



GLASTONBURY MLK
COMMUNITY
INITIATIVE

Community Conversation

September 23, 2019

Mass Incarceration and Reformatory Justice: Changing Perceptions, Providing Opportunities, Advocating Reform

“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter”

This evening's Community Conversation is generously supported by the Norma and Natale Sestero Fund administered by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

The Norma and Natale Sestero Fund was created through the estate of Natale and Norma Sestero, longtime residents of Glastonbury, with the goal to benefit the people and institutions of the town. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving is the community foundation for the 29-town Greater Hartford region and is dedicated to improving the quality of life for area residents.

www.glastonburymkci.org

Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization, that was formed in 2001. Since then, the GMLKCI has sponsored up to three Community Conversations per year. GMLKCI works to increase Glastonbury residents' knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King and to provide leadership and active engagement to build an inclusive community.

A goal of GMLKCI is to bring people together to discuss social justice issues which are as important to us today both as individuals and as members of our community as they were to Dr. King. As Dr. King noted, "**...whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly...**" and "**...the quality of a community is determined by how members of the community relate to one another.**"

The goal of this Community Conversation is to inform and inspire Glastonbury residents to become actively involved in social justice issues by discussing in an open and congenial manner issues which may divide us or bind us together as individuals, families and a community.

All of the social justice issues discussed during this evenings Community Conversation are addressed in light of Dr. King's principles.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

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Program

Reception - Meet the Panelists

Welcome and Program Introduction - David O'Connor

Leadership Greater Hartford's Summer Nexus Program

Destiny Davis, Program Coordinator

Xabian Alarcon, Glastonbury ABC House Scholar

Panelist Presentations

Rev. Gordon Bates

Community Partners in Action

Deborah Rogala

Community Partners in Action

Brandon McGee

State Representative

Warren Hardy

My People Clinical Services

Brent Peterkin

Project Longevity

Conversation—Questions and Answers

Closing Remarks and Appreciation — David O'Connor

Please complete and return the program evaluation feedback form. Your opinions are important to our programming and fundraising efforts.

Please visit the advocacy tables—the work these organizations do is important to our communities.

Reverend Gordon Bates

Reverend Gordon Bates served as the Executive Director of the Connecticut Prison Association (renamed as Community Partners in Action) for many years. CPA was formed to ameliorate the conditions of inmates, improve the discipline and administration of our State prison system, and provide assistance to former inmates upon their release. In partnership with the State and Federal Governments, private donors, nonprofit organizations, and businesses, CPA focuses on behavioral changes, advocates for criminal justice reform, and assists with employment, basic needs, reentry and recovery services, with the goal of reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety. In short, CPA assists former inmates in dealing with the many challenges they face upon release: poverty, fractured families, homelessness, gaps in their education, chronic unemployment, substance abuse, trauma, mental health disorders, and barriers to services, housing, and jobs. Rev. Bates wrote *"The Connecticut Prison Association and the Search for Reformatory Justice"*.

Deborah Rogala

Deborah Rogala has a BS degree in Social Work from Central Connecticut State University and a MS degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Ms. Rogala serves as the Program Operations Director with Community Partners in Action (CPA). In that role, Ms. Rogala oversees CPA's former inmates' programs, including the Rise Program, a residential treatment program for young males, the Resettlement Program, the Work Release Program, Career Pathways, the Reentry Welcome Center, and the Community Service Program.

Brandon McGee

Brandon McGee is serving his fourth term as a State Representative serving the City of Hartford and the Town of Windsor. He is the chief creative officer of the McGee Firm, where he provides strategic insight, planning, and messaging consulting to clients in private, public, and education sectors. In addition, he serves as a marketing and communications coordinator for the Capitol Region Education Council.

Representative McGee serves as the chair of the legislature's Housing Committee and the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, and is a member of the Education Committee and the Human Services Committee. Mr. McGee is a deacon and member of the board of directors of the Citadel of Love Church in Hartford, Board President of Ascend Mentoring, President of BSL Education Foundation, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Hartford Behavioral Health and Jewish Family Services.

Warren Hardy

Warren Hardy was a member of one of Hartford's notorious gangs—“20 Love” - following his graduation from Weaver High School in 1992. As a result of his gang activities, Mr. Hardy was convicted in State Court on racketeering charges. Following his release from prison after serving six years of a 12-year sentence, Mr. Hardy volunteered in organizations focused on educating young men about the dangers of gang activity. Mr. Hardy was named the Intelligence Coordinator Team Leader for Hartford's Peacebuilders and currently serves as a Support Specialist with My People Clinical Services (MPCS), a community based social service organization established to “Support, Empower, and Rebuild” the lives of individuals and families in the Greater Hartford area by meeting their social and mental health needs. Mr. Hardy is involved with COMPASS Peacebuilders and is on the board of directors the CT Center for Nonviolence, working to keep kids from ending up in prison.

Brent Peterkin

Brent Peterkin is the Statewide Director for Project Longevity, an organization which marshals law enforcement agencies and communities to focus on gun violence. A goal of the street violence intervention program is to reduce arrests and to offer social service supports, toward making communities safer by focusing on gang members who are identified as high risk for being arrested and incarcerated. Mr. Peterkin served on the Governor's Youth and Urban Violence Commission, is a member of the Bridgeport Mayor's Initiative for Reentry Affairs, and a board member of EMERGE, CT Against Gun Violence (CAGV), and the Phoenix Association. Previously, Mr. Peterkin served as a policy fellow in the Office of the Governor working in support of the Office of Early Childhood, where he focused on parent engagement and fatherhood development.

The Town of Glastonbury Human Relations Commission is available to assist any resident who, because of race, color, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or intellectual, mental or physical disability, has been discriminated against in a manner prohibited by the laws of the State of Connecticut or the Town of Glastonbury. For additional information visit the Town's website or contact the Commission through the Human Resources Department, (860) 652-7501.



Thank you for attending today's program. Your presence encourages the work we do as members of the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative to make Glastonbury a more inclusive place to live and visit.

This project was accomplished by a handful of committed community members but the work does not end tonight. We must each play our part.

While all of our programs are free, we are dependent on you for financial support. The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative is a 501(c)(3) corporation and all donations are tax deductible. Please consider supporting our efforts with a financial contribution.

Please consider supporting the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative through the Amazon Smiles program.

The Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative would like to thank our Sponsors, who make this work possible



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