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Sojourn to Ferguson – mourning, anger, organizing

By Channele B. Helm

It was raining when we arrived in Ferguson, Missouri on a Saturday morning. I hadn't expected it to rain, but I thought it fit the mood our group was in. To much of our surprise, none of us slept the night before. We were either too anxious or distracted by the purge. I didn't bring a raincoat, but I thought, "What's rain to the tear gas bombs?" I would take the downpour however it came.

West Florissant Avenue looked so familiar to me. I had been here before but I had never been here before. Most of the small businesses had boards on them; but were open and running. In that moment, I realized I didn't know if they were already boarded due to the socio-economic reasons or if it was a result of the riots. I wasn't used to businesses operating with boards on them. This sinking feeling came over me. I looked to the opposite side of the street: the same thing, and then there it was, the QuickTrip store where we were supposed to meet.

Confusion ran over me as I saw residents stationed in the parking lot and organizing between the non-functioning gas pumps. It was 9:47 am and these people were ready.

We arrived at Greater St. Mark's Church, the organizing site for our march.



Channele Helm

Later we learned that this was the hub for most of the organizations that were providing direct action and meetings around the killing of Michael Brown. We entered the sanctuary where there were a few people seated in pews, attentive as if a full sermon was going on.

A few men in suits were fumbling around on stage. I thought this might have been a scene for some theatrics. It wasn't. The people in the pews were seeking peace.

I asked a young woman if this was the Organization for Black Struggle (OBS), the organization that I was in contact with for the march. She said she didn't know who the people were, and she didn't know anything about a march. As I glanced at a few other people, they only shook their heads "No." I asked the men in suits if they were with OBS. They only stated that there was a program to be held in a few minutes.

Those men in suits were the Nation of Islam, and those people were residents. I could only assume the residents were meditating and praying, with all the disruption around them, in the church, in their city, and in their lives.

When we actually found our organizer, we were rushed to the adjoining school where we greeted each other, received literature, received our positions within the march, and began planning for the trainings afterwards.

After lunch, we decided to park near Canfield Lane, the street where Michael Brown was murdered. We happened to be parked near the QuickTrip store. We walked



down Canfield to the large crowd assembled that was listening to speakers denounce the actions of the Ferguson Police Department, County Prosecutor Robert McCollough, and praise the life of "Mike Mike."

We were mostly made up of those who had traveled from outside of St. Louis, some local organizers, Amnesty International, Jesse Jackson's crew, and some community members.

As we set off on the march, the residents outside on the block began to cheer and chant. As we made it past the QuickTrip store, the Ferguson police had come out and taken their positions. They made sure

to bring the entire department and every piece of gear they had. You could hear the sounds of Lil Boosie's song (a Louisiana rapper), "F**k the Police" playing louder as they drove by.

Once we ended at the church, the Nation was trying to recruit marchers for a sermon. Jesse and his people had set up in the back parking lot where we would hold a small rally and listen to requests. He shouted his usual "this and that" against the system and how we have to be "this and the other".

At one point, he asked for donations, and unbeknownst to him or us, we had

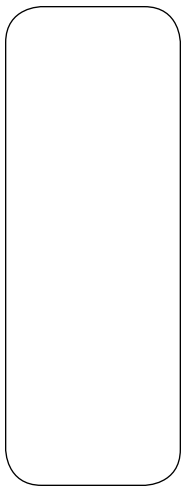
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Unity returning to movement, says hobbyist turned activist Eddie Davis

By Brian Arbenz

Eddie Davis, whose photographs have chronicled the passions and inner workings of Louisville's justice and peace struggles for more than 20 years, credits Anne Braden and Rev. Louis Coleman with turning him from a hobbyist to a street documentarian and activist.

Today, as chairperson of the black caucus of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Davis said that longtime Braden-led alliance and the closely allied Justice Resource Center founded by Coleman have regained their momentum after years of divisions.

After Braden died in 2006, then Coleman died two years later, both organizations underwent factional splits, which Davis described as ranging from differences in political principles to personality clashes.

"We're weren't growing and developing as we should," Davis said in an interview June 2. "A lot of times the alliance has been a house divided... Some favored charter schools. Others did not. Some favored Jessica Green. Others favored Attica Scott."

