



The Xenia Institute
Transformation Through Dialogue



October Newsletter

Vol. 1, 2009



Getting to Know Dialogue

Groups help Xenia Fellows learn about the process of dialogue and also about each other

Hello, Friends of The Xenia Institute! I am Clint Williams, executive director of The Xenia Institute, and I'm very excited to offer you the first edition of our monthly online newsletter. Each month, our newsletter will feature some articles, blogs and commentaries written for [The Xenia Institute Web site](#). We'll also let you know more about Xenia's programming and public events. Please forward our newsletter to any and all of your contacts whom you think might be interested.

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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.



In this space each month, you will find information about Xenia's programming and community activities. This month, Xenia is focusing on our two new community dialogue groups, which represent one of our three programming levels and consist of approximately 45 community volunteers.

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Nicaragua Journal

Reflections on Latin American journey explores economics, just relationships

This past summer, The Xenia Institute's editorial director Barbara Schwartz spent eight days in Nicaragua exploring a town, a nation's history and the possibilities for just relationships between communities in the U.S. and Nicaragua. She recorded her reflections on her journey and what she has learned about global economics, justice and her connections to both, and shared them in a six-part Featured Article series called Nicaragua Journal. [Click here to read more of Nicaragua Journal.](#)



[Featured Articles](#), which are showcased on [The Xenia Institute's Web site](#), offer in-depth and alternative looks at various topics in our society and how they affect us all. Some articles take the form of multi-part series that examine issues from different sides; others take the form of responses to specific events or incidents that people in the community are talking about. 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?

Will the case of an Oklahoma native, executed in Texas in 2004 in the deaths of his three children, bring the death penalty into national discussion? [Progressive bloggers and journalists this month called for readers to re-examine the merits of capital punishment](#), and the possibility that states might execute innocent people, after an investigation into one man's case revealed questions about the way the death penalty is carried out.

Topics for dialogue groups often are drawn out of events of the day. Issues that make headlines such as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and changes in social and traditional forms of media,



Prizing Peace

Xenia writers and Fellows wonder what's next for Obama after Peace Prize win.

In a decision that surprised most of the world, the Norwegian Nobel Committee recently awarded U.S. President Barack

become the foundations upon which deep conversations, as well as work for social change, are built.

Each weekday, [The Xenia Institute's News & Analysis](#) publishes a summary of blog posts and columns by journalists, pundits and experts in various field that examine issues of social concern and the news that people are talking about, to provide dialogue groups with variety of opinions and viewpoints. [Read Xenia's News & Analysis section here.](#)

Obama the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize, citing his efforts to reduce nuclear arms, open dialogue with the Muslim world, and to emphasize diplomacy.

Xenia writers and Fellows shared their responses to the president's award, highlighting the role that dialogue played in the Nobel committee's decision. [Read their responses here.](#) [Read more about Obama's Nobel Peace Prize and analysis by bloggers and experts here.](#)