

MOSES



Madison Organizing in Strength, Equality, and Solidarity
for Criminal Justice Reform

In this issue:

MOSES Hosts Screening
 Organizer's Corner
 Statewide Task Forces
 Crossroads Training
 Meetings and Events
 Highlights: New Columbia University
 Report on Mass Supervision in WI
 MOSES Joins Community Shares of WI

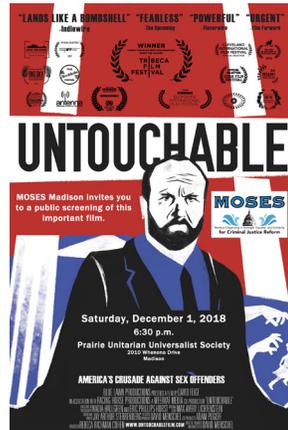
MOSES Hosts Screening of 'Untouchable'

by Janice Greening

A total of about 50 people attended the MOSES-sponsored screenings of David Feige's movie "Untouchable" on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1, 2018, at Prairie Unitarian Universalist Society. The award-winning documentary discussed a brief history of sex-offender registry laws in Florida and Oklahoma and highlighted the effects of these registries on the day-to-day lives of several registrants.

The film focused on Ron Book, a powerful Florida lobbyist who helped pass legislation that made Florida the most restrictive state in the country for sex-offender registrants, at least in terms of housing. Mr. Book became involved in such legislation after his daughter, Lauren, was sexually assaulted by the family nanny for six years. Lauren Book is currently a member of the Florida state legislature. She has also written a book for children encouraging them to report sexual assaults.

A vigilante group that tracks "sexual predators" was also presented, as well as a group of registrants' relatives, who feel the effects of the sex-offender registries on their own lives, as well as on the lives of their loved ones. Several experts in the field of sex-offense crimes were interviewed, most of whom described



the registries and restrictions as unnecessary, ineffective, and unjust. There is no data supporting the effectiveness of these laws, as even Mr. Book readily admitted. The viewpoints of both proponents and opponents of the registries and the restrictions placed on sex offenders were presented.

The film tracked the day-to-day lives of three different sex-offender registrants: a young mother of two who must deal with various restrictions, including not being allowed on playgrounds; an older man convicted of child-pornography possession, who was estranged from his family for 15 years as a result; and a man who must leave his house at night and sleep in his car because his home is in a "restricted area."

In short, "Untouchable" portrays a controversial subject in a thoughtful and compassionate manner. In the near future, we hope to follow up with a panel discussion with several experts, to educate the public and ourselves about an increasingly important topic.

Thanks to Alison Mix for helping set up and advertise the screenings and to Pam and Gary Gates for providing popcorn and drinks and the use of Prairie UUS facilities. ■

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Organizer's Corner

It's a New (Post-Election) Day

It's funny how fast everything seems to have flown by when we are using "hindsight." As I'm sitting here realizing that January is almost over, I'm thinking back and wondering where 2018 went. I remember that early in the year we were knocking on doors to inform people how important it was to get registered to vote, get their ID, and find their polling station. Then we were fighting against a potential bill that would have loaned the state of Wisconsin \$400 million to build a new prison. We showed up with over 200 supporters, spoke out, and the bill was removed. Spring was sprinkled with Race to Justice trainings all over Wisconsin, and it was capped off with a Gubernatorial Forum in Pewaukee. As a statewide network, we were able to get over 700 people from all across the state into one huge room to listen to the potential candidates. Leading up to the election, we knocked on tens of thousands of doors statewide, letting people know that the right to vote is a very important one to exercise.

It was a long year, and I am sure that at several times during it, I screamed out my impatience that the year was taking too long to end. But now, as I reminisce on what has taken place over the last 12 months, I am able to see the struggle and the growth. The sadness and the smiles. The frustration and the happiness. The tears and the joys. The obstacles and the transformations.

We ended the year with our TRANSFORMATION CELEBRATION Gala. It was an opportunity to lift up three people who have worked hard to make our community a better place. They used their mistakes and experience through the system as springboards and motivation for the work they

are doing today. These three people had support, guidance, and drive, which encouraged them to push above and beyond. It was a perfect way to end the year and a good message to put out into the universe. Now I'm wondering: What is going to be our message for 2019?

