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# FORsooth



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March 2014

## Rebecca DiLoreto: The school-to-prison pipeline

By Isaac Marion Thacker IV

There was a popular song that said, “All you get from love is a love song.” In her tour-de-force presentation at the January 16 Third Thursday Lunch (TTL), Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto suggested passionately and persuasively that all many African Americans get from school is a “Ticket to Ride” (to borrow again from popular music) – to prison.



**Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto spoke strongly for ending the school to prison pipeline at this Third Thursday Luncheon which also honored Ken and Sheila Pyle for 20 years of hosting the TTL events at their Rudyard Kipling restaurant!**

DiLoreto graduated magna cum laude from Amherst College in American Studies, said Rita Ward in her introduction of the speaker. DiLoreto then worked with the Lakota Indians for a while before getting her law degree from the University of



Kentucky. She has been working for many years to address the problem of disciplinary disproportionality in Kentucky schools, for much of that time as co-chair of likely the most prominent group doing so. And despite living and having her roots in Lexington, DiLoreto has worked diligently to deal with the problem in the Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) in Louisville.

That is largely because JCPS is the very worst school system in the state when it comes to disciplinary disproportionality – the disproportionate punishment of African American students (and students with disabilities), especially with out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, and diversions



**FOR's Cathy Ford and Jean Edwards pose with Ken Pyle and Interfaith Paths to Peace's Terry Taylor & Cindy Humbert**

into alternative programs. DiLoreto's group has been focusing on the ten worst school systems in the state, and the other nine have all agreed to take steps to address the problem. Only JCPS – the one with the very worst problem – has refused to do so. This was a surprise, said DiLoreto, because when Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to Kentucky, notably in 1964, Lexington wouldn't even let him enter the city, whereas Louisville and Frankfort did.

The idea behind the notion and noxiousness of the school-to-prison

pipeline, said DiLoreto, is that if we push kids out of schools and into the legal system, they will tend to remain there, tainted as “bad kids,” and not be successful in life. The intersections and outcomes that have created this problem (African American students were only 37 percent of total JCPS enrollment in 2012-2013 but received 66.3 percent of the out-of-school suspensions, for example) are most fundamentally three: the “zero tolerance” policy for guns, drugs,

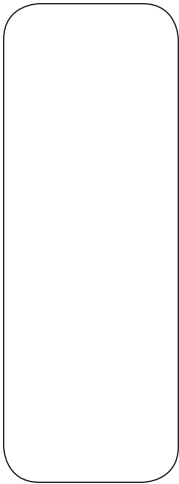
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## Trips allow students to be touched and transformed

By Dotti Lockhart

My husband, Bob, and I began organizing and accompanying delegations of Bellarmine University students to Guatemala during their spring break about seventeen years ago. Because we had decided that it was important that they knew some of the history of Guatemala before they took the trip, we began a preparation process that through the years has been refined; for us it has become a labor of love. One of our goals is to build a loving family, where each member is supportive of any other member in times of sadness or stress, as well as in moments of joy. We also hope



**Dotti Lockhart**

that they will be transformed by entering into the daily lives of poor, marginalized people, so that they will return and work for a more just society.

The trip is facilitated by an organization called Hearts In Motion – HIM, headquartered in Muncie, Indiana. In Guatemala we work in the department of Zacapa, about three hours east of Guatemala City by bus. Hearts In Motion runs about 14 trips a year. Most involve medical personnel: doctors, surgeons, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, physical therapists and dentists. Of course there are also delegations like ours, people willing to do whatever work needs to be done. Some of our work has included painting, construction and, depending upon who is with us, running dental, medical, and physical therapy clinics in small rural communities.

The most important part of our trip  
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**In 2013 the Bellarmine delegation finished a daycare center in El Arco, Zacapa, Guatemala. They mixed cement by hand, poured the floor, painted the building inside and out, and added a mural.**

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# The school-to-prison pipeline *(continued from page 1)*

and threats of violence; the continuing legacy of No Child Left Behind; and the ongoing defunding of education. The first of these may be the most important: even a first zero-tolerance offense can lead to suspension or even expulsion or diversion into an alternative program!

These intersections and outcomes have helped create a situation where 80 to 90 percent of alternative-program



Jean Edwards introduces Ken Pyle to the crowd

students are African American. These students are shunted out of regular schools partly in the drive to increase standardized test scores. This motivation is especially distasteful. And being in an alternative program means no sports or other extracurriculars (a significant stigma) and just generally a demoralizing exclusion from normal educational life.

And perhaps the worst thing of all is that much of society thinks this is okay, influenced by the myth of the “super-predator” shiftless, jobless, dangerous

African American youth expounded upon in a popular book, said DiLoreto. In reality, she pointed out, most violence is perpetrated by adults: only five percent of murders and 12 percent of serious violent crimes are committed by juveniles, with only one percent by children younger than ten. Yet in Louisville, we often transfer 10- to 12-year-olds to adult courts.

This is such a mistake! DiLoreto said it is simply not true that you have to treat school tiffs, the harassing of teachers, etc. as crimes. To make them so, the system often calls them (vaguely) “disorderly conduct.” Yet, she says, the research proves conclusively that putting children in the juvenile or adult court system increases the recidivism rate, the number of “criminals” who go on to commit further (often real) crimes.

And there are better choices, said DiLoreto, notably positive behavior intervention strategies (PBIS’s), i.e., attempts at positive behavior modification that are often successful; and restorative justice, with all of its many manifestations and positive ramifications. Blindly, though, we tend to rely on suspensions, expulsions, and transferring “problem” children into alternative programs or the court system.

Tragically, she said, this often destroys their lives. Citing statistics from Fayette County (Lexington), she said that the overall chance of scoring proficient or above on the MAP standardized test was 76 percent for all students, but only 45 percent for those who had been suspended once, 22 percent if twice, and 16 percent for those students who had been expelled at least three times.

As a result of the overwhelming evidence, DiLoreto noted, there is hope for change. Some school systems (read people) are beginning to see the light: Lexington is looking at the possibility of completely ending out-of-school suspensions as soon as next school year, and Paul Dunbar High School there already has. The truth, it seems, has outed, and at least in some places needless, noxious, deleterious suspensions



Linda Horneman baked a special “Rudyard Kipling” cake (and cupcakes for all) to celebrate Ken & Sheila Pyle

of child “criminals” is on its way out as well. It turns out, as she pointed out in the Q & A session that followed her talk, that the statewide Kentucky Department of Education actually favors dealing with the problem. Maybe, just maybe, JCPS will come around.

Incarceration harms children, she said in response to another question, and we punish status and violent crimes with about the same 6-month sentences on average. What kind of a system is this? We need to take action, said another questioner: sue the school systems and take other more direct steps. Other questioners in the crowd of more than 60 listeners noted the obvious intersection of race with poverty, but the general consensus (correctly, in my view) seemed to be in favor of the decisive salience of race.

In a country that incarcerates its African American males at a far higher rate than apartheid South Africa did its Black population, Rebecca DiLoreto showed that a

key reason is the school-to-prison pipeline.

A highlight of the lunch was taking some time to thank Sheila and Ken Pyle for hosting the Third Thursday Lunch series at the Rudyard Kipling from the very beginning – twenty years ago! Sheila was unable to join us, but Jean Edwards spoke of her work for peace and justice, particularly a song about El Salvador that Sheila wrote and performed in the early 1980s. Ken and Sheila have sold the Rudyard Kipling, but the new owners are excited about continuing the Third Thursday Lunch tradition.

*Isaac Marion Thacker IV (Ike Thacker) is an advocate for political, social, and especially economic democracy (socialism) who focuses on housing issues and has been writing about them for more than twenty years. He believes simply that we are all absolutely equally human, regardless of absolutely everything, and that everyone deserves a place to call home. Ike may be contacted at ike.thacker@gmail.com.*

## Tragedies unfairly label the mentally ill

By Kathy Dobbins

It seems that the only time the general public hears the words “mental illness” is in association with some tragic event that has transpired somewhere in the U.S. or the world. This is unfortunate as it leads to the stigmatizing assumption by some that everyone who has a diagnosed mental illness is prone to violent outbursts, which is simply not true. As horrific and devastating as these events are, it is wrong to paint everyone with a mental illness with a broad brush implying that they are always symptomatic and potentially violent.



Kathy Dobbins

For most people living with mental illness, nothing could be further from the truth.

Yes, it does happen on rare and tragic occasions, but according to the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration’s research, “the contribution of people with mental illness to overall rates of violence is small” and the magnitude of the relationship was found to be greatly exaggerated by the public. And, according to the American Psychiatric Association (1994), “research has shown that the vast majority of people who are violent do not suffer from mental illness.” Research also tells us that persons with mental illness are far more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators.

But the point I wanted to make is not so much that people with mental illness are unlikely to be violent, but that people with mental illness are capable of making significant contributions to our communities and that they help make the world a better place. Mental illness is fairly common:

one in four adults (25%) -- approximately 61.5 million Americans -- experiences some type of mental illness in a given year. Approximately 13.6 million American adults -- one in 17 (6%) -- lives with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, etc. These numbers represent people from across our community and across the socio-economic spectrum that have a wide range of talents and abilities. Our communities are richer because of them. They are artists, writers, laborers, mental health workers and more.

