



# The NorthStar Center

April 2009 Newsletter

## Making Lansing A Sanctuary City



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The No Human Is Illegal Network (NHIIN) is a human rights network of individuals and organizations. NHIIN respects and defends the freedom and dignity of undocumented workers, families and communities and actively opposes the criminalization of immigrants. NorthStar is part of NHIIN and, is excited to announce the launch of the Network's Campaign to make Lansing a Sanctuary City. Having Sanctuary City status means that Lansing would agree not to participate in Federal Immigration Enforcement and that Lansing would not accept funds from the Department of Homeland Security to do Immigration Enforcement. For this to be implemented, the city council must pass a Sanctuary City Resolution, which has been drafted by the No Human Is Illegal Network. To support this resolution there are individual and organizational petitions to be signed and circulated. Both Petitions are currently available at the NorthStar Center or at Cristo Rey Church (201 W. Miller Rd). The passage of this resolution will require community support and we are looking for assistance on this campaign. For more information or to get involved contact [nhiin.lansing@gmail.com](mailto:nhiin.lansing@gmail.com). See page 5 for more details.



The NorthStar Center - 106 Lathrop Lansing, MI 48912  
[northstarcenter@gmail.com](mailto:northstarcenter@gmail.com) - [www.northstarcenter.net](http://www.northstarcenter.net) - 517.371.2001

# Slingshot's HIP HOP

## Movie Screening & Discussion

**Tuesday  
April 14<sup>th</sup>  
6pm**



Arapeyat from Akka, Palestine



DAM – Hip Hop Crew from Palestine

An official selection of the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, Slingshot Hip Hop braids together the stories of young Palestinians living in Gaza, the West Bank and inside Israel as they discover Hip Hop and employ it as a tool to surmount divisions imposed by occupation and poverty. From internal checkpoints and Separation Walls to gender norms and generational differences, this is the story of young people crossing the borders that separate them. For more information on this documentary and the phenomenal artists that make it so amazing go to: [www.slingshothiphop.com](http://www.slingshothiphop.com) Discussion and refreshments will follow the screening.



# The Role of Art in Social Movements:

## Justseeds/Visual Resistance Artists' Cooperative tells their story

**Tuesday  
April 21<sup>st</sup>  
7pm**

Come out to hear Detroit's Bec Young and Lansing's own Dylan Miner unfold the history of Justseeds and sketch out their viewpoints about art as a tool for movement building.



Justseeds/Visual Resistance Artists' Cooperative is a community of artists who believe in the power of personal expression in concert with collective action to transform society. They are a decentralized and democratically organized group, spread across a dozen cities, who produce individual fine artworks, collective installations and print portfolios, and regularly create illustrations, posters and design work for social justice organizations and causes. For more information visit: [www.justseeds.org](http://www.justseeds.org)



## Pancake Breakfast @ Gone Wired Café: A NorthStar Benefit



**Saturday  
April 25<sup>th</sup>  
9am – Noon**

**Gone Wired  
Café**

2021 E Michigan Ave,  
Lansing, MI 48912

**\$8 for Adults  
\$5 for kids under 12**

**Proceeds help us raise funds for the NorthStar Center.**

There will be Pancakes, sausage, eggs, milk, OJ, & Coffee  
Plus a 50/50 raffle.

Thanks to Colleen and the great people at Gone Wired Café [www.gonewiredlansing.com](http://www.gonewiredlansing.com), we will be holding a benefit pancake breakfast with all proceeds going to NorthStar. This could not come at a better time as we are working to pay off the hefty winter heating bills and gearing up for a busy spring and summer. NorthStar is volunteer run and is funded 100% by monthly donations, fundraisers and collective member contributions.

If you haven't been to Gone Wired Café recently, this will be a great chance to check out their renovations including the door connecting them directly to Everybody Reads Bookstore. You will also get an amazing breakfast cooked Gone Wired style and start your Saturday off right with good food, good people and by supporting a democratic, grassroots project that greatly appreciates your help.