He credits Kathleen Parks, who this year became the chairperson of the Kentucky Alliance after returning to Louisville from Atlanta, with promoting unity and reinvigorating the organization's work.

He said the alliance also is working more closely with other groups, such as WIT (formerly called Women in Transition) and the area chapter of the Al Sharpton-backed National Action Network.

And this revived harmony comes just as crucial issues are facing Louisville and Kentucky, including boosting the minimum

wage, restoring statewide voting rights for felons and backing the claims of innocence of the "Misidentified 4," Davis noted.

Those are four youths arrested after mob attacks in March on and near Louisville's downtown waterfront. Their defense attorney, Jan Waddell, won exoneration for the four, showing a grand jury store surveillance video and cell phone data. The alliance worked with Waddell on the case.

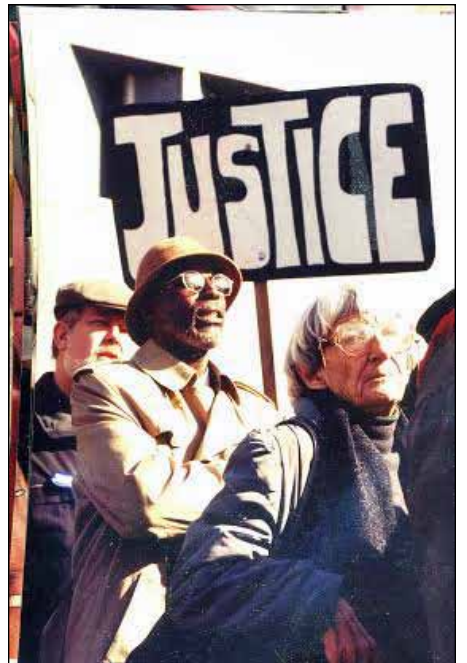
Davis' role with the Kentucky Alliance is one facet of his impact on the city where he was born in 1950 to parents whose skill at photography was passed onto him as he grew up in the area of the Shawnee and Parkland neighborhoods.

His father, a native of New Castle, Ky., and his mother, who was from Louisiana, be-

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Eddie Davis



Eddie Davis photo of Anne Braden, active at a justice rally in Louisville

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US actions gave rise to ISIS

By Ibrahim Imam

ISIS is a movement that started basically in parts of Jordan, parts of Saudi Arabia, and now it's in Syria and Iraq. It is not really an offshoot of Islam. It is a kind of fellowship of a leader who started in Saudi Arabia in the 1800s. His name is Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab and he is the one who really started Wahhabism. It is a group that believes in following Islam in a very austere way. They do not believe in visiting graves of the dead ones. They don't believe that Islam should idealize the grave of Prophet Muhammad. They believe that men should not wear any kind of jewelry or gold or anything like that, even including wedding bands. So they basically believe in a very austere fellowship of Islam and they really have a model which is basically one God, and then one country or one caliphate as in one king. Initially, when they started in Saudi Arabia they and the Saudi family were not friends... they were actually enemies in a sense fighting each other over control of Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's authority became very strong and they co-opted them by practicing some of the teachings and techniques that they want as part of the society and at the same time trying to divert them from the local problems internally by pointing them out towards the external struggle between the Arabic countries and governments or whoever the enemy was at that time.

I think that their political clout that they derive right now is really something that Saudi Arabia and the US government in a sense are kind of responsible for. There is a very strong belief in the Arab world that al-Baghdadi who claims himself to be a caliphate and who was actually at one time captured and interrogated by the CIA, that his capture wasn't really a capture but that was really a period in which al-Baghdadi was indoctrinated and trained in what the US government wants to see in that part of the world. This really all came about or pushed mainly by Saudi Arabia as an aftermath of