Behavioral health providers in Kentucky, like others across the country, are becoming increasingly aware of the powerful impact that persons in recovery from mental illness can have on others still struggling to come to terms with their diagnosis. While peer support has long been recognized as a valuable resource for persons struggling with substance abuse and other biological illnesses, the utilization of peer support for persons with mental illness has been slower to take hold. The change no doubt relates to better recognition and understanding of mental health recovery as well as the ever strengthening mental health consumer movement. There are other influences such as the growth of the field of psychiatric rehabilitation, improved medications, and the move away from long-term hospitalizations.

In 2006, the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health developed a 30-hour training curriculum for persons recovering from mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders for certification as a Peer Specialist. Applicants to the program must complete an application, including a short essay about their personal experience of recovery and reasons for wanting to become a Certified Peer Specialist, and a reference who has been a witness to the applicant’s

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### FOR’s Mission Statement

The Fellowship of Reconciliation seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, peace and justice. We are an interfaith organization committed to active nonviolence as a transforming way of life and as a means of radical change. We educate, train, build coalitions, and engage in nonviolent and compassionate actions locally, nationally, and globally.



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#### 95 Years on Peace Frontiers

Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United States has led campaigns to obtain legal rights for conscientious objectors, win civil rights for all Americans, end the Vietnam War, oppose U.S. intervention in the Third World, and reverse the superpowers’ arms race. An interfaith pacifist organization, the FOR has members from many religious and ethnic traditions. It is part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, with affiliates in 40 countries.

In the development of its program FOR depends upon persons who seek to apply these principles to every area of life. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the Statement of Purpose, indicating that you agree with FOR goals.

Chair: Pat Geier.....609-7985



# Exclusion and disability: The 1 percent's unmentioned apartheid

By Alex Bradshaw

Those at the top of the U.S. economic pyramid continue to benefit from the economic and social exclusion of disabled people. From a radical perspective, the capitalist system is at the root of this economic apartheid.

Disability activists Marta Russell and Jean Stewart help to articulate this social and economic apartheid while discussing what they call “disablement.” Russell and Stewart state that capitalism “has created the social condition which we are calling ‘disablement’ by excluding disabled persons from full participation in society through segregation, containment, and repression.”

Following, some forms of “segregation, containment, and repression” are discussed.

## Whose economy is it anyway?

An honest discussion regarding the “segregation, containment, and repression” faced by disabled people must first discuss the current neoliberal economic status quo, which doesn’t work well for anyone—except the one percent.

Dennis Domrzalski points out that “despite productivity gains of nearly 24 percent between 2000 and 2012, wages were flat or declined for the bottom 60 percent of workers, according to a study by the Economic Policy Institute [EPI]” (Albuquerque Business First, “For most

of us, productivity gains don’t mean higher wages,” 8/21/13).

According to the aforementioned EPI study, productivity grew 74.5 percent, while wages grew only 5 percent, from 1979-2012.

The wealth created by this large increase in worker productivity is going somewhere: corporate profits are at a record high. As Jack Rasmus recently wrote, “corporate income tax effective rates and tax payments [have] been in a long term decline, but lately in a short run free-fall” (Z Magazine, “The Great Corporate Tax Shift,” December 2013).

And the Obama Administration is as business-friendly as many of the most pro-market, rightwing administrations of the past. According to Bloomberg, corporate after tax profits have grown by 171 percent since President Obama took office.

While the wealth created by massive productivity increases is siphoned to the one percent, poverty increases for marginalized groups. Disabled people are no exception.

## Disability and poverty: An unnecessary story

Disabled people are the largest minority group in America. According to 2010 U.S. Census Bureau figures, 19 percent of American citizens are disabled people – nearly 57 million U.S. citizens.

The Census Bureau said that less than “one-half of individuals aged 21 to 64 with a disability were employed...” Hence the contemporary American economy gives rise to 58.9 percent unemployment for those who are identified as disabled in this age group.

Without adequate employment, disabled people have the highest percentage



A Day in Washington

Photo by Tom Olin

of poverty for any minority group in the U.S. (roughly 28 percent), rivaled by only American Indians and Alaska Natives (27.0 percent), and Blacks or African Americans (25.8 percent).

The high unemployment rate may suggest that disabled people are less reliable as employees. This contradicts the U.S. Department of Education’s findings. A social justice group, Disability Funders Network, reported the Department of Education’s conclusions: “workers with disabilities are rated consistently as average or above average in performance, quality and quantity of work, flexibility, and attendance.”

Instead of ameliorating the 28 percent poverty rate of the nation’s largest minority group, Washington continues to fatten up the bloated defense budget – as well as practice an almost religious routine of corporate welfare. Washington spent 19 percent of federal tax dollars (i.e., \$689 billion) on the defense budget in 2012 (the War Resisters League’s yearly report has placed the proportion of overall military-caused federal spending at around 50 percent in recent years).

And the editors of Bloomberg stated the following regarding corporate welfare: “The federal government directly spends between \$75 billion and \$100 billion a year on everything from farm subsidies to research grants. Include indirect benefits from things like tariffs and corporate tax exclusions, and the favors granted by local and state governments, and the total is much higher -- probably more than \$1 trillion” (Bloomberg, “Ending corporate welfare one program at a time,” 2/4/13).

## Homelessness and disability

Research shows that disabled people – i.e. people with physical, cognitive, or emotional disabilities – make up a disproportionate amount of the homeless population. Below are points to consider regarding the homeless population and disability:

Michele Diamant of Disability Scoop reported, “More than 40 percent of America’s homeless population is people with disabilities and the number appears to be rising, according to an annual report on homelessness from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).”

The National Coalition for the Homeless states that “20 to 25 percent of the homeless population in the United States suffers from some form of severe mental illness.”

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) said, “Over 60 percent of people who are chronically homeless have experienced lifetime mental health problems.”

A 2009 report published by the National Coalition for the Homeless stated that 13 percent of the homeless population is physically disabled.

While troubling, it is unsurprising that a group pushed to the margins of the economy also faces homelessness.

## Disability and incarceration

Disabled people, like other groups pushed to the periphery of the U.S. economy, make up a disproportionately large number of those individuals incarcerated. For disabled people, the prisons are, as the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) states, “the new asylums -- a costly response to mental health care.” Consider the following points:

The NDRN states that “as many as 50 percent of prisoners have a mental illness or other type of disability.”

As Paul Boden of the Huffington Post

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# THIRD THURSDAY LUNCHES

presented by the

## Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

March-April 2014

March 20

### The Bluegrass Pipeline and Fracking Fossil Fuels

*Sarah Lynn Cunningham, Director, Louisville Climate Action Network*

An environmental engineer, educator and veteran activist, Sarah Lynn Cunningham is director of the Louisville Climate Action Network. In plain-English, she will explain the recent game-changing technological breakthrough called hydraulic fracturing or “fracking,” its promises and problems, and what it all means for Kentuckians – from utility bills and water quality to private property rights and global climate change. Sarah will also update us on related pending legislation, and suggest ways for lending your voice.

April 17

### Learning from “The Troubles” in Northern Ireland

*Terry Taylor, Interfaith Paths to Peace*

For several decades beginning in the late 1960’s the citizens of Northern Ireland endured a bloody civil war between Catholics and Protestants. The violence included terror bombings, kidnappings and assassinations. Today the war is over . . . but they don’t yet have peace. Terry Taylor will describe his visit to that country in October 2013, and will share what he learned about how the citizens of Northern Ireland are struggling to get past their history of violence amid the animosities that still linger. He will detail the similarities and differences between the Irish struggle and the violence in Louisville’s streets.

The Rudyard Kipling • 422 West Oak Street • Louisville  
Buffet Lunch at 11:30 • Presentations at Noon • \$7.00

*For reservations, contact Cathy Ford at 458-1223 or  
fordhoff@bellsouth.net, or Cindy Humbert at 214-7322 or  
interfaithpaths@gmail.com by Tuesday before the lunch*



# Fair Trade: success measured in lives improved

By Joan Frisz

Meet Laxmi Maharjan, one of the founding artisans of The Association for Craft Producers (ACP) in Kathmandu, Nepal. Laxmi had been a weaver all of her life. Due to cultural norms, however, she had never seen the money from any of the work she had done because it always went to the male in her life, either her father or her husband.

When ACP was founded in 1984 to offer skills training to marginalized women and help them gain access to the market, Laxmi began working with them to market her weaving and earn money so she could send her children to school. She became a part of the ACP team doing traditional cloth weaving and teaching other women to weave, and she cried tears of joy when she received her first payment directly from ACP.

ACP helped Laxmi save the money she earned and she used it to send her 3 children to good schools. Laxmi had never had the opportunity to be educated but she understood its value, particularly for girls. As a result, she sent her daughter, as well as her sons, to the same high-quality school. Eventually, all of her children earned college degrees.

After 5 years of working with ACP, Laxmi was asked to organize a group of weavers in her home village of Kirtipur. She now supervises 30 women who are weaving, earning income and saving money on their own. Laxmi's work has brought economic viability and a huge change to the status of women in her village. Women have been able to provide for the education and health of their children, particularly their girl children. In an ironic twist, their



Joan Frisz

weaving group now employs men of the village, including Laxmi's husband. Since Laxmi is the group leader, her husband now works under her leadership. This would have been unheard of in years past but is welcome now because the men have been able to see the great economic benefits the women's work has brought to their village.

