synod in the Twin Cities. This has created a crisis and an opportunity. The crisis is that a very gifted organizer is no longer on the scene. It is an opportunity because the groups in South Africa have to claim this work as their own.

We have groups in Soweto, near Johannesburg, in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. We have the Lutheran Bishop in Joberg championing this project; the Cardinal of Durban committing resources; and the Anglican Bishops of Cape Town putting up money for an organizer.



This year the leaders of our South African projects conducted two National Trainings, one in Cape Town for 108 participants, the other in Durban for 82 participants. The leaders raised most of the money, selected the sites, recruited the participants, transported the people to the venues, and were the evaluators for these training events. Ponsella Hardaway, Ana Garcia Ashley, Mary Gonzales, and Greg Galluzzo con-

ducted these trainings.

Our goal is to have 30 institutions in each of the four projects and a full time organizer in place in each community soon after the New Year.

All of this work is being supported by the Minnesota team called Partners for Justice that has committed to raise \$40,000 a year for three years to support our work.

Great Britain

Four years ago, Rev. Dennis Jacobsen, director of the GNCC and author of the book *Doing Justice*, was contacted by Chris Pillsbury, the director of a community organization in Wales called TCC. Dennis asked that I connect with Chris. We began a conversation about a relationship between TCC of Wales and Gamaliel. Chris, her co-organizer, and two leaders travelled to the U.S. and attended National Training and visited a couple of our projects.

On a trip to South Africa, I stopped off in Wales and met with the leaders and staff of TCC. Chris introduced me to an Anglican Priest named Mark Waters, who had been an organizer in Liverpool and now is employed by the Church Action on Poverty, an organization stationed in Manchester and working throughout Great Britain. CAP was in the process of establishing community organizing as one of its primary foci.

Ana and I conducted a training last March and I returned this past September and conducted more training for organizers and leaders. CAP has raised enough funds to put organizers in Manchester, Bretford, and Stanton.

Meanwhile, another group that our Ohio organizer Kirk Noden worked with in Birmingham, decided that they too would like to work with the Gamaliel Foundation.

These six organizations are forming an alliance and have decided to collectively sign a contract with Gamaliel. Representatives of these projects will be participating in this year's ILA.

We continue to get invitations from places like Honduras and we continue our dialogue with Kenya. There are many opportunities to expand organizing in the U.S., and some might say that we should stay close to home. If organizing abroad was a drain on Gamaliel's resources, I would agree with this position. It has been my experience that Gamaliel gets at least as much out of these relationships as it invests.

Greg Galluzzo



Norm Axelrad was Vice President, General Counsel and Public Affairs Officer for McDonald's for 20 years and was a private consultant to start-up and large company prospective franchise programs. He has served on the Gamaliel Board of Directors for three years.

Q. This new publication is essentially your brainchild. What made you think of it?

A. My contribution was to kick-start the project. The idea was already on the table.

Q. What do you hope "Organizing" will accomplish?

A. A well conceived, serious, relevant and quality Newsletter has many important benefits.

Q. Can you be more specific?

A. It'll provide greater transparency and performance accountability for both Gamaliel Central Staff and organizers. It will give a "voice" to the network to provide ideas, suggestions, and criticisms which will be recognized and responded to.

My hope is that the Newsletter will confirm the mutual interests, respect and contributions made by all.

Q. What attracted you about serving on Gamaliel's Board of Directors?

A. I have been attracted to not-for-profit Boards by their concept of empowering people to better control their destiny by assisting them in acquiring the skills to achieve that end.

Q. You are a former corporate executive for McDonald's. What do you bring to the Board from that experience?

A. A lengthy experience with the dynamics and

tensions of franchising gave me an understanding of the network's structure.

Q. Are you saying the Gamaliel network is like a franchise?

A. No. But the needs of the franchisor and those of a diverse network of independent-minded franchisees facing the demands and challenges of the local market place have comparisons to what I discovered when I joined the Gamaliel Board. This certainly gave me insight into problems and solutions facing the network. Management responses can make the difference between mutually achieved success by both segments in this kind of organizational structure, or its dysfunction and failure. It became clear that management reforms were needed at Gamaliel to better deal with these issues, and those reforms were initiated starting in late 2006. The more recent Inclusion and Racial Equity Report underscored those needs.

Q. Are you planning to attend the ILA and, if so, what are your expectations about that event?

A. Yes. I don't wish to be an Ivory Tower Director. I want to learn more about organizing strategies, tactics and problems.

