

BEN LOMOND QUAKER CENTER invites you to:



**The Violence of Incarceration:
Our Prison System and the New Jim Crow**
with Laura Magnani and Jerry Elster
October 3-5, 2014

“Those who go forth ministering to the wants and necessities of their fellow beings experience a rich return, their souls being as a watered garden, and a spring that faileth not...”

~ Lucretia Mott

Explore the dynamics of mass incarceration spiritually and socially, focusing on the advocacy work being done, and yet to be done, by Friends. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) colleagues, Laura and Jerry will facilitate conversations and exercises examining the system as it is, our attitudes about it, and new directions that are opening up for significant change.

Jim Crow laws were racial segregation laws enacted between 1876 and 1965 in the US in part because there was no room in the economy of the times for previously enslaved people. Prejudice against people of other races did not stop with the end of slavery. Prisons can be seen as the New Jim Crow because people of color have been, and still are, incarcerated at higher rates than Anglos. The structure of the “war on drugs” facilitates the continued incarceration of people based on race because of the way it disproportionately targets communities of color, in spite of the fact that all ethnic groups use drugs at approximately the same rate. We will mostly focus on California, but certain practices, including ones that drive mass incarceration, are happening nationwide.

Friends have pioneered many prison reforms over the years, some of which have gotten twisted into excuses for continuing the carceral system. We will look at the dangers and opportunities of incremental change, especially as we grope for changes in the use of solitary confinement.

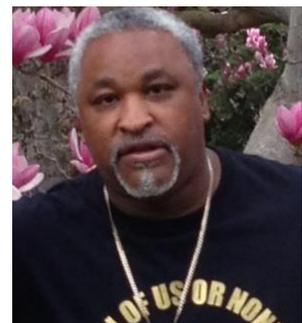
AFSC is working at multiple levels to bring about change: research and education; legislative; administrative and legal. What are we doing with the information we learn from these experiences? How can we be a part of the systemic change that has to happen? How can we promote restorative justice practices that could bring about wholeness and healing instead of more violence and punishment?

About the Program Leaders:



Laura Magnani is Program Director for Healing Justice for the American Friends Service Committee, San Francisco. From 1971-1979 she was the lobbyist for the Friends Committee on Legislation in Sacramento, California, working on a broad range of issues including equal rights, housing, criminal justice, and militarism. She is author of [America's First Penitentiary: A Two Hundred Year Old Failure](#) (2000), and co-author, with the late Harmon Wray of [Beyond Prisons: A New Interfaith Paradigm for Our Failed Prison System](#) (2006, Augsburg/Fortress Press). The book analyzes the racial, social and economic underpinnings of the criminal justice system and explores new models of justice.

Jerry Elster recently joined the staff of the AFSC as Coordinator for Healing Justice in the SF office. He is a formerly incarcerated, African American man who was raised in South Central Los Angeles. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Associate of Arts degrees in both Ministry and General Education. Jerry's trials have taught him how essential it is for people (including formerly incarcerated people) to speak and be heard in their own voices. He believes that people without a voice are a people without hope.



Name(s) of adults and names and age(s) of children coming: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I/we plan to pay \$ _____/person on the \$160 - \$240/person sliding scale. (More on this below)

Medical or ethical dietary restrictions: _____

Accommodation or mobility concerns: _____

----- Detach Here and Return -----

TO REGISTER, fill out the form above and send it to the address below.

Check-in is from 4 PM to 6 PM. Dinner is served at 6 PM and you can expect to be depart by 2 PM on Sunday after final cleanup and the closing worship. We no longer require a deposit with your registration. We trust that you will "let your yay be yay" and join us for this program if you register. If you absolutely must cancel, please do so at least two days in advance. Otherwise we will bill you for the food the cook will have already purchased.

A NOTE ABOUT OUR SLIDING SCALE:

- Comprehensive rate:** The top of our scale covers all our costs. (**\$240/person**).
- Standard rate:** We hope most people will pay at least this amount. (**\$200/person**)
- Special reduced rate:** The bottom to our scale (**\$160/person**).
- Quaker Center Annual Pass purchased by** _____ **(name of individual or meeting)**

No one is ever refused access to our programs because of lack of funds. Please call or send email for a scholarship. **CHILDCARE:** will be provided **by advance arrangement with Directors** at no extra charge to parents, though we request **\$50 per child** to cover the cost of meals.

ACCOMMODATIONS, THINGS TO BRING AND FOOD: Sleeping accommodations will be in the Orchard and Redwood Lodges (semi-private rooms). **Bring a sleeping bag or sheets and blankets, pillowcase,** towel, and toiletries including shower soap. Please do not wear or bring strongly scented toiletries. **Please do not bring pets.** Animals trained to serve the disabled are allowed **ONLY** with prior permission from the Directors. All meals at Quaker Center are vegetarian. We ask all participants to take turns working together on meal prep, dish crew, and cleaning at the end of the program. **Please tell us in advance if you must leave early** so that we can make sure you get signed up for a final clean up task that can be done before you go.

TRANSPORTATION: See our website, <http://www.quakercenter.org/directions/> for directions. If you are arriving by bus let us know at least one day in advance. **Quaker Center will provide shuttles from Ben Lomond bus stops. Call 831-212-2631 if you need a shuttle,** or if you need to request a different time for pick up.

DRIVING DISTANCES FROM:

- Los Angeles: 365 miles, 6.5 hours
- Sacramento: 150 miles, 3 hours
- San Francisco: 90 miles, 2.5 hours
- San Jose Intl Airport: 35 miles, 1 hour
- Santa Cruz, 12 miles, 30 minutes

PUBLIC TRANSIT:

- **Amtrak:** Take the train to the San Jose Diridon Station
- **From the San Jose Diridon Station:** Take the 17 Express bus to the **Cavallaro Transit Station** in Scotts Valley.
- **From Scotts Valley or Santa Cruz:** Take the 35 or 35A bus to Ben Lomond.
- **In Ben Lomond:** Get off at Highway 9 and Main Street and walk or call for a ride.

QUAKER CENTER

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