what happened in Iraq after our invasion of Iraq and taking out Saddam Hussein. Let me back up a little bit and tell you about when George Bush (the first) defeated the Iraqis and kicked them out of Kuwait, Colon Powell and the US at that time were actually capable of reaching Baghdad and capable of taking out Saddam Hussein. It was only under the pressure of the Saudi's on George Bush the father that they convinced him that removing Saddam Hussein will actually lead to the dismantlement of Iraq as a country and will give rise to the Shia presence and Iraq alliance in the region. George Bush the father was convinced of that and that's why he left Saddam Hussein in place, they established no-fly zones and they left a strong Sunni presence at least not against the US but they left a strong Sunni presence against Iran in the region. This where the neocons such as Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, and Elliott Abrams, are more disingenuous than many of us realize. It was these neocons that convinced George Bush the son to invade Iraq and they are lying through their teeth when they say they did not really envision what was going to happen to Iraq. They all knew very well that Iraq was going to be fractured into a Sunni region, a Shiite region, and a Kurdish region and it was their full intention to actually give autonomy to the Kurds and completely dismantle Iraq as a country. When they say that they did not know that and that was not in the plan they are lying. Maybe George Bush, the son, did not know it and maybe they did not explain it to him, but that was their ulterior motive and that is exactly what they wanted to achieve. What they did not anticipate and what they did not plan for is the strong alliance between the Shias and Iran. When Iraq was broken into pieces and when a strong Shia government, mainly Al-



Ibrahim Imam

Maliki's government came into power and established strong ties with Iran that is when Saudi Arabia started feeling threatened and that's when the US saw that what they did in Iraq really backfired and when they talk about the unintended sequences they are not really talking about the fracturing of Iraq. If that's what they mean they are lying. What they are really talking about here is that they did not anticipate a strong alliance between an Iraqi government and Iran. This is the biggest threat that Saudi Arabia now feels in the region. So what Saudi Arabia now is aiming to do is to establish a strong Sunni presence in Iraq. One way to achieve that is very similar or very parallel to what the US, with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia, tried to do in fighting Russia in Afghanistan, they got somebody like Osama bin Laden and they established a strong Moslem power that they would use in to getting rid of the Russians and then later on we will figure out how to basically get rid of them as we did with Al Qaeda or by making them collapse under the weight of becoming a government, becoming a power and that was the plan in Afghanistan. That's what bin Laden was created to serve. They did not anticipate bin Laden becoming a nationalist and for him to want to get rid of the American presence in Saudi Arabia. What happened in Iraq is that Saudi Arabia and the United States tried in several various ways to try to strengthen the Sunnis without going to extremes against the Shia, and they could not. One of the mistakes that the US did in Iraq is dissolving the Sunni Army which was at that time the Baathist army. This left a huge void that the Shia were able to fill. So to try to backtrack and create a Sunni presence, they in a sense invented and allowed for a strong force like ISIS to come into existence. They anticipated that it will serve two purposes. One of them is to keep Assad in check in Syria and at the same time work an alliance with the Baathists in Iraq and become a power they can actually rely on, especially Saudi Arabia, in fighting the Shia influence and maybe force al-Maliki into establishing a more diverse government where the Sunnis are not as disenfranchised as they are right now. What was not anticipated is that ISIS will grow and control a huge amount of territory as it did in such a very short period of time.

Also, to their surprise they were counting more on the Kurdish Peshmerga to be able to stop ISIS but what happened is with the quick advance of ISIS into Mosul and taking a huge cache of weapons that were actually given to the Iraqi Army by the US they became a force that neither the Peshmerga nor the Iraqi army could stop. ISIS fighters are very ideological in their beliefs and with the cache of weapons that they control now they've become a force that would threaten even the interests of the Saudis and the US in that region. Establishing a Caliphate is neither what the US counted on nor what the Saudis wanted. What is scaring the Saudis now is that this serves as a reminder of the Wahhabis within Saudi Arabia and of when the Wahhabis and the Saudi royal family were fighting. They figured that a Sunni force could become a formidable Wahhabi force right at their borders. This realization made them decide that maybe they had lost control of what ISIS was intended to be and that maybe it has become a threat to them and the US. That's why all of a sudden now Saudi Arabia and the United States are trying to figure out how we weaken ISIS. Notice that they are not trying to completely take them out or dismantle them because this cannot be done from the air. To take them out completely we have to go down and put boots on the ground. What we want to achieve is to keep them in check. That's why we are now strengthening the Kurds and the Peshmerga. We're providing them and the Iraqi army with air cover and we're making them advance up to a certain point where we would claim back certain territories such as the Mosul Dam and get them out of Kirkuk which the Kurds want as part of their territory. This will remove the threat on Bagdad while leaving them also pacifies some of the Sunnis.

Ibrahim Imam is a Palestinian American from Jerusalem who was born in 1948 as a Palestinian refuge in Damascus, Syria. He moved to the U.S. in 1971. Ibrahim has been very active in raising awareness of the plight of Palestinian people and in exposing the Louisville progressive community to the events in the Middle East and to the role we as Americans play in that. Ibrahim Imam can be reached at inimam@me.com.