Q. What would you like to do, or are doing, as a Gamaliel board member that might be considered groundbreaking?

A. While I have been heavily involved in management reforms designed to speed the evolution of Gamaliel management structures to the next stage of organizational and management development, I perceived there was too much "ad hoc" decision making. It became obvious that what was needed was more transparency, consistency and fairness. Therefore, an "Executive Director Handbook" project was initiated, the goal of which was to codify "oral tradition" into evaluated and responsible guidelines for the management of Gamaliel.

Q. What is most frustrating about this position?

A. The lag time between the introduction of reform projects and their eventual and complete implementation. I recognize that the Central Staff is already working very hard and that handling more tasks requires more patience on my part to allow these reforms to work their way through.

Q. And what is the most rewarding?

A. I was very impressed with the people attending the Minneapolis meeting last winter. Their commitment to improving their communities was inspiring.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Whether you're a return International Leadership Assembly attendee or a first-timer, chances are you might not know how these events are put together. The short answer is, it takes a lot of work. The longer answer is, the ILA Board spends the entire year putting it together. An even more interesting answer is that every network affiliate has the right to help make it happen by being represented on the board. ILA Board recruitment for 2009 begins at the 2008 event.

Continuity is ably provided by Cheryl Liske, Gamaliel National Staff member and Director of the ILA.

So, what exactly does the board do? First of all, they meet in January, and like all good Gamaliel-trained leaders, they go over the evaluations and begin planning for next year's events with those comments in mind.

Then they meet every other month to set the scene, plan the program, find the speakers, invite affiliates to be host, and divide up responsibilities for leadership, among other tasks.

The board also raises the money for the event! ILA registration fees do not cover the costs for this event, so other sources must be found, like foundations and businesses.

We caught up with some of the current board members to get to know them and learn about their experiences as leaders and board members.

The first thing we wanted to know is what was happening in their lives that motivated them to become a leader in their local affiliate.

Some were seeking the right outlet "for my social/political interest" as Susan Sneed (MCU, 13 years) said. Ron Trimmer (UCM, 9 years) cited involvement in a local political movement "where we had victories but lost the war."

Others found themselves looking for a change. Genie Robinson (EHR, 3 years) said that "after working in pediatric offices for 33 years, I was burned out. I attended an EHR retreat and was energized." Dennis Lowder had recently retired from teaching and "appreciated the value of organizing." Paula Simpson (ARISE, 7 years) was "going through a very rough time at home and needed to create a new life for myself." Janis Kaghazwala (NOAH, 15 years) "needed a push to use my voice" and Carol Juen (UCM, 8 years) noted that "there is a season for everything and it was time for me to jump head first into work for social justice."

And what is the most important issue their affiliates are working on now? Trimmer, Sneed and Lowder all loudly voiced, "JOBS!" For Kaghazwala it was School Safety/Parent Patrols, while Robinson said, "safe, comfortable, affordable housing for the people who work and serve in our community." Juen said keeping open the Madison County Shelter Care; and for Simpson it was the Governor's Funding Circle, which creates private and public partnerships to fund programs and projects.

We wanted to know what their most significant learning was since becoming leaders. Robinson, Sneed and Kaghazwala discovered their own personal power, sometimes surprising themselves. Trimmer and Lowder cited the Gamaliel organizing methodology, and Trimmer noted how hard it is to stay focused on it. Simpson and Juen both had insights regarding decision makers and people in power. Simpson found they "will usually listen and act on good initiatives which will make them look good," and Juen discovered that "people in power supporting bad laws don't always do so because they have evil intentions or hardened hearts."

Virtually all extolled enjoyment in working on the ILA Board, especially building relationships, presenting new national level challenges, working with amazing people from across the US and South Africa and from both sides of the aisle, helping arrange presenters, and getting to be creative. Simpson noted that the board's "synergy can be electrifying!"

Many thought the significance of the ILA Board's work for the Gamaliel Network was bringing so many people together, networking, challenging affiliates, and experiencing what unites us. Trimmer thought that "we've played a major role in Gamaliel emerging as a national power." Simpson noted that it provides a forum for key and future leaders and "gets people fired up." Juen poetically thought that when leaders gather at the ILA "they are like burning coals that create a flaming fire. The ILA program provides quality fuel to ignite the coals."

What will happen with their affiliates in 2009 as a result of this year's ILA? Most saw a result in building power and deepening commitment, and influencing the direction of the new presidency. We particularly liked Kaghazwala's vision: "Whatever we make happen."

Watch for the e-newsletter version of **Organizing** to see the complete answers of the participating ILA Board members.

Organizing for Love of God

By Rev. Dennis Jacobsen, Director
Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus

While on sabbatical retreat two months ago at Christ In the Desert Monastery, deep in the remote Chama Canyon of New Mexico, I felt called to deepen my love of God through more disciplined daily prayer, and through intentional integration of my organizing efforts for justice, and my yearning to be closer to God.