Coming up first: There is a new report by Columbia University Justice Lab (see page 4), which reveals the current state of "Mass Supervision" across the United States. Once again, Wisconsin ranks among the worst, not only in the category of having a large supervised population, but also in the racial makeup of the people being supervised. MOSES will be having several events to educate our members and the public about this new trend in supervision overload, including first-hand accounts from family members and those who are personally affected. We will also take an in-depth look into GPS monitoring and other aspects of supervision. Being "on paper" has disrupted so many lives!

The issues we fight for and against affect many lives. This year will be another hard year. But at the end of the day — and the year — there will be more people whose growth and transformation we will celebrate.

So, as I do a "hindsight" view and plan for the future, I see promise — and I see victories. ■



Frank Davis
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Statewide Task Forces

WISDOM conference calls (605) 468-8012

- Old Law: February 9 and March 9 at 8:30 am (code 423950)
- Solitary Confinement: February 12 and March 12 at 4:00 pm (code 423950)
- Prison Prevention: February 12 and March 12 at 5:00 pm (code 423950)
- Post-Release: February 28 and March 28 at 7:30 pm (code 423951)

Joining one or more of the WISDOM conference calls is easy and can be very informative.

At the appointed date and time:

- Call (605) 468-8012
- Enter the code after the beep
- State your name and that you are from MOSES after the greeting
- Listen, learn, and contribute as you wish

Old Law Parole: code 423950#
Solitary Confinement: code 423950#
Prison Prevention: code 423950#
Post-Release: code 423951#

Crossroads Training and MOSES

by Rachel Morgan

Crossroads is an anti-racism training geared toward creating deep understanding in its participants about how racism has been woven into the very fabric of our U.S. institutions. This country was begun by people fleeing the tyranny and oppression they had experienced in Great Britain and starting up colonies in North America, but that was also the beginning of a mass genocide of the Indigenous people, who were dehumanized as savages. Then slaves were brought to this new country, more people of color who were not afforded the same inalienable rights that were automatically granted to White Protestant males.

Seven of us from MOSES attended the Crossroads training, and I am sure that we each got something different from it, depending at least in part on what we brought to it. The generational pain and anger that came up for people of color was obvious. People from European backgrounds were enlightened and gained a renewed commitment to addressing racism. In our training process, we explored the history of this country from 1492 to the present day from the perspective of institutionalized oppression. We needed to sit with the atrocities we learned about listed on sheets of paper on the walls, until the final day, when we could write down the resistance to the oppression.

I was reminded of the Native children in boarding schools who had their hair cut. As a Native person, I knew



that only another Native person could cut my hair. When my mother died, I was told by my spiritual leader to cut my braid off, to show that I was in mourning. It brought me great pain and sorrow to learn in our training that when our young children were taken from their parents and their hair was cut off, it caused them to think that their parents were dead.

I was hoping to walk away with true hope, and maybe a road map for undoing racism for our future and the future of our children, our grandchildren, and on down through the generations. What I was able to see from our study of the oppression and resistance to it was that for every resistance, racism created a new form of oppression.

We at MOSES can clearly see how slavery morphed into Jim Crow laws, to the "New Jim Crow" and onward now to extended supervision, keeping primarily Black males enslaved and unable to reap the benefits of citizenship, including the right to vote. We know that people on supervision are expected to work jobs and pay taxes, yet they clearly have no representation. Under the Declaration of Independence, having no participation in the legislative process is referred to as tyranny. I encourage people to reread these documents. Therein may lie our answers for the freedom so many seek.

My personal takeaway from this training is that we need a plan which anticipates and includes the ongoing resistance to removing racism from all institutions. I am more committed to the work we at MOSES are doing. We are working to become an anti-racist organization and to develop a concrete plan to address and eliminate racist practices within our "justice" system. ■

MOSES Meetings

MOSES Religious Leaders Caucus (RLC)

- RLC Monthly Meeting: February 13 and March 13 8:30-10:00 am, St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Jericho Room)

MOSES Task Force: Justice System Reform (MJSR)

- MJSR Monthly Meeting: February 14 and March 14 6:30-8:30 at Madison Police Station South District, 825 Hughes Place

Next MOSES monthly meetings

Check the MOSES website calendar for March and April meeting dates.

Click on the calendar link for details and directions.

Events

Racial Inequality and the Criminal Justice System

- 9:30 am-1:00 pm, Lake Edge Lutheran Church (see page 6 for details)

Meeting of Dane County Public Protection & Judiciary Comm.