Laxmi's story illustrates what has been affirmed by the Business for Social Responsibility that "investments in women have a multiplier effect, as women are more likely to reinvest in education, health, and economic activities at the community level."

International Women's Day on March 8 provides an opportunity to reflect on the value of women in society and celebrate the gifts they bring to the world. This year's theme, Inspiring Change, reflects the mission of Fair Trade and the values of Fair Trade organizations like ACP and Just Creations, Louisville's International Fair Trade Marketplace.

Fair Trade is a strategy for poverty alleviation and sustainable development seeking to create social and economic opportunities through trading partnerships with marginalized producers, many of whom are women. The words of women from around the world help us to understand the impact of Fair Trade on their lives:

"Now that I'm in a Fair Trade group... every aspect of my life has changed: economically, how I live, work, feel... everything." B. Flores, Peru

"I have changed. I don't depend on anyone. I am dependable." M. Djan, Ghana

"(Fair Trade) means that (people) around the world can have a better life, have a better vision of themselves, can stand on their own two feet." G. Fleurant, Haiti

These sentiments are shared by women the world over who have been given



Laxmi Maharjan

opportunity through income generation and job creation programs. The Fair Trade movement takes a market-based approach toward empowering artisans and farmers, promoting social justice through fair wages and long-term relationships that enable sustainable employment opportunities. Fair Trade organizations provide equal employment opportunities for all people.

Through this principle of gender equity, emphasis is placed on the value of the work women perform, as producers and as leaders within their organizations. Women and men are paid equitably for comparable work.

Living examples of this are found in more than 100 villages in Pakistan with artisans who are working with Bunyaad, a Fair Trade Oriental Rug program. With looms located in the artisans' homes, this project gives increased opportunity to women. Women can work on the looms around their other household chores, like caring for children, preparing meals, and housekeeping.

In the villages where there is very little opportunity for employment, especially for women, work on the looms gives women

year-round, stable employment which they have control over. As a result, women are finding increased financial independence and can financially contribute to the success of their families. They are able to send their children to school and plan for the future. Having a wage-earning skill gives these women a sense of pride as well as an avenue to true social change for themselves and their families.

Success in business is often measured in numbers. In Fair Trade, success is measured in lives changed and dreams realized. It is estimated that more than five million producers and their families are reaping benefits from Fair Trade. About 70 percent of these are women.

The stories echo throughout the world. They are stories of prosperity defined through health, happiness, financial security, education, hope, and empowerment, enabling women to participate in decisions that affect their lives within the home and the community. This is the Fair Trade difference!

Joan Frisz is the executive director of Just Creations, Louisville's International Fair Trade Marketplace, located at 2722 Frankfort Ave. in Louisville. You can reach Joan at [info@justcreations.org](mailto:info@justcreations.org).

## Fair Trade rugs

Just Creations is the host of an annual Oriental Rug Event in the early spring of each year. The event features more than 300 rugs made by artisans working with Bunyaad. There may still be time to attend this year's event, which is March 26-29. If not, plan to attend next year's — call (502) 897-7319 for more information.

# Wal-Mart's tactics derail neighborhood stability

By Martina Nichols Kunnecke

Trojan horse: vehicle for introducing destructive elements under the guise of a gift—originating from Greek legend, where a huge wooden horse concealing warriors was used to subjugate the city of Troy.

Fifty years ago, Martin Luther King led the historic March on Frankfort. As with each anniversary in this vein, (e.g., death of civil rights martyrs, the March on Washington, etc.), the gulf between the privileged and not-so-privileged remains wide, but virtually nothing is said or done about the policies that perpetuate economic injustice.

No stranger to Louisville, King and his younger brother, A. D. King (pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Russell), participated in many local justice initiatives. In birth and death, the younger King would follow his brother within several months, but if they could visit West Louisville today they would be surprised. Gone are the businesses and many of the city's most historic structures. Gone are Parkland's busy shopping district and the West End movie theaters. Gone are the many small stores that once provided groceries, baked goods, clothing, hardware and more to those living nearby. West Louisville has essentially been gutted—not by the people who lived there, but by social trends and policy. While one could debate the source of the deadliest blow (e.g., urban renewal, white flight, busing, etc.), one thing is certain: change did come — and not for the better.

Strangely, while advocating revitalization, decision makers still employ the very methods that have degraded (and nearly destroyed) the West End. Are they delusional or disingenuous? Where homes and shops once stood, the Kings would find abandoned lots, halfway houses, Section-8 housing and dollar stores—all in abundance. Demolition is rampant. Obviously, "urban revitalization" has taken a back seat to those

pursuing quick capital — both political and monetary. In both regards, as King noted, "The profit motive, when it is the sole basis of an economic system, encourages a cutthroat competition and selfish ambition that inspires men to be more concerned about making a living than making a life."

Enter Wal-Mart, the epitome of profit and competition. Having worn out its welcome in the small communities that once embraced it, it now targets the impoverished, underserved neighborhoods it once avoided. Despite the predatory undertones of this strategy, gleaming with promises of "fresh foods" and "jobs," the Arkansas company has gained easy entry to urban marketplaces, which have paid a horrible price.

A recent article, "The Ten Worst People on Forbes' 2013 Billionaire List," implied that Wal-Mart's "grotesque business model that depends on pushing down wages and sinking living standards for millions of Americans" dwarfs the shallow benefit of a neighborhood Wal-Mart. On many levels, Wal-Mart is the antithesis of the American dream. Not only does it derail any material hope of advancement or economic stability among its employees, through sheer market dominance it has forced every standard of local economies downward.

Notorious for driving competitors out of business, for every job Wal-Mart creates, one or more is lost when companies scale back to compete or close in defeat. Claims that "other businesses will come" belie the bitter reality — other than payday loans establishments, fast food, etc., few stores can survive in Wal-Mart's shadow. Small and local shops are stifled.

Ironically, Wal-Mart's chief sales



Martina Kunnecke

pitch is the jobs it brings, but at what costs? Though not alone, it has led the charge for the most heinous employment practices: offering few benefits and primarily low-wage, part-time work. Infamous for wage law violations, exploitation of workers and an aggressive anti-union stance, roughly 5,000 employee lawsuits are filed against Wal-Mart annually.

But it is the burden Wal-Mart poses to taxpayer that offsets its value as a major employer and revenue generator. First and most-hidden is Wal-Mart's artful land use practices — aided and abetted by its division, Wal-Mart Realty. In 2007, The Wall Street Journal reported Wal-Mart pays billions in rent for its stores, however, "luckily for Wal-Mart, in about 25 states it has been paying most of that rent to itself — and then deducting that amount from its state taxes. The strategy is complex, but the bottom line is simple. It has saved Wal-Mart from paying several hundred million dollars in taxes."

Then there is the heavy reliance of Wal-Mart employees on public assistance (e.g., food stamps, Medicare, subsidized housing). According to a recent Bloomberg report, they receive \$2.66 billion in government help each year, which depending upon the state, could range from \$400,000 to \$900,000 per store, per year. In many ways, Wal-Mart proves to be high-maintenance for taxpayers footing the tab. Is it coasting far more than it deserves on its grandiose claims of a "job-producer?" As a Chicago man noted: "If you can't pay your energy bills, if you can't feed your family, how the hell is that a job?"

So, for countless reasons, Wal-Mart's reputation now precedes it, and in every market, communities oppose its entry. Citing the chain's propensity for "low-road economics," one Massachusetts politician noted that his constituency "called Wal-Mart out for aggressive anti-worker behavior that anchors cities like Holyoke in poverty." A

grassroots campaign of yard signs, letters to the editors, and zoning petitions followed.

But through subterranean planning and willful exclusion of the public, the retailer strong-arms its way. In Miami, Wal-Mart withheld plans from the public record and pressured city officials to breach local building standards and neighborhood plans. A local noted, "The Company's plans are so odious, they've convinced the city of Miami twice to hold public hearings without giving promised notice to stakeholders in the community."

Louisvillians concerned about the Wal-Mart proposed for 18th and Broadway should take heed and insist upon transparency and a voice. Dr. King once advised, "To cure injustices, you must expose them before the light of human conscience and the bar of public opinion." The public, which has already been footing the bill for much of the secret dealings pertaining to developments at 18th and Broadway, has been locked out long before this. This has resulted in the destruction of viable structures that could have been re-purposed for multi-use, providing affordable residential and commercial space for working, middle-class families and local entrepreneurs. An opportunity to establish solid economic anchors on both corners was abandoned in favor of a YMCA the neighborhood did not request (and few can afford) and a Wal-Mart doomed to fall far short of the promises it now makes.

King once observed, "We have shattered the barriers of segregation and blatant discrimination" but are still adhering to the traditional pattern of draining expenditures from the black community "into the pockets of bankers and entrepreneurs outside the community." What appears to be transpiring at 18th and Broadway is more of the same.

Cities like Washington and Chicago have negotiated for a living wage, design

(continued on page 5)



# The ethical contradictions in a greater moral good

By Ira Grupper

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, Kentucky’s Republican Party incumbent, and Allison Lundergan Grimes, Democratic Party challenger, both got steamed up when a coal company announced layoffs, a few months ago. Reports James Bruggers, a Louisville Courier-Journal writer, on his blog: “Mitch McConnell blames Obama for loss of coal jobs.”