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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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

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For information contact:

Dr. Paul M. Pearson, Thomas Merton Center



www.merton.org/roots/



Update on Casa Materna

Submitted by Joan Dubay

Thank you for the wonderful article about the Casa Materna by Kitty Madden. (FORsooth, September, 2014, page 4). Louisville has an active Circle of Support for Casa. Contact us to see how you can participate.

Friends of Esquipulas: Funds a salary for Casa Staff. Visit friendsofesquipulas.org to view photos and learn more about local delegations who have visited the Casa.

Mama's Hip, 1559 Bardstown Road: Has chosen Casa as International Connection with mothers. Sponsors a bilingual/Spanish speaking playgroup. Most recently mothers at Mama's Hip sent baby clothes to the Casa. Contact shannonstone@mamas-hip.com.

Sewing Circle: A small group of seamstresses have been making maternity gowns for the mothers at the Casa. We are always looking for donations of 100% cotton pastel/print fabric or additional seamstresses. Contact jdubay@gmail.com

International Community Group: Has hosted Kitty Madden when she is in town to a community meal. The group contributes to the Casa yearly as part of their faith mission. To learn about how your group of friends or small community might support the Casa contact susanscorner1@hotmail.com

A handcuffed protester at 90 – my lovely friend Hedy Epstein

By Ira Grupper

Hedy Epstein is so lovely. I was invited by Hedy to attend her 90th birthday party, in St. Louis, Missouri, in August. What a fabulous gathering it was.

We first met in the 1980's, both of us active in that marvelous and hell-raising New Jewish Agenda, she in St. Louis, Missouri and I here in Louisville, Kentucky (I was National Co-Chair of the group as well, 5,000 members in the U.S and Canada).

I think it was in 2009 that we had last seen each other. We were both in Cairo, Egypt, along with maybe 1,300 others from thirty plus countries—trying to gain entrance to the Gaza Strip. Gaza was then, as now, blockaded by Israel, and Egypt, slowly losing its supply of food, and so much more. Palestinian women with pregnancy complications were sometimes stuck near Israeli border crossings, unable to get to hospitals.

Hedy so personifies Helen Keller's words: "Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence." Nor was her journey, and optimism, easily achieved.

Hedy, a German Jew, traveled to England on a Kindertransport (children's transport) in 1939. All but two of her

family were put to death at the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Holocaust.

Turning again to Helen Keller: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

The cry of an anguished Jewish people, "never again," meant to Hedy never again to Jews. But it also meant to Hedy never again to our Palestinian cousins, to anyone under oppression's yoke and facing death's door.

So, dear Hedy became an organizer, a la Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Hedy's support for justice for the Palestinian people does not sit well with narrow nationalist Jews, right-wing Christians thirsting for "the Rapture" or anti-Arab racists.

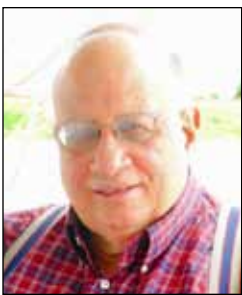
And then there is Ferguson, Missouri, the St. Louis suburb where a white police officer shot to death Michael Brown, an unarmed eighteen year old Black man. I had returned from Hedy's party, heady from the enjoyment of it all.

What do I see on TV? Hedy Epstein, handcuffed and being led to a paddy wagon by two police officers. Hedy and others had gone to the governor's office to urge him

to bring peace to the embattled African American segment of Ferguson. 90 year old Hedy Epstein and others are on their way to jail.

Hedy's courage in demanding justice for Palestinians in occupied Gaza, and the violation of her right of peaceful protest in defense of racial justice in the U.S., has become strongly linked. We have not, alas, seen U.S. mainstream Jewish organizations on the picket lines for justice for Michael Brown.

This happens at a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe. As the Guardian reported, Aug. 7th: "In the space of just one week last month, according to Crif, the umbrella group for France's Jewish organisations, eight synagogues were attacked. One, in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles, was firebombed by a 400-strong mob. A kosher supermarket and pharmacy were smashed and looted; the crowd's chants and banners included 'Death to Jews' and



Ira Grupper

'Slit Jews' throats'. That same weekend, in the Barbes neighbourhood of the capital, stone-throwing protesters burned Israeli flags: 'Israhell', read one banner."