## The No Human Is Illegal Network Begins its Sanctuary City Campaign

The No Human Is Illegal Network Formed in late 2008 as a response to the Immigration raids that took place across the area resulting in 64 arrests. It has since been working on a range of issues including supporting families, education and finding ways to minimize the impact of future Immigration raids. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Network launched the, “Lets Make Lansing a Sanctuary City” campaign. The launch of this initiative was a 60+ person meeting that layed out the campaign strategy and planned for those involved to use their own networks and resources to get it off the ground. This planning meeting made it clear that folks are ready and willing to put in the bottom-up organizing that will be needed to pass the Sanctuary City Resolution.



The campaign is simultaneously meant to gain sanctuary status for the city and to be a vehicle for educating the public about the facts on immigration, exposing the inhumane treatment of immigrant families and bringing immigrant rights to the forefront of public conversations.

NorthStar is honored to be part of the No Human Is Illegal Network and excited about its potential. The Network meets every other Wednesday (April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, May 6<sup>th</sup> etc..), 7pm at Cristo Rey Church. As stated in the cover article, Individual and Organizational Petitions are available at the NorthStar Center and at Cristo Rey Church. To Get Involved get a hold of NorthStar folks or email the Network at [nhiin.lansing@gmail.com](mailto:nhiin.lansing@gmail.com)



# May Day March & Celebration for Worker & Immigrant Rights

**Friday  
May 1<sup>st</sup>  
2pm  
Meet at Hunter  
Park  
for March**

**May Day  
Celebration  
will follow the  
March  
at NorthStar**

Join us to Celebrate May Day with a march, party, music, food and most importantly, SOLIDARITY.

We will be meeting at Hunter Park and then marching for worker and immigrant rights. The march will be followed by a May Day Celebration in the NorthStar parking lot.

May Day has long been a day for social and economic justice. It is a celebration of International Workers' Day, and honors the Haymarket Martyr's of 1886. Recently, May Day has emerged as a day of struggle for immigrant rights. The deep connection between workers' rights and immigrant rights remains as important as ever during the current economic crisis and climate of immigrant bashing.



May Day 2008 Celebration at NorthStar

Much help is still needed to plan the event. if you would like to get involved contact Sierra at [lopezsie@msu.edu](mailto:lopezsie@msu.edu). Also, bring signs and banners to the march and everyone is welcome to bring food to the celebration.

Sponsored by MEXA de MSU, Chicanos y Latinos Unidos and the NorthStar Center.



# NorthStar Pictures



Angel Gardner of the Starbucks Workers Union  
Talks at NorthStar February 21<sup>st</sup> 2009



NorthStar Members Attend  
Naomi Klein Lecture  
February 17<sup>th</sup> 2009



Michael Perez  
Presentation on  
Occupied Palestine  
February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009



## Starbucks Workers Union Presentation: A Review

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, Angel Gardner, Erik Forman, and Cole Dorsey presented a panel discussion about their union organizing experience at Starbucks at NorthStar. All three speakers are member of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and provided insight about their experiences unionizing Starbucks' barista employees. Angel and Erik traveled from Minneapolis to visit Michigan for the first time to discuss their IWW union organizing experience at the Mall of America's Starbucks in Bloomington, MN.



Eric discussed how he worked at Starbucks for over two years when he was illegally fired for his union organizing activity in July 2008. In response to Erik's illegal firing, his coworkers declared their membership to the Starbucks Worker's Union, which made their shop the first union organized store in the Mall of the America and the first Starbucks to be unionized in Minnesota. Following Erik's firing, the union organizers and community supporters waged a campaign using direct action, media advocacy and legal actions. After a successful campaign, Erik was reinstated on Labor Day weekend and members of North Star had the privilege of celebrating his reinstatement in Minneapolis! One celebratory action on Labor Day weekend included 40 IWW supporters attempting to march with banners in the Mall of America but were detained by riot cops in the train car they were traveling in! Since then, Erik has successfully returned to work and remains a Starbucks' employee and continues to organize.



Angel Garder also spoke about her organizing experience at Starbucks and the struggles and successes the campaign has endured. Angel spoke of the list of demands the baristas had developed and the creative campaign tactics that they used to obtain short term successes.

\*Continued on Page 9



## Starbucks Workers Union Presentation: A Review

*(Continued from page 8)* Angel discussed the union's efforts to increase the worker's pay and health care packages. Angel spoke in depth about Starbucks's practice of giving employees inconsistent weekly hours to ensure that they are not entitled to health care benefits. Angel spoke about the collective actions that Starbucks employees have taken to show camaraderie and to work collectively to ensure each worker works at least 20 hours a week to be entitled to health care benefits.