Alison Lundergan Grimes, not to be outdone, urged “restraint on climate rules for coal power plants,” and distanced herself from President Obama. Continues Bruggers: “There is apparently not much daylight today between Sen. Mitch McConnell and... Democratic challenger Allison Lundergan Grimes on the issue of Kentucky coal. Grimes.... launched full-throated support of the coal industry — when James River Coal was announcing layoffs of more than 500 miners.”

Bruggers notes: “Absent from the statement was any recognition on the science of climate change or its impacts in our region or elsewhere. Or any talk of what Kentucky may need to do to adapt to climate change.”

Working class people in the United States can survive only by selling our labor power for a wage. What if that means producing napalm and phosgene and Agent Orange to burn the skin off innocent Vietnamese people, or making cigarettes which, when used as directed, can kill you, or mining coal, which poisons the atmosphere and coal miners’ lungs?

Satirist and folk singer Tom Lehrer once wrote about the former Nazi scientist who designed the V2 rocket that wreaked havoc on London, England in World War II, and

who was recruited after the war by the United States government to come to the U.S. to work for us: “Once the rockets go up, who cares where they come down? That’s not my department, says Werner von Braun.”

I’ve pondered this question for decades, and I have a personal story to go with it.

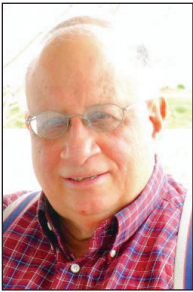
In the 1970s I was among the first group of disabled people in the United States to win a handicap-discrimination complaint under a law which preceded the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The company I forced to hire me is a multi-national Fortune 500 corporation, with a factory here in Louisville, Ky. at that time. This was a cigarette factory employing 4,200 workers. Well, it was all I could do to keep up with my job, what with so many corporate eyes watching me, recording every movement I made for a few months.

I worked there 24 years, so I must have been at least minimally qualified. I served 21 years as a union shop steward, and was a union delegate to the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council for eight years. I retired in 1999; the factory moved out of town maybe two years later.

But something has stuck in my proletarian craw all these years. Here was I, someone with a supposed conscience, helping manufacture a product which, when used as directed, will kill or make horribly ill its consumers.

I, of course, knew that I was selling



Ira Grupper

## LABOR PAEANS

my labor power for a wage, and that, in trying to be a good union representative, I was serving a righteous purpose. So, soon after I went to work there, and during break time, I wrote a song.

Truth be told, I had to muster the courage to show the words of this song to even a handful of my co-workers. Well, let this forum be my confessional, albeit so late in coming. Here are the lyrics:

The factory I work in manufactures cigarettes. To us workers it’s our living, yet to smokers it spells death. And therein lies the problem I have wrestled with so long: Self-interest says: make cancer sticks. But, class interest says: it’s wrong.

I do not choose to work here for the products that are made, But to sell my labor power for the wages that are paid. And tho I try to get coworkers to resist the bosses’ heel, yet, I often wonder if I’m just rationalizing 3 square meals.

And then when I have satisfied myself of higher goals: Developing class consciousness in times trying to our souls. I wonder if I’d have worked on Hitler’s ovens without qualm, or Uncle Sam’s Agent Orange, or his jellied napalm bomb.

To us tobacco workers who must breathe tobacco dust, who must endure the filth and noise of tobacco magnate lust, is it not enough we suffer at this sweatshop where we’re slaves? Must we also suffer for the moral sins our bosses made?

There is no universal truth, no total wrong or right. Just relative degrees of

greed against which we must fight. But monumental is the profit from that cigarette. And monumental suffering, and pain, disease and death.

The factory I work in manufactures cigarettes. To us workers it’s our living, yet to smokers it spells death. And therein lies the problem I have wrestled with so long: Self-interest says: make cancer sticks. But class-interest says: It’s wrong.

A reader has emailed me asking about the history of the AFL-CIO labor federation. This column has only so much space, but since scholarship nowadays consists of sound-bites, here goes:

The American Federation of Labor (AFL) was founded in 1886. It organized along craft lines: printers, plumbers, etc. It was relatively ineffective in winning strikes for better wages, hours and working conditions. In 1935 the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) was created. It favored industrial organizing (organizing all the workers in, say, an automobile factory). It was very effective.

In 1955, the AFL and CIO merged, forming the AFL-CIO. There have been other federations: the Knights of Labor formed prior to the AFL, and Change-to-Win (2005). A small number of unions are independent of the AFL-CIO.

The AFL-CIO has, in the last decade or more, shrunk to a shadow of its past numbers, but it is trying mightily to regain traction and membership, and programmatic influence. This sound-bite is hardly a decent explanation, but my column allows for only so many words!

Contact Ira Grupper at: [irag@iglou.com](mailto:irag@iglou.com)

# Shop around for the whole story of West End commerce

By Brian Arbenz

There’s much to be said for and against building a Wal-Mart in Louisville’s West End, and those whose words should decide the issue are West End residents.

Opinions of people from other parts of our community are valuable as well, but with one condition: they should be familiar with West Louisville’s existing retail life. The widespread suburban conception that west of downtown, a Wal-Mart would offer residents shopping and services like they’ve never seen in their neighborhoods must be corrected before any intelligent discussion of this issue can begin. Despite the tremendous loss in businesses in West Louisville in the last 60 years that Martina Kunnecke noted on this page, West Louisville today contains more enterprises than many outsiders unfamiliar



Brian Arbenz

with that part of town expect to find there.

And I know this notion of a retail desert west of downtown is common because I assumed it was the case before I was fortunate to be assigned West Louisville neighborhoods as a beat in the mid-1980s while working as an independent contractor journalist.

Whereas they know details via TV news about shootings in that part of town, and the rowdiness surrounding the former Derby Eve cruising, suburbanites and East End whites are amazed and often skeptical when I tell them of the thriving business district on West Broadway which crescendos around the Lyles Mall at 28th Street, just one West End section busy with stable commerce and variety.

That mini-mall and nearby shopping centers contain a large supermarket, African-American oriented clothing and music shops, bank branches and national chain drug stores.

In recent decades, business people from West Louisville and outsiders have made short and long term successes of book stores and coffee houses and a restoration effort in

Russell of homes as lovely as those of Old Louisville or Cherokee Triangle.

Jay’s restaurant on Muhammad Ali Boulevard at 19th Street was a popular dining and community gathering place for decades, and although the founders’ family members who came into the business decided to move it to a building just outside the city limits, many of the small businesses near it still operate, bolstered by the success of opening mixed use housing developments in the neighborhood in the last 20 years.

West Louisville’s Russell neighborhood includes a section known as “Uncle Vic’s Corner,” named for the late Victor Yarborough, who started or attracted several small enterprises, including a bookstore and a coffeehouse.

Many of the businesses have closed, as market forces, the housing crisis and the closing of Brown & Williamson have sent the community on somewhat of a roller coaster ride, but boarded up buildings are not the final scene; new stores are always popping up in the available locations.

West Broadway around 18th to

28th street has two stable nightclubs and a third location that has housed a sports bar and restaurant off and on. In between are tax preparers, law firms, physicians, eye doctors and the signature 2010s cell phone outlets.

Northwest of there, Portland’s business district has West Louisville’s other full sized supermarket (a Winn-Dixie near the Lyles Mall closed more than a decade ago when that once thriving chain pulled out of this part of the country) and small clothing stores.

In many parts of the West End, auto service centers, locally and nationally owned, and parts stores of the familiar chain names sell every make of headlight and seat cover a driver can find on Shelbyville Road or Lewis and Clark Parkway.

A Wall-Mart, far from filling a void, would compete with busy and self-reliant West Louisvillians who see a gargantuan national retail chain with same eyes as business people and workers everywhere.

Brian Arbenz, formerly FORsooth’s editor, is a contributing writer and editor of the newspaper.

## Training for “Pledge of Resistance” against the Keystone XL pipeline

Saturday, March 8, 2014, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Venue: A Collaboratory for Social Innovation (former James Lees Presbyterian Church) 1741 Frankfort Ave., Louisville KY 40206

Please RSVP Drew Foley, [bdrewf@yahoo.com](mailto:bdrewf@yahoo.com) 502-644-0659. Questions welcome.

This is training for potential civil disobedience. However, attending it does **not** commit you to participate in an action, risk arrest, or do anything you are uncomfortable doing. Also, the action cannot occur without a good number of folks **not** risking arrest.

More info at <http://nokxl.org/>.

## Wal-Mart (continued from page 4)

concessions and accommodations for local stores. Our local officials have already demonstrated their limitations in vision and practice regarding our urban neighborhoods. There is a middle ground between paving over a community through gentrification and further locking poor communities into the cycle of subsistence living and stunted futures. Naturally, businessmen and politicians do what they know and understand, and make money and headlines at all costs.

Only the public will truly advocate for concessions promoting safe, thriving neighborhoods, a sense of place, and a chance to be economically stable without working two or three jobs. Wal-Mart, dollar stores, and fast food chains are not the

best way to get there. So citizens should not stand down, but demand transparency and inclusion in discussions that affect the place we call home. As King wisely noted, “The dispossessed of this nation — the poor, both white and Negro — must organize ... not against their fellow citizens, but against the structures through which the society is refusing to take means which have been called for, and which are at hand, to lift the load of poverty.”

