

**Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference
At The Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA
May 15th-18th 2008**

Organized by Bridges Not Walls

The Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference is organized by Bridges Not Walls, a group of concerned community members from the South Sound area and beyond who have united in solidarity, and are building a human rights movement in order to realize a sustainable future for all. The goals of Bridges Not Walls are various: to create bridges between communities; celebrate our shared humanity; build awareness about the importance of human rights in the immigration debate; change the conversation about immigration in our country and community; and support immigrants by acting in solidarity in the face of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) detentions and deportations.

The Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference is a free conference that will be held at The Evergreen State College from May 15th-18th. This conference examines barriers, real or perceived, that divide our communities. Together we will examine current realities faced by immigrants, explore inclusive approaches to immigration, and create space for the emergence of a more just and humane future.

Participants will leave this conference with specific bridge-building strategies to reclaim our common humanity and build multicultural alliances across age, gender, culture, ethnicity, and legal status with the keystones of mutual respect and support.

Our program includes presenters from human rights organizations working both regionally and along the US/Mexico border, and includes panel discussions, speakers, workshops, seminars, theater, art, and music.

We hope that this gathering will provide all of us with opportunities to listen and learn, analyze and reflect, network, connect and strategize. Please join us in the dialogue. These issues affect us all. Each presence will contribute to both the content and outcome of this conference. We hope to see you there!

Please pre-register!

Registration forms can be found on our website listed below. Or call/e-mail us to register. Free childcare provided with pre-registration. Interpretation services will also be available during the conference; please let us know your needs.

Contact Information

Email: bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net

Phone: (360) 280-6480 *English*

(360) 539-4825 *Bilingual*

Visit our website for more details and updated conference information:

<http://oly-wa.us/bridges/>

Thursday, May 15th

7 pm *Las Mamalogues*

Hijas De Su Madre claiming and reclaiming our Mothers' lived experience--unveiling an identity rooted in the past but grounded in the present.

The Evergreen State College Recital Hall

Friday, May 16th

**Registration and Opening Activities in the Longhouse at the Evergreen State College
Workshops in the Seminar II Bldg.**

9:30 am Registration

10 am Welcome from Beatriz Flores Gutierrez

**10:15-12 pm Panel: News from the Border, Border Militarization, How Border
Communities are Responding and Immigration as a Human Rights Issue**

FACILITATOR: Beatriz Flores Gutierrez

Jennifer Allen of Border Action Network in Tucson, AZ

Heather "Ani" Goodenberger, scholar and activist

Delle McCormick of BorderLinks in Tucson, AZ

Robin Hoover of Humane Borders in Tucson, AZ

John Fife, a Founder of the Sanctuary Movement

12-12:45 pm Lunch (On Your Own)

12:45-2:15 Workshops

**El Teatro de la Esperanza Theater Workshop - Rodrigo Duarte Clark of El Teatro de la Esperanza
from San Francisco, CA**

Tortillas: The Food of Migration - Heather 'Ani' Goodenberger

**Upholding Human Rights on the Border and Comprehensive Immigration Reform - Jennifer Allen
of Border Action Network in Tucson, Arizona**

**Community Dialogues on Immigration -Nina Triffleman of TESC Labor Center, Erika Márquez
and Molly Gibbs of Bridges Not Walls in Olympia, WA**

2:30-4pm Workshops:

**War on the Border: Reflections from the Underside
Delle McCormick of BorderLinks in Tucson, AZ**

Immigration (I. C. E.) Enforcement Tactics and How Communities Can Respond and Fight Back - Shankar Narayan of Hate Free Zone in Seattle, WA

Lynching in the Desert: The Policy of Death as Deterrence - Rev. John Fife, a Founder of the Sanctuary Movement from Tucson, Arizona

Music for the Movement Workshop - Pablo Peregrina, Singer/Songwriter from the Tucson/Nogales Border

-All of the Following Events are in the Longhouse at The Evergreen State College-

- 4 pm** **Friday Evening Registration**
- 5 pm** **Welcome to Evening Activities and to Conference**
- 5:15 - 6:15 pm** **The Hearts Path: Art & Faith in the Borderlands: Valerie James, Border Artist - Artist Talk**
- 6:15 – 7:15 pm** **Panel: Arab Muslim Detention and Community Activism /Potential for Arab Latino Alliances**
FACILITATOR: Therese Saliba
- 7:15** **Dinner on your own**
- 8:00 pm** **Keynote Speaker Rev. Robin Hoover of Humane Borders in Tucson, AZ - Humane Borders: Migrant-Centered Reforms**
- 9:00 pm** **Evening Activities: Films on Immigration and Youth Art Show**

Saturday, May 17th

Registration in the Rotunda and Opening Activities in Lecture Hall 1 of the Evergreen State College, Workshops in Locations on Campus TBA

- 8:30 am** **Saturday Morning Registration**
- 9 -10:45 am** **Panel: Community Response to Immigration Law Enforcement and Detention Centers- Solutions and Recommendations**