The crimes Israel commits against the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza has everything to do with its cold indifference and aggressor imperialism. It has nothing to do with Jews as a nationality. To feel otherwise is to conciliate anti-Semitism.

To return to our wonderful Hedy Epstein, perhaps a story I heard many years ago can sum things up better than I can: A rabbi asked his students to define when the dawn has come and thus the time for morning prayers. One suggested, "It is light when you can tell a donkey from a horse." Another said, "When you can distinguish a fruit tree from a fig tree."

The rabbi turned away all their answers, and told them: "When you can look into the face of every man and woman and see there the face of your brother and sister, then it is light. All else is darkness."

Happy birthday, Hedy. As it says in the Yiddish language: "Biz Hundret un Tsvantsig" (May you live until 120).

Contact Ira Grupper: irag@iglou.com

Louisville labor struggle: workers stand up at NeuroRestorative

By Alex Bradshaw

I asked my fellow workers at NeuroRestorative a simple question this summer: do you believe that if we stand together to form a union, we can make work a better place? This simple question would have much resonance and unleash a series of complex and tense sequence of events.

Every discipline had its own issues. However, we all had a collective desire to counter corporate hegemony over our daily working lives – we wanted a union for a collective voice on the job, a seat at the decision-making table and more autonomy in our daily affairs as we work with the clients we serve. There were certainly issues with wages, benefits and conditions as a whole.

As any union organizer or labor activist will tell you, it's not easy to motivate workers to stand up and fight back in 2014. Due to harsh and concerted right-wing repression of workers' rights (see the designed-to-destroy-unions "right-to-work" laws in nearly half of US states, which allow freeloaders to ignore legally binding contracts and not pay their union dues, while the union is required to represent them) and internal by-the-book anti-union propaganda campaigns ("union avoidance" is a cottage industry now amongst conscience-proof lawyers, who don't mind fighting to undermine working people in America), the 21st century worker faces a barrage of scare tactics and ideological manipulation.

The repression from the right is palpable and tangible. Union representation is dwindling in this country. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, union representation has gone from roughly 20 percent in the 1980s, to today's approximate 11 percent. The New York Times reported that the US "peak unionization rate was 35 percent during the 1950s," but since then there's been a steady decline. This decline has been parallel to the organized efforts from prominent Republican politicians (a party dedicated solely to the aspirations of the super-rich) and business interests fighting collective power held by organized workers – a dangerous idea to the 1 percent who controls our economy.

Much to my own surprise, the previously unimaginable happened at my workplace this summer: due to my own organizing efforts with seven courageous fellow workers who joined me on the organizing committee, we signed up roughly 70 percent of workers to petition to form a union at NeuroRestorative. NeuroRestorative is a company specializing in brain injury rehabilitation. Our petition cards were promptly sent to the National Labor Relations Board



Members of the NeuroRestorative organizing committee. From left to right: Alex Bradshaw, Nancy Bricking, Sara Sutphin and Nancy Smith.

(NLRB). Our region's NLRB branch is in Cincinnati, Ohio.

I'll give the conclusion away now: we didn't win a union. Many of the so-called "professional" staff, i.e., speech therapists, psychologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists, seemed to identify with management—they didn't see themselves as "working class" in a traditional sense. The direct-care workers, the life-skills trainers (LSTs), were much more enthusiastic as a whole. I'll elaborate more on this later.

I knew the risks. Like my comrade and friend Ira Grupper told me early on, the fate of an internal organizer at the workplace is often being fired. Lucky for us, unlike Ira's unfortunate early days as an internal union organizer, we can report that none of us have been canned; however, there has been a fair amount of harassment from management aimed at the organizing committee.

As for Ira, he is an amazing brother, a labor and civil rights movement veteran and a hell of a leader. I'm fortunate to know him; and I'm honored to share the pages of this newspaper with such a righteous and brilliant comrade. I reached out to Ira first in this process for insight and guidance.