- 5:15 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 12, City County Building, 3rd floor
- Please attend and voice your support for inclusion of a gathering space for spiritual, psychosocial and educational growth in the jail renovation design.

Capitol Action on Mass Supervision

This event was canceled due to inclement weather. Stay tuned for newly scheduled date/time.

Highlights from Columbia University Justice Lab Report

In Wisconsin, mass supervision helps drive mass incarceration. Whether measured in terms of exits from parole to incarceration, the proportion of static prison populations that was previously under community supervision, or the proportion of people admitted to Wisconsin prisons each year for revocations or holds, community corrections policies have significantly impacted Wisconsin's prison populations.

The Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF) is symbolic of the impact that community supervision has on incarceration growth. MSDF is the first state facility in the United States built solely for the purpose of incarcerating people who are on community supervision.

But MSDF's connection to Wisconsin's supervision population goes beyond the facility's stated purpose. Each is defined by alarming racial disparities that are symptomatic of racially systemic inequities that define a large part of Wisconsin's education, economic, and community resources.

Key Findings

Key findings from The Wisconsin Community Corrections Story include:

- 1 in 8 Black men are under community supervision in Wisconsin.
- 1 in 11 Native American men are under community supervision in Wisconsin.
- Black women are supervised at three times the rate of white women, and Native American women are supervised at six times the rate of white women.
- Wisconsin imprisons Black people at 11.5 times the rate it incarcerates white people. Wisconsin has the fifth-worst incarceration racial disparities in the United States.
- As of 2017, nearly half of adults in prison in Wisconsin was comprised of people who were on community supervision. Over one-fifth of the adult prison population were incarcerated for a supervision violation without a new conviction.
- People re-incarcerated without a new offense in Wisconsin will spend an average of 1.5 years in prison, costing taxpayers \$147.5 million.
- 86% of people incarcerated at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility for revocations were incarcerated without a new conviction.
- The opening of MSDF greatly expanded the Wisconsin Department of Corrections' capacity to incarcerate

people for probation or parole holds – temporary detention periods that can be initiated without judicial review when someone is suspected of a violation. These “temporary detention periods” can last several weeks.

- Between 2001 and 2006, total prison admissions in Wisconsin increased by 62%. Nearly two-thirds of that increase was due to increased holds, which after a down tick in 2007 continued to rise, peaking in 2010 at 5,787

Recommendations

In 2017, the nation's leading probation and parole administrators signed a Statement on the Future of Community Corrections, indicating that it is both possible and necessary to significantly reduce the size of supervision populations across the country while increasing public safety. Research and advocacy have made clear that this reform is particularly necessary in Wisconsin.

The Justice Lab offers the following recommendations to Wisconsin policymakers:

- Close the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility.
- Locate Alternative to Revocation programs in the community, not within the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility.
- Reduce probation and parole terms to 1–3 years, except in rare circumstances.
- Eliminate or strictly limit incarceration as a response to technical violations, and increase due process protections for people under community corrections supervision.
- Provide for “merit time” or “earned compliance credit,” and allow early termination for prisoners' sustained compliance with probation, parole, and/or incarceration..
- Repurpose money saved through the above changes to community programs that help formerly incarcerated people reintegrate into their communities. ■

For Columbia University Justice Lab's full report, executive summary, and press release, visit the [MOSES website](#) and click on *Crimeless Revocations* on the homepage under *Our Issues*.

MOSES Transformation Celebration

Honoring Transformation

On December 15, 2018, MOSES celebrated the good work of the past year and lifted up the lives of three individuals for their perseverance, talent, and success in transforming their own lives and helping to positively transform the lives of people who are or have been incarcerated. Our honorees have given people hope, skills, and tools for restoration and wholeness.

Minister Eugene Smalls

Chaplain in five Wisconsin prisons and Minister at Madison Pentecostal Church

Carmella Glenn

Project Coordinator, Just Bakery

James Morgan

Peer Support Specialist, Madison-Area Urban Ministries



Award winners Rev. Eugene Smalls, Carmella Glenn, James Morgan



Above: MOSES members and friends enjoy the evening

Gala Planning Team

Mary Anglim

Frank Davis

Sister Joan Duerst

Janice Greening

Andrea Harris

Sister Fran Hoffman

Tina Hogle

Rachel Morgan

Special thanks to the many volunteers who sold tickets, set up, and decorated.