A writer and researcher, Martina Kunnecke is also a historian and advocate for preservation, social and environmental justice. She may be contacted at [asknuance@gmail.com](mailto:asknuance@gmail.com).



# The power of choosing which path you will seek

By Randy Nichols

One of the often-repeated concerns in media currently is that of economic inequality. The battle lines have been drawn between those who have (and have abundantly) and those who are at the lower end of the economic ladder and have little or nothing at all. A question to be concerned with: is the problem truly that of inequality or a lack of opportunity?

There are numbers of people who have grown up in poverty and through their efforts with the assistance of others now live a fulfilling life. We have seen numbers of people overcome the disparity of poverty to become successful in life (Bill Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Shania Twain, Celine Dion, Jay-Z and Jim Carrey, just to name a few). The understanding that one may enter this life in an impoverished state does not mean that is its finality.

The same can be said of those born into wealth. Wealth in and of itself does not guarantee sustained success in life. Several lottery winners mistakenly assumed their winnings were infinite and bought whatever their hearts desired only to find that one day the checks stopped coming, and some returned to a poverty lifestyle. There were those such as the Menendez brothers or Patty Hearst, who stood to inherit wealth, but despite having the advantages money can buy, experienced different paths in life,

resulting in negative outcomes.

The discrepancy between those who have, as opposed to those who do not, may come down to how one saw their life situations and what opportunities were there to take advantage of and/or what barriers or restrictions kept them from achieving. As Pastor Steve Turpin likes to mention from time to time in his sermons, “Just because mama and daddy were poor, it doesn’t mean you have to be poor as well.” I know that seems like a simplistic notion to some, but the condition that people often find themselves in is one that they may have grown accustomed to. They may assume that’s the way things will be, and there’s no need to take action to try to change things.

As we examine the contrasts between poverty and wealth in our nation, there are those who contend taxing the rich, and asking them to give more as a means of helping the poor to improve their lot in life, is an unfair policy. They claim it reduces the incentive to pursue wealth (Why should I bother to try to gain financially when the government’s just going to take it away anyhow?) There may be some merit to



Randy Nichols

that thought. I would counter that there certainly is no burning incentive for being poor. No one reaches a state in life when being homeless, hungry and with little or no money seems like an appealing way to live. A lot of where we end up in life comes about from the personal choices or decisions we make.

Mary McCloud Bethune started a girls’ school on property that essentially was a dumping ground and she had little more than \$.50 to her name at that time. Today, that little school has evolved into Bethune-Cookman University. Donald Trump watched his father operate a construction business and saw opportunities his dad missed out on. He used that knowledge to build upon what already had been successful and to become even more successful. I grew up in a home with two parents (both of whom attended college), and many of our friends, relatives and neighbors had similar lifestyles. My life changed significantly when a brain abscess resulting from spinal meningitis left me with partial paralysis on my left side (and I’m left-handed). Given my situation, I easily could have turned to government assistance and lived out the rest of my days that way, but I made a choice. My life was going to be one where I would at least attempt to make it on my own.

Today as a college professor I live a fairly good life, and I have friends and acquaintances with more than me, and

others with less than me. I have also known what it’s like to go to bed hungry or to try to make a dollar bill last for a week. We always have hope, and when we seek the opportunity for betterment, it will come over time. Those who have gained wealth through their efforts should be recognized for it; those who gain by exploiting others need to be called out for that.

There are people struggling to get by, and some will increase their lot in life as long as they are willing to put up a fight. There will be others who take the easy way out – crime, public assistance or handouts; they have determined that’s the best scenario, as there’s no hope for them. Those at the lower end may never try to rise above their situation, but as long as there is hope, there is opportunity. Those in the upper levels are wise to remember: “From those to whom much is given, much is expected.” Inequality exists in part because of what one is willing or not willing to do for oneself or for others. Choose ye this day which path you will seek. We gain nothing by resenting the wealthy or vilifying the poor, but we all can work toward reducing the inequality we see.

Charles “Randy” Nichols, Ph.D. is a Professor of management with Mid-Continent University and a member of the editorial board of FORsooth. He can be contacted at drnicholsocu@yahoo.com.

## The people, coming back to life, through a pledge

By Richard Beliles

The People’s Pledge is aptly named. Striped to its essentials it is a signed agreement between candidates to “work together to limit the influence of third party advertisements” on their election to public office. Or conversely, it’s an agreement to work together to increase the influence of voters. Hence, the name “The People’s Pledge.”

The first such pledge was signed by Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren during their contentious race in Massachusetts for the U.S. Senate. They agreed in writing to make donations to charities from their campaign funds equal to at least half the cost of any third party advertisements aired on television, radio or in print that benefit their candidacies. The charities to receive these donations would be selected by the opponent.

That sounds a little complicated, I know. It’s worth reading a second time. Put simply, Brown and Warren agreed to

donate money to charity for any third party advertisements that would benefit them.

Both candidates wanted to reduce the influence of third party money in their race for the US Senate, and it appears their pledge may have worked. Small contributions to their campaigns exceeded outside spending by 3 to 1. Incredible as it sounds, no outside money was spent on television ads during that race.

By contrast, it was business as usual in Virginia, Wisconsin, and Ohio that year. Hotly contested US Senate races in those states saw spending by Super PACs exceed small contributions by 5 to 1. The number of small contributors was encouraging though. There were about 175,000 small contributors. It appeared that people cared even though they were hugely outspent by the Super PACs.

Races in other states have picked up The People’s Pledge since 2012. They include the Massachusetts Senate race the

following year, the Los Angeles Mayoral race, and races for governor in Maryland and Rhode Island. This is only a start, of course. Let’s hope for more races like these.

Various public opinion polls indicate the voters want more People’s Pledges and less third party spending. They show widespread voter opposition to the influence of big money across political and demographic spectrums. In regards to 49 of the “most-vulnerable” Republican seats in the US House of Representatives, a recent Greenberg-Quinlan-Rosner poll found that 2/3 of voters support “a plan to overhaul campaign spending by getting rid of big donations to political candidates.”

Another recent poll by Bannon



Richard Beliles

Communications found that 90% of respondents believe corporate money holds excessive influence in our elections and government decisions. According to an Associated Press poll, 83% want limits on corporate campaign contributions. Seven in ten said Super PACs should be illegal in an ABC News/Washington Post poll. Eight in ten support limits on amounts given to campaigns by groups reported in ABC / National Constitution Center polls. According to a poll by the American Sustainable Business Council, 66% of small business owners think the Citizens United ruling was bad for small business.

Whenever people are asked about the power of money today, they say it’s gotten too big and too powerful.

Richard Beliles is Chair of Common Cause / Kentucky, 502-228-1534. The website for Common Cause Kentucky is www.commoncause.org/ky

### Golden anniversary for justice March 5

The Allied Organizations for Civil Rights (AOCR), of which the Kentucky Human Rights Commission is one of many members, proudly invites the public to participate in the 50th Anniversary Civil Rights March in Frankfort to the state capitol.

The March and following speaking rally is Wednesday, March 5, at 10 a.m. (EST). Participants may gather at the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Capital Avenue at 9:30 a.m., for the approximate two-block walk to the State Capitol building at 700 Capital Ave Bay, in Frankfort, Kentucky.

The event commemorates the historic 1964 Civil Rights March on Frankfort attended by more than 10,000 people. The initial March was part of a successful push that helped result in the 1964 U.S. Civil Rights Act in July of the same year. It helped lead to the 1966 Kentucky Civil Rights Act, which made Kentucky the first south of the Mason-Dixon Line to pass a state civil rights law.

The anniversary event may bring to mind for everyone the memory of what the original event 50 years ago communicated to the nation, what it helped accomplish, and how it changed our lives. This is a positive opportunity for Kentucky to embrace and confirm its role as a southern state that requires equality for her people.

Contact Mary Ann Taylor of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights at 1.800.292.5566 to pre-register. Registration is not required but appreciated for planning reasons. Or, email her at AOCR@ky.gov.



Sharon Grant

## The Land

By Sharon Grant

Before my grandfather’s grandfather was here,  
before the cities appeared,  
before the tractor, the backhoe, the rake,  
or the shovel,  
before the barns on the country hillsides,  
there was The Land.

The Land, formed by a loving hand,  
erupting from the creative fireworks of  
eons past,  
bulging from volcanic mass,  
settling in rolling hills and fragrant valleys,  
exploding in color  
with poppies and daisies  
and goldenrods and hollyhocks  
and bluets and tiger lilies.  
That was the Land.

The Natives moved down  
from the North,  
tracking the wild birds,  
crossing the rivers,  
climbing the knobs,  
fishing the streams,  
feeding on berries and nuts,  
and Ah! cradled in the valleys,  
knew the Land.

They knew the Land  
as gift  
as from the Great Spirit.  
They listened to the Land  
in the sound of the wind,  
in the cracking of the trees,  
in the sound of the rabbits, loons, and cicadas.  
They watched  
for the movement of the herds,  
for the appearance of food,  
for the flight patterns of birds,  
for the swelling of the rivers,  
and they learned the Secrets of the Land.