FACILITATOR: Tony Zaragoza

Rosalinda Guillen of Community to Community in Bellingham, WA
Jennifer Allen of Border Action Network in Tucson, AZ

Pedro Sosa of the American Friends Service Committee in Portland, OR
Maru Villalpando of Washington Community Action Network in Seattle, WA
Deena Ledger of Hate Free Zone in Seattle, WA

11 am-12:45 pm Workshops:

Faith Communities and Migration: Rev. Robin Hoover Ph.D. of Humane Border in Tucson, AZ

Living in the I.C.E. Age : Women Creating Peaceful Communities - Rosalinda Guillen and Maria Cuevas of Community to Community in Bellingham, WA and Emiliana Aguilar of Salem, OR

**Know Your Rights with I.C.E agents, Police, and in the Detention Center
(Spanish Language Workshop) - Maru Villalpando of Washington CAN in Seattle, WA and Pedro Sosa of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) in Portland, OR**

12:45-1:30 pm Lunch (On Your Own)

**1:30-2:30 pm Keynote Speaker Camilo Mejía of Iraq Veterans Against the War: War Resistance, The Effects of War on Immigrants, and the Dream Act
The Evergreen State College Lecture Hall 1**

2:45-4:30 pm Workshops:

The New Sanctuary Movement - Sarah Loose of the Oregon New Sanctuary Movement, Diane Aidae, and Jeff Sells of St. David's Episcopal Church

Re-claiming Media - Beatriz Flores Gutiérrez

Community Organizing Intercambio (Spanish Language Workshop) - Maru Villalpando of Washington CAN in Seattle WA, Rosalinda Guillen of Community to Community in Bellingham WA, and Pedro Sosa of the American Friends Service Committee in Portland, OR

**Countering Anti-Immigration Attacks and Hate in Eastern Washington
-Maria Cuevas and Rogelio Montez, Hate Free Yakima**

The Human Face of Global Economics and Militarization – Rev. Delle McCormick

4:30-5:30 pm Interest Groups

-The Following Events Are in the Longhouse at the Evergreen State College-

- 5:30 pm Dinner by LAS MARGARITAS, a catering cooperative of immigrant women from the Bellingham area**
- 6pm MUSIC by Pablo Peregrina, Singer/Songwriter from the Tucson/Nogales Border**
- 7 pm Keynote Speaker John Fife, A Founder of the Sanctuary Movement - Humanitarian Aid as an Act of Resistance**
- 8 pm Teatro de la Esperanza, Rodrigo Duarte Clark: La Víctima - a groundbreaking production created by Teatro Esperanza that looks at Mexican-U.S. immigration from a historical yet intimate perspective of a mother and son**
- 10 pm Dance**

Sunday, May 18th

Sunday's activities will take place in the Longhouse

- 10 am Panel: Next Steps for Local Response and Alliances - Rosalinda Guillen of Community to Community and Maru Villalpando of Washington CAN**
- 11 am World Café - Round table discussions lead by local community organizers and community members help participants reflect on and synthesize information from the previous two days of the conference**
- 12 pm Strategy Session – Local Alliances and Regional/National Networks: Carrying the Movement Forward**
- 1:30 - 2pm Closing**

Presenters Include:

From the Border –

Jennifer Allen, Executive Director *Border Action Network Tucson, AZ*

The *Border Action Network* works with immigrant and border communities in southern Arizona to ensure that rights are respected, human dignity upheld, and that our communities are healthy places to live. BAN's long-term goal is to build a national movement that calls for the fulfillment of human rights in this country.

Rev. Robin Hoover, Founder and Executive Director of *Humane Borders Tucson, AZ*

Humane Borders is an interfaith network in Tucson that has set up more than 70 watering stations in the desert for crossing migrants. Increasing numbers of immigrants die each year attempting to cross the border to the U.S. Humane Borders believes the death toll is the direct result of U.S. border policy, which ignores the economic forces on both sides of the border driving human beings to make such choices.

Delle McCormick, Executive Director of *BorderLinks Tucson, AZ*

BorderLinks is a bi-national organization that brings people together to build bridges of solidarity across North and Latin American borders and promotes intercultural understanding and respect. BorderLinks encourages a shared analysis of the root causes of immigration, promotes activism and advocacy around border issues, trains and empowers leadership on both sides of the border, and supports projects for community well-being and sustainable development.

Rev. John Fife, A Founder of the Sanctuary Movement in the U.S. Fife was the minister of Tucson's Southside Presbyterian Church for 35 years. The church was the first to offer sanctuary to undocumented immigrants from El Salvador in 1981. That launched a movement that eventually provided safe haven to thousands of Central Americans in over 500 churches and synagogues nationwide. A new movement is growing across the country to provide sanctuary to immigrants in response to the rise in deportations and work raids by the federal government. The growing network is being spearheaded by the Reverend John Fife, a founder of the Sanctuary Movement of the 1980s.

