



Xenia's Life in the Year to Come

Changes to Web site, more public dialogue events are in the works for 2010

Hello Friends,

It's with good cheer and anticipation of things to come that I write this blog. Our programming season is in hiatus for the brief pause between fall and spring cycles, and our offices are quiet, allowing for a brief moment to reflect and to look forward to our spring activities.

The holiday party was a very festive evening. We welcomed around 70 friends, board members, and dialogue fellows for a time of celebration and relaxation in the midst of a busy season. Two segments of our video on dialogue were shown at different points in the evening. Those two segments, along with two additional ones, will be posted on our Web site in the first days of 2010. It was also with great joy that Jim Agar was named our recipient of this year's Sam Matthews Social Justice Award. We look forward to sharing Mr. Agar's work and story with the wider community; it is truly inspirational and a testament to the power of grassroots volunteerism.

In addition to reflecting on all the wonderful experiences this fall offered, I am also looking forward to several big events in the life of the institute.

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Who We Are

The Xenia Institute brings people together, creates a safe space for dialogue and transforms dialogue into action.



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The Year in HIV/AIDS

Scientific, Social Changes Bring Good and Bad News in Fight Against Epidemic Inspired by World Aids Day 2009 events on Dec. 1, The Xenia Institute's Caitlin Frazier compiled a list of breakthroughs and highlights in the battle against HIV/AIDS. Caitlin, who spent the past year working in Los Angeles as an HIV prevention educator, wondered whether these advances, if they continue, could spell the end of the disease within our lifetimes. She will also discuss the challenges and setbacks to the work to eradicate HIV/AIDS in an article that will publish Wednesday, Dec. 23.



The Xenia Institute's Featured Articles provide in-depth and alternative looks at various topics in our society and how they affect us all. New articles are posted on the site regularly, and we invite readers to participate in the online, public discussion about the topics covered in each piece.

What's in the News?

President Obama this month announced that that a prison in his home state of Illinois will house detainees from the Guantanamo detention center. Deciding where to send these prisoners was a major step in closing Guantanamo, and it helped Obama follow through on a campaign pledge to close the prison within the first year of his presidency. The move has been met with both acceptance and fervent resistance.

Topics for dialogue groups often are drawn out of events of the day. Issues that make headlines -- such as the health insurance reform battle on Capitol Hill -- can generate conversations out of which which social change can be created.

Each weekday, The Xenia Institute's News & Analysis publishes aggregations of blog posts and columns that tackle the topics people are talking about and the issues our communities need to know about. Read Xenia's News & Analysis section here.



The Sky is Crying

Copenhagen Climate Conference Brings Call for World to Protect All of Humanity

During the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, the delegate from the tiny island chain of Tuvalu pleaded with the world to take action to stop the effects of climate change before Earth's smallest and most vulnerable nations pay the price of political inaction. The Xenia Institute's editorial director Barbara Schwartz blogged about Tuvalu's predicament and asked world leaders to remember that human beings find their humanity in their care for others, particularly those who are in the most need.

Read more Voices of Xenia blogs here.