Can we fathom the richness of this Land?  
Or imagine how she was formed...?  
Can we feel and touch her  
as she feels and touches us?  
Can we hear her calling us  
as she echoes with our cries?  
Only then will she whisper  
her secrets in our ears.

Sharon Grant is a Spiritual Director and Retreat Presenter, who has retired to Louisville where she grew up. She is currently part of the editorial team for FORsooth. You can reach Sharon at ellegrant56@gmail.com.



# Guatemala *(continued from page 1)*

is the preparation before we leave. We begin meeting in the fall before the March trip. Each person is asked to raise \$900 of \$1900, the total cost of the trip, to commit to no drinking on the trip, and to participate in communal fund raising activities and weekly meetings from January until after the trip in April.

Since we want everyone to be reasonably informed about Guatemala before the trip, we spend a portion of each meeting educating each other about the political, economic, and social reality in Guatemala, both currently and in the past. We read books and articles and have speakers, especially those who have been on the trip before.

Transformation begins. People who were strangers several weeks before begin to reach out to one another. As they listen to reports of life in Guatemala, they begin to realize how fortunate they are to have been born in a country where life is not a daily struggle for most, as it is in developing countries.

We work together to organize and facilitate fundraisers. After each student raises \$900 individually, we raise the rest of the money communally. Our biggest fundraiser is a yard sale, held in January in Frazier Hall on Bellarmine’s campus.

By the time we arrive in Guatemala, the students have a pretty good theoretical idea of what they will see, but nothing they hear about can have the impact of reality. The experience of seeing a pregnant woman standing in smoldering garbage at the local dump while tearing apart plastic garbage bags to find something salable or usable is not easily forgotten. Filthy children, who do not go to school because they have no proper shoes or clothing, line up for a sucker or a balloon. They smile and say “Gracias,” which humbles our group, who have a hard time understanding how a child who has nothing can smile and express gratitude.

We bring funds to a children’s nutrition center run by a Franciscan nun and a few volunteers. Mothers who are too poor to provide food for all their children bring the youngest ones to the center, where they are

fed and cared for until they reach normal weight. Holding and hugging these precious little ones is another eye opening experience for North Americans unused to seeing such plight. Two-year-olds who weigh 15 pounds, infants too weak to hold up their heads, children who are developmentally delayed are among those who live at the center.

When dentists are part of our delegation, we set up dental clinics in local schools, using plastic garden chairs as dental chairs. Students support the heads and hold the hands of people who are in pain from their rotting teeth, while dentists pull the teeth. There is no water supply, nothing with which the patients can rinse their mouths. They spit in a plastic water bottle.

In the evenings, after dinner, we process. We ponder questions such as “Where did you see the face of God?” or “Who touched you today?” Students are very emotional as they struggle to comprehend the inequalities in world that, up until now, they had no idea existed. Everyone speaks.

When we return to Louisville after 10 days, the new family finds it difficult to settle back into college life. Their spring break experience has dramatically changed them, and they have a hard time responding to queries of “Did you have fun on your vacation?” There is no way to adequately express the sights, sounds and smells to someone who hasn’t had the experience of visiting a developing country.

Bob and I are very proud of the fruits of our labor. Students ARE transformed. They can never un-see, un-experience, un-know what they learned about the world during their trip to Guatemala. Some change their career path, and enter public service fields. Many return to work in Central America, or Africa, or Appalachia or Indonesia. They know they will not change the world, but they are willing to do their part to help ease the lives of those less fortunate. Mission accomplished!

*Dotti Lockhart is a retired JCPS teacher and her husband, Bob, is a retired Bellarmine professor. Reach Dotti and Bob at dottianbob@aol.com.*

# Mentally ill *(continued from page 2)*

sustained recovery. There are now 329 Certified Peer Specialists from across Kentucky who have completed the training and passed a qualifying exam!

Wellspring has been employing persons in recovery for more than twenty years and has thus witnessed the value of peer support on a firsthand basis. Kentucky’s standardized training, however, has brought added credibility to the practice of peer support, which is increasingly accepted as a best practice in the field. It is a practice that augments the work of other mental health providers and instills a kind of hope that

only someone who has “been there, done that” can provide.

*Katherine Dobbins is a LCSW and is Chief Executive Officer of Wellspring. She has over 30 years’ experience in the mental health field and is a board member of the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Louisville Chapter. Wellspring provides housing and psychiatric rehabilitative services to those facing the challenges of mental illness, serving more than 600 adults each year. You can reach Kathy at Katherine.Dobbins@wellspringky.org.*

# Disability *(continued from page 3)*

reported, “a severely mentally ill person is three times more likely to be in jail or prison than in a state mental hospital.”

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported in 2006 that “56 percent of state prisoners, 45 percent of federal prisoners and 64 percent of local jail inmates…” had severe mental health-related issues.

The U.S. prison industrial complex has increasingly become a system of warehousing the poor, which means groups with unacceptably high poverty rates like disabled people and people of color will continue to be overrepresented.

## Disability and social justice in the future

Since 19 percent of us are disabled people, the following reforms would make a major impact for all of us, and give rise to a more inclusive economy and society for disabled people: guaranteed jobs, with a livable wage for all; nationalized, single payer health care for all; guaranteed

housing; replace the prison industrial complex with a humane, public health-centered infrastructure; increasing freedom to organize unions in the workplace; and free, universal education for all.

It is also high time we go a step further, and demand a democratically controlled economy to replace capitalism—an economy collectively owned by all, in which decision making access is available to all. This would also allow further access to disabled people, and other oppressed groups, for self-determination and a humanized existence.

*Alex Bradshaw is an editor with FORsooth Newspaper. Alex is also a co-founder of Louisville’s NO BORDERS Radical Lending Library. He has been published in the periodical Perspectives in Anarchist Theory and Z Magazine. Alex also works as an occupational therapist in community health care with individuals with traumatic brain injuries. You can reach Alex at alexbrad11@hotmail.com.*

# Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

- ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – (485-1248)
- AIDS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (AIM) OF KENTUCKIANA, INC. – (635-4510)
- AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB –4th Tuesday. Contact Enid Redman at 459-0616 or John Mine at pappajohn15@gmail.com. Also see www.America2000plus.net.
- AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – Every month at noon (contact Paul Simmons: 608-7517)
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (Sharon: 637-8951) at Heine Bros. on Douglass Loop
- APPAF [American Palestine Public Affairs Forum] – 2nd Thursday (773-1836)
- BREAD FOR THE WORLD – Last Monday every other month (239-4317 for details)
- CAPA [Citizens Against Police Abuse] –2nd Thursday (778-8130) Meet at Braden Center, 3208 W. Broadway
- CART [Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation] – 3rd Wednesday, Union Station, TARC Board Room
- CLOUT [CITIZENS OF LOUISVILLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING TOGETHER] – (583-1267)
- COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)
- COMMON CAUSE – Ad hoc discussions. Continuous engagement. www.commoncause.org/ky
- COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (223-3655)
- COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – 1st Sunday, 7pm (899-4119)
- EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Saturday (299-9520) www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org
- FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
- FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB – 1st Thursday, papajohn15@bellsouth.net
- FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (609-7985 or 291-2506)
- FRIENDS FOR HOPE (Support Group for Adult Cancer Survivors) – 4th Wednesday at 6:30 PM (451-9600).
- FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)
- GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday, 7pm. (502-644-0659)
- HUMANISTS OF METRO LOUISVILLE – 2nd Monday, 7:00pm (896-4853)
- INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 3rd Wednesday, every other month. (214-7322)
- IRFI [ISLAMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.] – Sundays at 6:00 PM (502-423-1988)
- JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE (jvp.org) – 1st Friday and 4th Thursday. Contact 256-525-5290 or sonrevolution@aol.com
- JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)
- JURISDICTIONARY CLUB OF LOUISVILLE – Know the law and how to use it (500-8161)
- JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – (345-5386)
- KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)
- KITOD [KENTUCKIANA INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON DARFUR] – (553-6172)
- KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)
- KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – (541-9998)
- KITLAC [KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN] – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (502-895-5218), www.louisville-orglwv
- LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
- LOUISVILLE PEAK OIL GROUP – 2nd Saturday (425-6645)
- LPAC [LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY] – (456-6914)
- LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation every Sunday (473-8435)
- LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (893-0788), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org
- LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (LIFE) – 4th Sunday (384-3875)
- METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)
- METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)
- MIGHTY KINDNESS – mightykindness@gmail.com (235-0711)
- MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)
- NAACP [NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE] – 3rd Monday (776-7608)
- NAMI [NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL] – 2nd Monday (245-5287)
- PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)
- PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)
- RCRC [RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE] – (866-606-0988)
- RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)
- SIERRA CLUB INNER CITY OUTINGS – 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM (558-0073)
- WOMEN IN TRANSITION (WIT) – every Wednesday, 6-8 PM (636-0160)

*Note: If your group would like to be added to this list or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by emailing calendar.peace@gmail.org*



# Calendar for peacemakers

*Please e-mail us information about your peace and justice events to [calendar.peace@gmail.com](mailto:calendar.peace@gmail.com)*

Mar 1 to 16 **THE ESSENTIAL ELIJAH PIERCE**. Kentucky Museum of Art & Craft, every day. An exhibit of one the most important wood carvers of the 20th century, Baptist Preacher and barber. His father a former-slave. Visit [www.kentuckyarts.org](http://www.kentuckyarts.org)

Mar 1 to May 2 **IMAGES OF PEACE AND EQUALITY**. The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, Monday to Friday. Drawings and illustrations by Bob Weber an inductee of the National Directory of Artists of Color. Visit [www.kcaah.org](http://www.kcaah.org)

Mar 1 to May 9 **TELLING THE STORY OF ASIA THROUGH HATS**. The Crane House. An exhibit of hats from China, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Central Asia, Japan, Korea and others. Explore Asian cultures and traditions. Visit [www.cranehouse.org](http://www.cranehouse.org)

Mar 1 (Sat) **ANNUAL EDUCATION SUMMIT**. Louisville Urban League at Central High School. Examine ways to turn up parent involvement in their children’s educational achievement. Visit [www.lul.org](http://www.lul.org)

Mar 1 (Sat) **WOMEN, WAR & PEACE FILM SERIES**. Iroquois Public Library, 1PM. Every Saturday. Films tell the stories of women and families struggling in war zones. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Mar 1 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY**. DuValle Education Center, 11AM, every Saturday. African American history, culture, and current issues. Free. Call Prof. Ricky L. Jones for more information, 852-5985.

