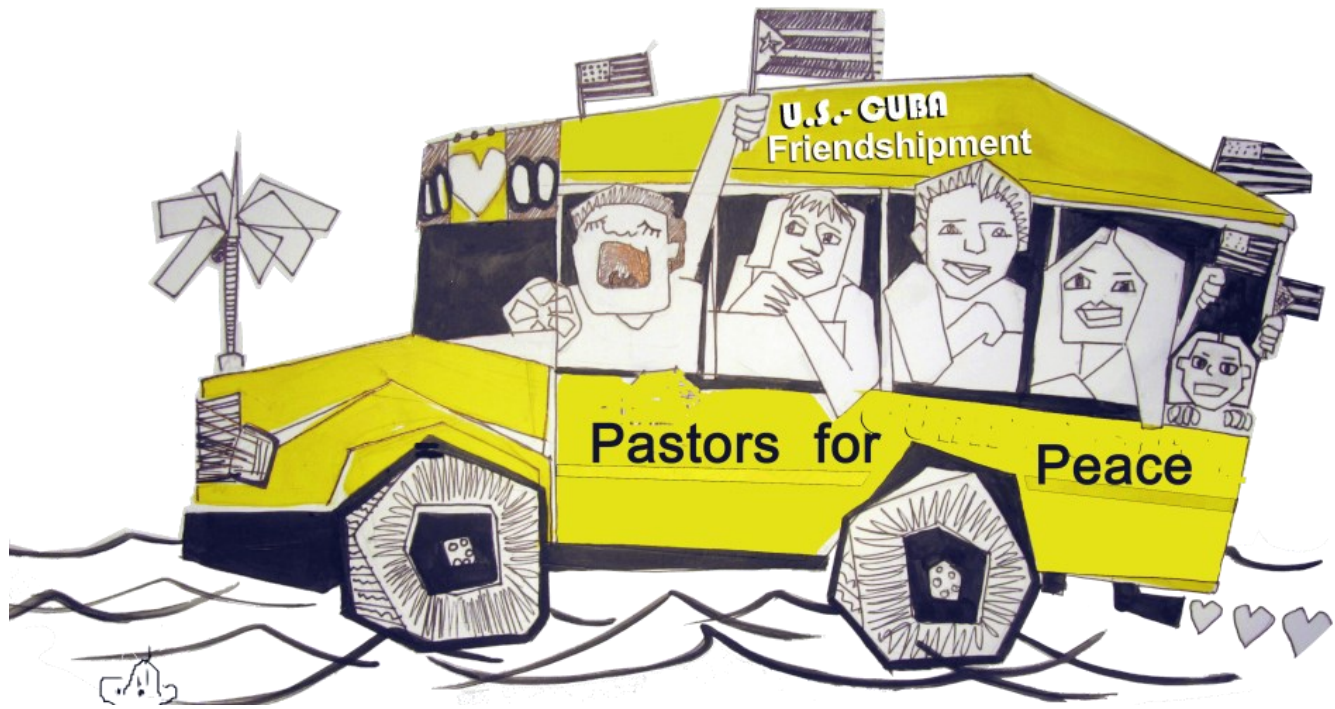


Welcome the 26th Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba!



Saturday, June 27th, 2015

6pm Dinner, 7pm Program:

**“A Brief History & What's Next in US/Cuba Relations,” by Prof. of US Foreign Policy
Hear MU Muralists & Terminated Director over Censored Mural of Assata Shakur
at**

Central United Methodist Church, 25th St. & Wisconsin Ave.

Free admission; please try to bring a dish to share or a cash donation to Pastors for Peace

While the direction from the White House and Havana is positive, most of the U.S. travel restrictions and the economic blockade of Cuba remain in place. Pastors for Peace has vowed to keep up the pressure and continue their civil disobedience caravans until these restrictions are ended. Please show your support & welcome them!

Hear Purdue University Prof. Harry Targ on the history & current status of U.S./Cuba relations, plus the students and staff of Marquette University involved in the censored mural of a Black activist who received asylum in Cuba 35 years ago. Prof. Targ has taught at Purdue for four decades, and is one of the Midwest's leading progressive public intellectuals – so much so that right wing critics targeted him as one of the "101 most dangerous professors" in the U.S. His latest blogs analyze the recent attacks on academic freedom and the history & recent developments in U.S. Cuba relations.

You can hear & support the young women muralists at Marquette whose painting and quotations about education by Assata Shakur were ordered whitewashed by the MU administration, and the Director who was fired for allowing their expression on campus. (See reverse side.) They'll also help us paint the school bus that afternoon, which will tour the U.S. and then go to the Martin Luther King Center in Havana, Cuba.

Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba

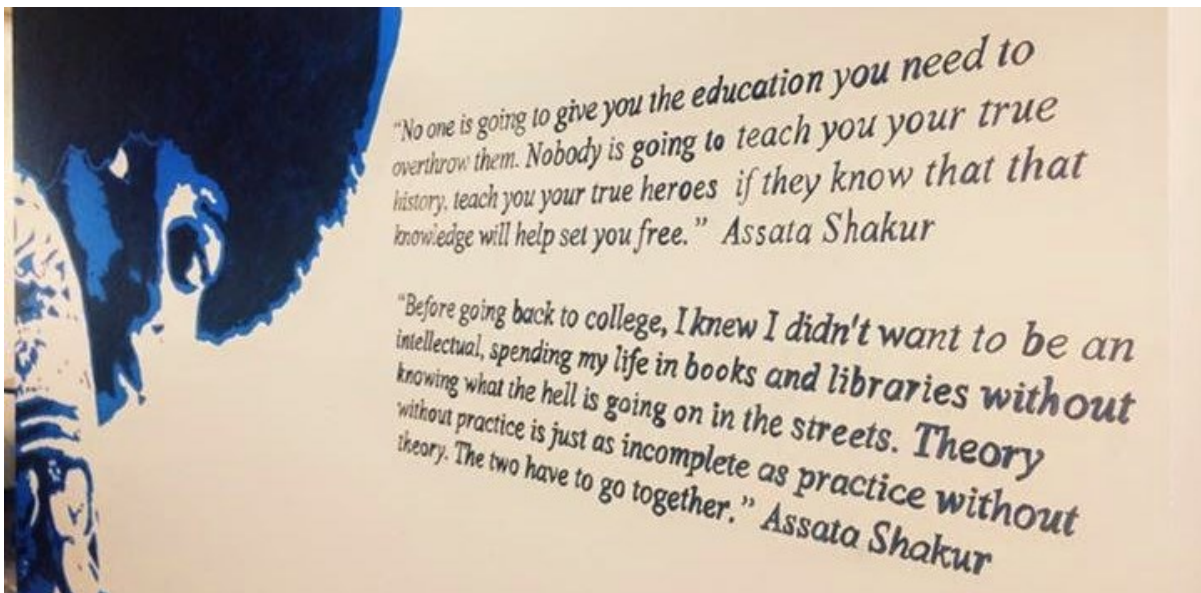
(414) 273 - 1040 | www.wicuba.org | Email: contact@wicuba.org

Check us out on Facebook!

Statement from MU Director terminated for allowing Black student artistic expression on campus

As the former Director of Marquette University's Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC), I'm writing to share my perspective on the recent controversy surrounding a mural of activist Assata Shakur (reported in the Journal Sentinel on May 18, 2015). I supported the student-led mural project because my job as an educator is to provide space, resources, and opportunities without censorship or condescension. In an environment of daily racism, the students wanted to research and offer up images of powerful black women leaders--both as a way to brighten up the GSRC as a hangout space and as a way to support identities and experiences that were on the margins at Marquette.

So, after obtaining the necessary permissions I stepped back and took pride in the student and staff partnership and the students' full ownership of the mural process. When they posted the completed image to our Facebook page, the caption "it looks beautiful" reflected the aesthetic achievement of the mural, but to me the profound beauty was the educational and community process the mural represented. What an amazing example of "education and empowerment on gender, sex and sexuality", entirely in keeping with the Center's mission.



My professional judgment has since been called into question for two basic reasons: the selection of Assata Shakur as the mural's subject, and my authority role as an educator supporting the muralists. The first point is easy: many people are subjects of public art without being glorified or free from criticism, from Thomas Jefferson to Christopher Columbus. Indeed, Assata Shakur's work and history are studied in college courses across the country. Although the recent media storm has mostly ignored the facts, historians are much more clear-cut about the crimes of Jefferson or Columbus than they are about the procedural issues with Ms. Shakur's trial (see public record and <http://thefeministwire.com/2013/05/our-sister-assata-shakur-life-struggle-justice-and-love/>). The students learned a great deal by exploring this ambiguity and made powerful connections to contemporary racial tensions in the U.S.

However, regardless of the mural's content, the most important thing is that students should have unrestricted freedom of inquiry. It was in my job description to facilitate dialogue on uncomfortable issues. Effective learning happens with healthy discomfort and sometimes with controversy. Marquette could have taken up the media backlash as an opportunity to explore the mural's process and subject rigorously, rather than erasing the students' work. However, I will be working with community members and students to develop an educational event in the coming weeks so we can continue public dialogue outside the walls of the university. I hope you'll join me.

— Susannah Bartlow, Ph. D. (See www.susannahbartlow.com for her extended comments on this situation, with links to more info re Assata Shakur, Jefferson & Columbus.) **Dr. Bartlow will speak, with the MU student muralists, at the June 27 Program.**