Deborah Adkins • Talib Akbar • Fawn Bilgere • Lynne Butorac

Jan Frieswyk • Eric Howland • Ann Lacy • Laiman Mai

Todd Marcotte • John Mix • Myra McNair • James Morgan

Lisa Munro • Grace Roidt • Julie Shauli

Kay Stevens • Jeanie Verschay

Raffle donors:

Zion City, Inc. • Andrew Kwasnieski

Judy Adrian & Dar'ren Morris

Music by Tani and the Afrofunksters

Video by Tim Coursen

Photography by Amadou Kromah

MOSES Joins Community Shares of Wisconsin

Community Shares of Wisconsin (CSW) has been working to advance social justice and environmental protection for over 45 years. Its 70 member nonprofits lead efforts throughout Wisconsin to protect our civil rights and build a safe and sustainable future where everyone can thrive.

Through the diligent work of Rachel Morgan and the Fundraising Team, MOSES is proud to have been selected as a CSW member organization.

2019 marks the fifth year of The Big Share™—a single day of on-line giving to benefit nonprofit members of Community Shares of Wisconsin, as well as organizations featured by CSW as Inspiring

Voices groups—Black and Brown-led organizations outside of CSW’s membership that are working to reduce racial disparities and advance racial equity.

Last year, the Big Share raised over \$430,000 from 3,248 donors—shattering previous fundraising expectations. To commemorate the fifth anniversary of The Big Share, its organizers hope to push community giving even further by collectively raising \$500,000 for participating organizations.

Let your friends know about the Big Share on March 5 and the good work MOSES is doing! ■

Building Community Connections

Know Someone in Jail or Prison?



Transforming & Freeing

Come to this **FREE** program

Racial Inequality

and the Criminal Justice System

February 9, 2019

9:30 am – 1:00 pm

Lake Edge Lutheran Church
4032 Monona Drive • Madison, WI • 53716



Connecting & Building Teams



Caring & Changing

Program

- Presentation by MOSES Organizer Frank Davis
- Question and Answer Session
- Small Group Discussions
- Solitary Cell Replica
- A light lunch is included

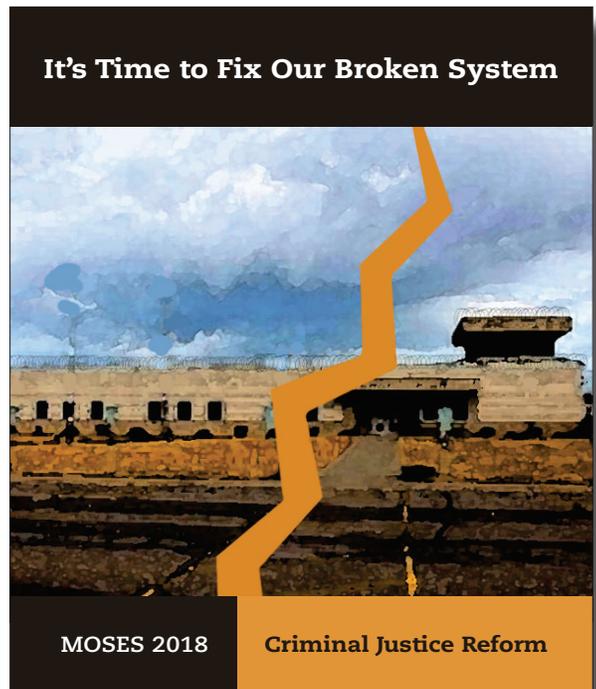
Did You Know?

Fact 1: RACIAL INEQUITY – though they make up only 7% of the population African Americans comprise 46% of the incarcerated population.

Fact 2: CRIMELESS REVOCATION – approximately 3,000 people annually are sent to prison for violating a rule of their supervision and no new law is broken.

Fact 3: IMPACT ON FAMILIES – It has been well documented that children whose parents are incarcerated are more likely to become incarcerated themselves. Furthermore, if this trend continues, 1 in 3 Black children born today will experience incarceration.

2019 Yearbook Available



It's Time to Fix Our Broken System

MOSES 2018

Criminal Justice Reform

Be sure to pick up copies for your congregation and the advertisers with whom you worked!

In gratitude to MOSES sponsors



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