Mar 1 (Sat) **HOME REPAIR VOLUNTEERS**. Fuller Center for Housing of Louisville. Every Saturday. All skill levels. Ask about our other volunteer opportunities. For more information, call 272-1377.

Mar 1 (Sat) **ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB**. Every Saturday at the Iroquois & Newburg Public Library Branches, 3PM. Also Main Library & Bon Air Library on Thursdays at 7PM. Practice conversational English with neighbors and friends from many parts of the world. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Mar 1 (Sat) **SACK LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS**. Every Saturday, 12pm to 2PM, Bates Community Development Corporation, 1228 S. Jackson Street. Call 636-0573 for more information.

Mar 1 (Sat) **CANVASS NEIGHBORHOODS FOR FRESH FOOD**. Saturdays and Sundays. Join us any time. Fresh Stop Project volunteers take orders door to door for locally grown fruits and vegetables. Visit <http://newrootsproduce.org>

Mar 1 (Sat) **JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST**. Land Stewart Project. Every first Saturday, 9AM to Noon. Also, Wednesdays. Help improve landscape and protect native flora. Gloves, tools, water and on-the-job training provided. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/)

Mar 1 (Sat) **OLMSTEAD PARK VOLUNTEERS**. Bingham Park, 9AM to Noon. Also, Iroquois Park on March 8. Help maintain and restore our urban forests. Visit [www.olmsteadparks.org](http://www.olmsteadparks.org)

Mar 1 (Sat) **LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE**. Every Saturday morning. Also, other days and times. 26 farmers’ markets from California neighborhood to Norton Commons. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown)

Mar 2 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every first Sunday at 7 PM, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the FOR office. Discuss conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for high school students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters. Call Jim Johnson, 262-0148.

Mar 2 (Sun) **CONCERT FOR CONTEMPLATION**. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 7PM. Music by Jazz musician Harry Pickens to fill your need for compassion. Re-connect to your source within. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Mar 3 (Mon) **BICYCLES FOR HEALTH AND CLEANER AIR**. Louisville Bicycle Club, Every Monday, weather permitting. Fat Forty at 8:45AM. Recovery Ride at 6:45PM. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville).

Mar 3 (Mon) **MALE MENTORING**. Byck Elementary School, 9AM. Other times available. Volunteer once a week to mentor a young male student. For more information, call 485.8862.

Mar 3 (Mon) **SISTERS WHO CARE SUPPORT GROUP**. Parkland Family Scholar House, 6PM to 8PM. Every Monday, Enhancement, communication, healthy relationships and family management in a supportive environment. Call 583-6820 for more information.

Mar 3 (Mon) **COMMUNITY COALITION ON THE METRO HEALTHY HOMETOWN INITIATIVES**. Metro Health & Wellness Dept., 5:30PM. Committees meet every Monday on community goals for Mental Health, Violence Prevention, Tobacco Cessation, or Fitness & Nutrition. For more information, call 574-6209.

Mar 4 (Tues) **HOUR OF POWER BOOK DISCUSSIONS**. Newburg Public Library, every first Tuesday, 1PM. Discussions of books by contemporary authors on personal efforts to overcome the challenges of abuse, oppression, deprivation, discrimination, or disabilities. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Mar 5 (Wed) **SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF FORsooth**. Contact John Hartmann, editor, at 502- 296-1793 or [johart.john@gmail.com](mailto:johart.john@gmail.com). Please email new or updated calendar listings to [calendar.peace@gmail.com](mailto:calendar.peace@gmail.com).

Mar 5 (Wed) **NOONTIME INTERFAITH MEDITATIONS**. Every Wednesday from 12:10 to 12:30 at Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown. Weekly rotation includes Zen Buddhist silence, Lecto Divina, Vipassana Buddhist practices, and Creative Visualization. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Mar 5 (Wed) **NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS**. Blackacre State Nature Preserve and Historic Homestead. Every Wednesday, 9AM to Noon. Help care for gardens, trails, and farmland. Visit [www.blackacreconservancy.org](http://www.blackacreconservancy.org)

Mar 5 (Wed) **CITIZENSHIP TUTORS**. Kentucky Refugee Ministries, 6:30 to 8:30PM. Every Wednesday. Also every Thursday, 11AM to 1PM. Help students study for the citizenship exam. Ask about our other volunteer opportunities. Call 479-9180 Ext 57 for more information.

Mar 5 (Wed) **THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM**. Every first Wednesday. Sustainability and relationships that create a community for change. Bring your lunch. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

Mar 5 (Wed) **FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION**. Crescent Hill Public Library, 7 PM. Eight Wednesdays. A group discussion on many of today’s most urgent foreign policy issues. Engage in world events. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Mar 6 to 8 **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE BLACK FAMILY IN AMERICA**. UofL. Examine 50 years of civil rights and its impact. Speakers include Rep. John Lewis and Rev. Al Sharpton. For more information, call 852-0229.

Mar 6 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**. Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Mar 6 (Thurs) **PEACE EDUCATION’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY**. Join the celebration of Peace Ed’s work for conflict resolution, peer mediation, and prejudice reduction. Visit [www.peaceeducationprogram.org](http://www.peaceeducationprogram.org)

Mar 8 to May 11 **STIRING THE FIRE**. Muhammad Ali Center, Monday to Saturday. Photography on the lives of woman and girls worldwide. <http://alicerenter.org>

Mar 8 (Sat) **EARTHSAVE POTLUCK**. Crescent Hill Ministries, 6PM to 8PM. Every 2nd Saturday. Bring a plant-based dish and share your recipe. Discuss healthy food and behavior change. Mix, mingle, music. For more information call 299-9520.

Mar 8 (Sat) **BIRDS, ECOLOGY AND RELATIONSHIPS**. Beckham Bird Club at the Clifton Center, 7PM. Every 2nd Saturday. Deepen your personal relationship with nature by observing and studying local birds. Visit [www.beckhambirdclub.org](http://www.beckhambirdclub.org)

Mar 8 (Sat) **REACHING INDIVIDUALS BEYOND THE BARS**. Catholic Charities of Louisville, 9AM to 3PM. Learn more about offender re-entry in Kentucky. Call 636-9786 for more information.

Mar 8 (Sat) **PLEDGE OF RESISTANCE AGAINST THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE**. A Collaboratory for Social Innovation (former James Lees Presbyterian Church), 9AM to 3PM. Training for potential civil disobedience. (Attendees are not obligated to risk arrest.) Learn what you can do. Call 644-0659 for more information.

Mar 9 (Sun) **VETERANS FOR PEACE**. Every second Sunday, 3PM to 4PM. Heine Bros. Coffee at the Douglas Loop, Call 632-2177 for more information.

Mar 9 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE**. Every second Sunday. A remembrance of all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. 5PM to 6 PM, Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community). For more information, call Harold Trainer at 387-9490.

Mar 9 (Sun) **YEARLINGS CLUB COMMUNITY FORUM SERIES**. The Yearlings Club 4PM to 6pm. A conversation on comprehensive immigration reform. Implementation of The Dream Act. Visit <http://yearlingsclub.org>

Mar 9 (Sun) **HOPE AND HEALING**: Remember and celebrate the lives of victims of homicide and suicide. Interfaith Paths to Peace at Muhammad Ali Center, 4PM to 6PM. Create a personal memorial and participate in a ceremony of remembrance. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

March 9 (Sun) **GROUND FOR HOPE**. Highland Baptist Church, 2PM to 7PM. Presenters include Dr. Trisha Tull, Prof. Emerita at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and author, Rabbi Joe Rapport, GreenFaith leaders, and speakers of many faiths. Deepen your spirituality. Visit [festivaloffaiths@interfaithrelations.org](mailto:festivaloffaiths@interfaithrelations.org)

Mar 10 (Mon) **URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**. Louisville Urban League, Every 2nd Monday, 6PM. Networking opportunities for emerging leaders of all minority backgrounds. Call the Urban League office for more info: 561-6830.

