



The Xenia Institute
Transformation Through Dialogue



November Newsletter

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Holiday Party & Dialogue Tips

Hello, friends of Xenia! Thanks so much for continuing to be interested in our work and for taking the time to read our second monthly online newsletter.

First of all, I want to remind you about our upcoming holiday party. Several of you may have already heard about it through online invitations, but I want you to know that you're all invited. In addition to spending some well-deserved time enjoying each other's company, we'll also be premiering a video clip of our new four-part series on dialogue. We've been working for several months on interviews, photos, and editing, and I assure you the clip is not to be missed. So please, come say hello, enjoy a glass of wine and help us celebrate our ongoing efforts toward dialogue.

- WHAT: The Xenia Institute's Holiday Party
- WHEN: 7 to 9 p.m. (come & go) Thursday, Dec. 10
- WHERE: Michelangelo's Coffee and Wine Bar; 207 E. Main, Norman, OK

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Who We Are

The Xenia Institute provides a safe place for engagement which encourages meaningful dialogue and promotes thoughtful action on issues concerning social justice.



- WHO: Everyone! Friends, fans, volunteers, fellows, board members, and staff. Invite your neighbors! Invite your friends!

In other news, here's a dialogue tip we've been working with in our monthly groups.

[Read more.](#)



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The Dao of Community Gardening

Consider these questions before you begin planting. Autumn is the time for organizations that are want to create a community garden to start planning for spring planting. However, planting a garden requires strategy, and the first step in that work is asking: For whom are you planting this garden?



Xenia Institute dialogue fellow Haven Tobias has created a list of questions that each organization should ask before beginning a community garden. The questions range from the practical ("Do you have liability insurance?") to the philosophical ("Why do you want a community garden?"). She also provides answers in an article that will publish Wednesday, Nov. 25.

[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?

A recent cover of *Newsweek* magazine put former GOP candidate for vice president and ex-Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin in activewear showing off her beauty queen legs. The headline of the cover story reads, "How do you solve a problem like Sarah?" The cover has generated some debate about whether *Newsweek's* cover was fair, or sexist and antagonistic to Palin.

Topics for dialogue groups often are drawn out of events of the day. Issues that make headlines -- such as the health insurance reform legislation and the ins and outs of politics in Afghanistan -- become the foundations upon which deep conversations, as well as work for social change, are built.

Each weekday, [The Xenia Institute's News](#)



Diversity & Dialogue

Xenia writer examines how differences can be key to deep communication

"I find that relationships with people who are significantly different from me are tedious and arduous work," writes Voices of Xenia blogger Caitlin Frazier. But, she writes, that work opens a door to a deeper, better world. Caitlin, who moved from Oklahoma to Los Angeles last year, [wrote this month](#) about her experiences with

& 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.

meeting different people, and how learning to navigate those differences are a foundational aspect of dialogue's work.

Voices of Xenia blogs provide a forum for Xenia writers and fellows to share their thoughts on current events or key aspects of society. Read more Voices of Xenia blogs here.