Cole was a barista at the Wealthy St. Starbucks in East Grand Rapids before his relentless union organizing efforts resulted in his illegal firing on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Cole spoke at the NorthStar event about the tactics and process that organizers developed to unionize their Starbucks location. Cole also discussed the continuous union busting efforts that Starbucks engaged in including installing four camera surveillance systems to monitor the barista's every move. Other tactics included sending non-union supporting barista's union organizing meetings to intimidate member and illicit union organizing information. Other union-busting tactics that were used included giving union members less raises and intense interrogations of baristas regarding their union activity and Cole's IWW participation.

Cole and his coworker have been working diligently to have Cole reinstated at Starbucks. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the Michigan OSHA both concluded that Cole was wrongfully terminated and should be re-instated with backpay. In response, Starbucks appealed both



decisions. The MI-OSHA trial is set for mid april in Lansing. If you are interested in supporting Cole, please attend the MI-OSHA trial and show support for their union organizing efforts!

In addition, all three speakers discussed the international issues around the coffee industry and their efforts to raise awareness about the injustices supporting the coffee trade. Angel, Cole, and Erik spoke about their efforts to get Starbucks to commit to purchasing and selling fair trade coffee. Organizers continue to wage campaigns of direct action and build support for their union organizing struggles.

NorthStar enjoyed hosting Erik, Cole, Angel and look forward to receiving updates about their IWW organizing efforts!



# The Rhizome Collective

## Is Coming!

The Rhizome Collective is a non-profit organization based out of a warehouse on the East Side of Austin, Texas. We operate an Educational Center for Urban Sustainability and a Center for Community Organizing. We are a consensus-run organization.

We are working to build the world we want to live in. In our worldview, the dominant values of competition, greed and exploitation would be replaced with cooperation, autonomy and egalitarianism. We believe that all struggles against oppression and for self-determination are connected, and that it is important to construct viable alternatives while simultaneously fighting for social justice.

**Friday, April 17**

**6pm in Erickson Kiva**

Radical Urban Sustainability Training - Learning methods of urban sustainability, including tools and technologies that are being developed at the Rhizome Collective.

**Saturday, April 18**

**12pm at Bower Cooperative**

(127 Whitehills Dr. East Lansing, MI)

The workshop will include a more in-depth look at what you can do at home, as well as a hands-on project still in the works.



## Art In Action: Stenciling

Through political messages and artwork, stenciling is a simple and fun way to get your point across or get someone's attention. Below are a couple of stencils. The liberation bird is from [www.cutandpaint.org](http://www.cutandpaint.org), a project of Justseeds, who will be doing a presentation at NorthStar this month. If you attach this image to a thin piece of cardboard and then cut out the black parts using an exacto-knife or razor, what you have left is a stencil that will keep its shape.

Using spray paint, you can now stencil the design onto whatever you like. These two designs are just ideas, feel free to try them out as practice or as a template. Once you have the hang of it you can make a stencil of your own creation.



*Feel free to paste these images onto thin cardboard, cut them out and your stencil is ready to go*



## What Is NorthStar?

The NorthStar Center is a radical community space and events venue committed to social justice and building a culture of resistance.

### Want to know more?

Drop us a line at [northstarcenter@gmail.com](mailto:northstarcenter@gmail.com) or call 517.371.2001

#### NorthStar Collective Meetings

Every Wednesday

5:30pm

Everyone Is Welcome

#### NorthStar Hours

Monday - Thursday

4pm - 8pm

Or by appt.

#### NorthStar Email List

If you would like to join the NorthStar Announcements email list, drop an email to [northstarcenter@gmail.com](mailto:northstarcenter@gmail.com) with subscribe in the subject line

*I will support the*

## NorthStar Center

Name & Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*With a monthly pledge of*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$Other Amount

*One-time donations are more than gladly accepted. Checks can be made out to NorthStar Center. Please send all mail to: NorthStar Center P.O. Box 4794 E. Lansing, MI 48826, and not to our street address.*

*Thank you for your solidarity and support.*

**The NorthStar Center - 106 Lathrop St. Lansing, MI 48912**

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