Heather 'Ani' Goodenberger, Heather "Ani" Goodenberger is a passionate advocate for migrant rights. As an alum of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Young Adult Volunteer program and a graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, Ani sees her role as forming bridges between Anglo and Hispanic worshipping communities. She has worked as a translator and interpreter, worship leader, and as Program Coordinator for Humane Borders in Tucson. She is currently working in North Carolina and will be entering a PhD program in the fall.

Pablo Peregrina, Musician: In his original musical compositions, Pablo fuses a bi-national identity and the experience of living in a Mexico-USA border town. Pablo Peregrina's versatile style allows him to journey musical rhythms such as Latin, Rock, Pop, Bossa Nova, and Cha-Cha. Pablo is known for his original migrant's songs, which have left an indelible mark in the cultural landscape of Tucson, Arizona. Pablo's high-energy performances embody the voices of migrants as he sings about their struggle while crossing the Arizona desert.

Valarie James, Artist: Valerie has direct experience with the power of art to inform and heal. Her life as an artist and as a human being has been forever altered through participation in community works of art. Her art and her writing continue to bridge cultures. For the last 30 years, she has employed art as a transformative vehicle in social, spiritual, and environmental causes.

From the Region –

Rosalinda Guillen and María Cuevas, *Community to Community – Comunidad a Comunidad Bellingham, WA.* *Community to Community Development* is a women-led, place based, grassroots organization working for a just society and healthy communities. They are committed to systemic change and to creating strategic alliances that strengthen local and global movements towards social, economic, and environmental justice.

Pedro Sosa, *Project Voice Coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee's NW Region,* a program whose purpose is to strengthen the voices of immigrant-led organizations in setting the national agenda for immigration policy and immigrants' rights.

Maru Villalpando, *Community Organizer with Washington CA in Seattle, WA.* Washington CAN is working towards an immigration reform that will provide a guaranteed path to citizenship, protect all workers, reunite families, and give access to our judicial system to all.

Shankar Narayan, Martin Vallen, Deena Ledger, *Hate Free Zone in Seattle, WA,* whose mission is to advance the fundamental principles of democracy and justice by building power within immigrant communities, in collaboration with key allies.

Sarah Loose, Dianne Aidde, and Jeff Sells, activists in the New Sanctuary Movement in the Pacific Northwest.

Special Guests –

Camilo Mejía Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía deserted the US military after fighting for five months in Iraq. He now serves as Chair of the Board of Iraq Veterans Against the War. Staff Sergeant Camilo Mejía became the new face of the antiwar movement in early 2004 when he applied for a discharge from the Army as a conscientious objector. After serving in the Army for nearly nine years, he became the first known Iraq veteran to refuse to fight, citing moral concerns about the war and occupation. His principled stand has helped to rally the growing opposition and embolden his fellow soldiers.

Rodrigo Duarte Clark Director of *Teatro de la Esperanza*, bringing Latino/Chicano perspectives to the stage. Rodrigo Duarte Clark is one of the veterans of the Chicano theater movement that began in the 1960s, and he has written the plays "Brujerías," "Hijos' El Pulpo," "Rosita's Barrio," "Basement Refugees," "Don't Leave Me, Baby" and "Rosita's Jalapeño Kitchen." He also is the lead writer for "La Víctima," a collection of Chicano theater works.

Next steps:

Join us for a ‘Community Dialogues on Immigration’ Training on Saturday, May 31st, 11:00-5:00. Location TBA in south Puget Sound. Sponsored by Bridges Not Walls and the NW Federation of Community Organizations. Contact Bridges Not Walls for more information; registration will be available at the Immigration and Border Dialogues Conference.

Monthly vigils at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma. Community to Community from Bellingham maintains a steady presence at the detention center on the second Saturday of every month. Bridges Not Walls supports this day-long vigil, which includes providing food and drink to the families that come, at great expense, from all over the west coast to visit their loved ones inside. Contact BNW for carpool information.

This conference is sponsored by the following groups:

Bridges Not Walls

The Olympia Food Coop

The Thurston-Santo Tomás Sister County Association

The Evergreen State College

The President’s Diversity Fund

Academic Deans

Provost, Don Bantz

Center for Community Based Learning and Action

TESC Student groups:

Women of Color Coalition (WOCC)

The Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan (MEChA)

Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES)

Women’s Resource Center (WRC)

Students Educating Students about the Middle East (SESAME)

Appearing Task Force on Anti-Oppression (ATF)

VOX – Communities for Choice

TESC Academic Programs:

Seeds of Change

Mediaworks

Academic Writing: The Next Step

Political Economy and Social Movements

Topics in the Social Sciences and Native Studies

Making Space and Using It: Installation and Performance Art

Thank you to all who supported the Immigration Cafés in Shelton and Olympia this past year! Let us keep the energy moving forward.