Mar 11 (Tues) **FOOD IN NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY COALITION**. Shawnee Public Library, every 2nd Tuesday at 6:30PM. Help assess hunger needs and organize community action. For more information, call 819-2957.

Mar 11 (Tues) **FREE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR**. Energy Pros Sustainable Home Education Group, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Learn the basics. Visit [www.theenergypros.net](http://www.theenergypros.net)

Mar 11 (Tues) **GREEN CONVENE**. Every second Tuesday at The Highland Green Building. 6:30PM. Join residents and policy-makers in examining ways to connect the health of our community with our environment. Visit [www.greenconvene.org](http://www.greenconvene.org)

Mar 11 (Tues) **AMERICAN A COMMUNITY CENTER**. Orientation at 7pm every second Tuesday. Learn how you can help immigrant families learn practical skills, join social networks, and improve language skills. Call 366-7813 to RSVP.

Mar 11 (Tues) **MOVIMIENTO DE MUJERES LATINA -- LATINA WOMEN’S MOVEMENT**, La Casita Center, Every second Tuesday, 5:30PM. Network, mentor, find friends and share. Call 322-4036 for more information.

Mar 11 (Sun) **LUNCH & LEARN AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES**. St. Anthony Campus, 11:30AM to 1PM. Tour facilities and learn more about community programs. Call 636-9786 for more information.

Mar 12 (Wed) **KENTUCKY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (KITLAC)**. Every second Wednesday at the 1741 Building on Frankfort Avenue. 7:30 PM. For more information, call David Horvath at 479-9262 or Pat Geier at 456-6586.

Mar 12 (Wed) **LOUISVILLE FORUM**. Every 2nd Wednesday, Noon at Vincenzo’s Downtown. Speakers on current public issues. nonpartisan discussion. For details, call 329-0111.

Mar 13 (Thurs) **AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM (APPAPF)**. Every second Thursday. A documentary film exploring the situation in Middle East will be presented. 7 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 119. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Mar 13 (Thurs) **FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE**. 2nd Thursday of odd numbered months, 6PM. Help plan and participate in international goodwill exchanges. Visit [www.thefriendshipforce.org](http://www.thefriendshipforce.org)

Mar 14 (Fri) **AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR**. Western Public Library, 10:30AM. Peruse the African American book collection. Short documentary. Light refreshments. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Mar 14 (Fri) **A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY**. The Louisville Astronomical Society at dusk in Tom Sawyer Park. Every 2nd Friday. Look through telescopes at planets, our moon, stars, double stars, the Orion nebula and other wonders. Visit [www.louisville-astro.org](http://www.louisville-astro.org)

Mar 15 to May 26 **GIVE PEACE A CHANGE**. Muhammad Ali Center, Monday to Saturday. Join John Lennon & Yoko Ono’s “Bed-In” for peace in 1969 through stories and photos. <http://alicercenter.org>

Mar 15 (Sat) **PEAK OIL**. 3rd Saturday this month only, St. Matthews Public Library, 10 AM to Noon. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Mar 15 **GROWING FOOD AND COMMUNITY**. 15 Thousand Farmers, at Dismas St. Ann’s on Algonquin Pkwy, the 15th day each month. Share ideas and experiences about growing your own food. Taste samples. Visit [www.15thousandfarmers.com](http://www.15thousandfarmers.com)

Mar 15 (Sat) **WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH**. Highlands / Shelby Park Public Library, 3PM. See Ella Es el Matador (She Is the Matador) a documentary on the surprising history of women and bullfighting in Spain. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Mar 15 (Sat) **ANNUAL WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL**. The Clifton Center. Beautiful and engaging eye-opening films. See the most remote places on the planet. Visit <http://kwalliance.org>

Mar 16 to 21 **A WEEK WITH THOMAS MERTON**. The Merton Center, Bellarmine University. Join our annual Road Scholar educational adventure created by Elderhostel. Call 272-8161 for more information.

Mar 17 (Mon) **SOCIAL CHANGE BOOK CLUB**. Every third Monday, Heine Bros., 119 Chenoweth, 6PM. For book list, Visit [www.greenlistlouisville.com](http://www.greenlistlouisville.com)

March 17-21 **ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK** at U of L. Author Pamela Olson, Prof. Avery Kolers, and others discuss ethnic cleansing and segregation in Israel and Palestinian. Includes documentary film. For dates and times, email Students for Justice in Palestine at: [louisvillesjp@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillesjp@gmail.com)

Mar 18 (Tues) **ANNUAL KENTUCKY WOMEN REMEMBERED CEREMONY**. The Kentucky Commission on Women in The Capitol Rotunda. Observance of Women’s History Month and unveiling of a special watercolor portrait. Visit [kentuckywomen.ky.gov](http://kentuckywomen.ky.gov)

Mar 18 (Tues) **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WORKSHOP**. Every third Tuesday, 11AM to 1PM. Expressions Café at The Council on Developmental Disabilities. Learn how an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is prepared for a child with a disability. Address barriers to inclusion. Call 584-1239

Mar 13 (Tues) **REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS**. Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter. 8:30AM to 9:30AM. Also, March 25. One hour interactive tour of VOA’s work and programs for self-determination. For more information, call 636-4660

Mar 19 (Wed) **INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB**. Main Public Library, Noon. Every third Wednesday. Read your way around the world. See the booklist at our webpage. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Mar 20 (Thurs) **MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT & ADVOCACY**. NAMI Louisville every third Thursday at 3PM. Also Saturdays and Sundays. Support group for families. Draw on years of experience. Visit [www.namilouisville.org](http://www.namilouisville.org)

Mar 20 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH**. Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 11:30AM. Recognized speakers on compelling social, political and spiritual subjects. For more information, contact Cathy Ford, 458-1223, [fordhoff@bellsouth.net](mailto:fordhoff@bellsouth.net) or Polk Culpepper, 948-2077, [cathyculpepper@insightbb.com](mailto:cathyculpepper@insightbb.com)

Mar 20 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING**. Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 10. 6:30 PM. Every 3rd Thursday. We need volunteers! Many hands make light work, and the opposite is also true! So please join us if you can. Call 451-5658 for more information.

Mar 20 (Thurs) **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CASA)**. Orientation, Noon to 1PM. Learn how you can help defend the rights of abused and neglected children in our community. Call 595-4911 to RSVP

Mar 20 (Thurs) **AFRICAN AMERICANS IN TELEVISION**. Bon Air Public Library, 6PM. Troy Johnson discusses how diversity in television programs affects public opinion. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Mar 20 to Apr 6 **THE COLOR PURPLE ON STAGE**. The Jewish Community Center Stage. A story of hope, a testament to the healing power of love and a celebration of life. Visit [www.centerstagejcc.org](http://www.centerstagejcc.org)

Mar 25 (Tues) **FREE NONPROFIT STARTUP CLINIC**. Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 3:30PM. Learn about the fundamentals and how to avoid the pitfalls. Visit [www.cnpe.org](http://www.cnpe.org)

Mar 25 (Tues) **GREEN NETWORKING**. Louisville Green Drinks, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Every 4th Tuesday. Meet ecology-minded business people. Exchange ideas. Visit [www.greendrinks.org](http://www.greendrinks.org)

Mar 25 (Tues) **GROUND FOR HOPE**. Higland Baptist Church. Workshops on Earth Preaching, sacred texts, worship and religious education. Speakers include Rabbi Joe Rapport, Camile Helminski, Richard Cizik and Claire McGowan. Visit [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org)

Mar 26 (Wed) **COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE**. Noon, meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Metro Louisville’s ten-year campaign for compassion. Call 214-7322 for more information.

Mar 29 (Sat) **CULTURAL SHOWCASE: WOMEN OF THE WORLD**. Iroquois Public Library, 12PM. Meet women from all corners of the our community’s diaspora. Learn more about lives of woman around the world. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

## OUT OF TOWN

Mar 3 (Mon) **KENTUCKY MIGRANT NETWORK COALITION**. Lexington KY at the Cardinal Valley Center, 12PM. Get better acquainted with Kentucky’s immigrant and refugee families. For more information, call 859-258-3824.

Mar 5 (Wed) **50th ANNIVERSARY KY CIVIL RIGHTS COMMEMORATION**. Kentuckians For The Commonwealth in Frankfort, KY. A march and rally in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s march in Frankfort. Visit [www.kftc.org](http://www.kftc.org)

Mar 6 (Thurs) **ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SALT RIVER WATERSHED WATCH**. Division of Water, Frankfort, KY. Updates and training for volunteers who conduct surveys on streams, rivers, and lakes. Data collected helps develop conservation plans for the region. For more information, call 800-928-0045.

Mar 6 (Thurs) **INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE**. Lexington, KY at West Main and Broadway, 5:30PM to 6:30PM. Every Thursday for eleven years. For more information, Call 859-327-6277.

Mar 10 (Mon) **KWRRI ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM**, Kentucky Water Resources Research Institute. Learn more about the water research in Kentucky and related volunteer opportunities. Visit <http://kwalliance.org>

Mar 16 (Sun) **CKCPJ ANNUAL PEACE FAIR AND DINNER**. Central KY Council on Peace and Justice in Lexington, 5PM to 8PM. Meet friends who think globally and act locally for nonviolence, equity, diversity, dignity, and human rights. Visit [www.peaceandjusticeky.org](http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org)