Each day the Benedictine monks at the monastery pray together seven times, with lovely Gregorian chanting of the Psalms and other biblical readings. Each day offers a Benedictine balance of four hours of community prayer, four hours of work, and four hours of study and reading. I confess that in my week long retreat, I arose only once for the 4:00 a.m. Vigils. Showing up for Lauds at 5:45 a.m. was more my speed. Also, I had the good sense to keep my off-key droning quietly to myself while the monks praised God with glorious chanting.

I was there to connect with God at a deeper level and to seek some faithful balance in my life, which had become frenetically imbalanced over the years.

My daily demands as pastor of Incarnation Lutheran Church, as Director of the Gamaliel National Clergy Caucus, and as a leader in MICAH (the Gamaliel affiliate in Milwaukee)--all of which bring joy and fulfillment to my life--had begun to swallow up my soul. I sensed that I was increasingly anxious, testy, short with people, racing around, oblivious to my surroundings, quick to judgment--in short, running on empty.

The gift of a sabbatical, graciously funded by the Lilly Foundation, made possible a privileged, four month time of travel, rest, fun, and discernment. With my family, I visited the ancient monastic caves of Cappadocia in Turkey and remote monasteries and monastic caves in the mountains of Crete. Drawing on previous training in Byzantine iconography, I painted an icon of Elijah in the Cave with egg tempera, ground pigments and gold leaf, and spiritually entered the prophet's cave during that sacred process and through sacred sites visited on the sabbatical.

Then, determined to go deeper into my soul through wilderness solitude, I spent a week at Christ in the Desert Monastery.

For some time, I had been struggling with a question posed to me in conversation with Gregory Galluzzo. After a particularly exhilarating day at the International Leadership Assembly in St. Louis, Greg and I were unwinding over a glass of wine. Greg said, "After about thirty years of doing this organizing work, I'm convinced that organizing helps me to fulfill the second great commandment of Jesus, to love my neighbor as myself. But I'm not so sure about the first great commandment."

Does congregation-based community organizing in fact deepen my love of God in accord with the first great commandment of Jesus and of Jewish tradition? Or does it serve as a distraction from that love or, even worse, move me away from love of God?

To organize for justice in the public arena through engagement of power and self-interest, through agitation and occasional confrontation is not some spiritually neutral exercise. Organizing can bring out the "better angels of our nature." It can also release the demons.

I have no definitive answers to these questions. I do know that I need to pray with at least as much discipline and intentionality as I organize. I need to lay bare my soul to God and seek wisdom and guidance on the thorny and uneven path to justice. I need to find a faithful balance in my life. I want to honor the pure gift of the most intimate relationships of my life even as I seek to extend my faith and my values into the public arena. And I need to do better at caring for my self through prayer, exercise, solitude, fun, creative expression, and centering of soul and spirit.

I want to fulfill the first great commandment even as I engage in organizing for a more just and peaceful world.

I want to organize not only for love of neighbor and self, but also for love of God.



Elijah
by Dennis Jacobsen

2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Staff Retreat I

Jan13-15, Plymouth, MI

Ntosake

Jan 29-31, St. Louis, MO

Training of Trainers

March 2-3, Plymouth, MI

Advanced Leader Training

March 4-7, Plymouth, MI

GNCC

April 21-23, Mundelein, IL

Council of Presidents

May 19, Chicago, IL

AALC

June 11-13, Kansas City, MO

Staff Retreat II

June 23-25

Weeklong I

July 12-18, New York State

Weeklong II

Aug 9-15, Techny, IL

Weeklong III

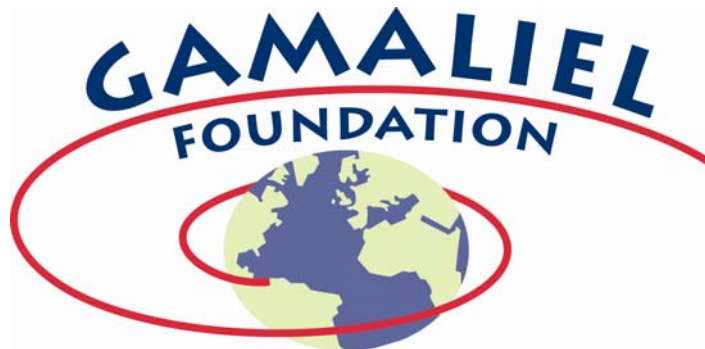
Oct TBD, Hawaii

Weeklong IV

Nov 8-14, Mideast

ILA

Dec 3-5



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