The organizing committee itself was a microcosm of this diversity and inclusiveness we desired for our union: four LSTs, an occupational therapist (yours truly), an occupational therapy assistant, a psychologist, and a counselor made up our militant bunch of troublemakers – taking a step out of the comfort zone into certifiably uncertain territory. My personal gratitude and respect for my comrades, my sisters and brothers on the organizing committee, is difficult to articulate in a newspaper article. I cherish them all like family for delving into this joyous mess with me.

Another extended family developed through working with the National

Conference of Firemen and Oilers/Service Employees International Union (NCFO/SEIU Chapter 320)—this was the local union we chose due to having a great rapport the organizers and SEIU's long relationship with healthcare workers. Richard Becker, Robert Smith and Jason Ware – union organizers extraordinaire – are our new comrades and brothers. They fought side-by-side with us throughout the process. They've become our friends, and I plan to do political and organizing work with them in the future.

We made a difficult decision: the internal organizing committee, with the organizers from the SEIU, decided to pull out of the election due to dwindling support from our fellow workers. Management was able to persuade and intimidate a large enough swath of our workforce to signify to us that the support wasn't there to win an election. We started this affair to form a strong union; throughout the process, we realized we were losing support.

We saw a disturbing trend of so-called

"professional" workers viewing themselves as on the side of human resources and management. This is a contemporary problem organizers in the present day must grapple with: much of the 21st century American proletariat (i.e., folks working for a wage or salary who do not own or control the means of production) view themselves as middle class and affluent. This is deceiving. Most are in astronomical student loan debt secondary to having no control over the corporate entities that employ them.

The dominant, conservative ideology – that is, unions are evil, and we (management) are one of you, so trust us to make the changes you need – coupled with fear (many supporters didn't want to publicly support the union due to fear of retaliation) likely killed the momentum we gained in the early stages of this process.

Management's fear of unionization led to many concessions. I can say without ambiguity that we improved our workplace. We didn't lose. I'm comforted by the near-daily conversations I have with workers: If I knew then what I knew now about what they (management) were telling us, I would have been on your side, a colleague told me recently. Fellow workers have apologized to me personally for supporting management's crass "Vote No" campaign. I remind them that six months (when we'll legally be able to petition to vote again) isn't so far away.

As the late left historian Howard Zinn said, "You can't be neutral on a moving train." Never again will the committee members see the workplace as a neutral zone – one in which we simply clock in and take orders. The workplace is never a neutral zone. We will see the workplace as a place where we now know how to wage a fight. We will see it not as a place where workers must be disempowered for 8 hours

(continued on page 5)



The Presbyterian Church divests from the Israeli occupation (part 1)

By Russ Greenleaf

On June 20, 2014, the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUSA) voted to divest from corporations that were profiting from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.

(“Divest” means sell its stock in those corporations and refuse to invest in them in the future.)

Polly Johnson and Reverend David Johnson of Louisville were active in the ten-year-long effort to bring their church to this historic moment. They were present at the Presbyterian General Assembly in Detroit, Michigan where divestment passed by seven votes (310 to 303).

Reverend David Johnson said, “The Presbyterian church has been concerned about the suffering of the Palestinians since 1948. That was when Zionist militants forced three quarters of a million Palestinians out of their homes to create the state of Israel. Since 1948, the church had been aware that those Palestinians had been treated unfairly and were continuing to suffer as refugees.”

In 2000, the church’s concerns intensified when the Israeli government turned its back on the Oslo peace process and returned to its original policy of using brute military force to crush the Palestinians’ aspirations for freedom and dignity.

In 2002, church’s highest official, Clifton Kilpatrick, sent a letter to Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon saying, “While we do not condone the acts of violence by certain Palestinian extremists, we are appalled that Israel, in response, has continued to punish the entire Palestinian population and its leaders who have been your government’s partners in the peace process.”

In 2004, as Israel continued to expand Jewish settlements and undermine prospects for an independent Palestinian state, the Presbyterian Church voted overwhelmingly (431 to 62) to “initiate a process of phased, selective divestment” from corporations



Polly and David Johnson

doing business in Israel. This was in line with the church’s principled divestment actions of the past, including divestment from companies doing business with Apartheid South Africa.

Polly Johnson said, “The 2004 divestment vote wasn’t expected to result in immediate divestment. It was understood to be the first step in a gradual process. It authorized the church’s Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee (MRTI) to investigate several companies to see if they were complicit in Israel’s military actions and human rights violations against the Palestinians. Then MRTI would then engage the companies in dialog to try to change their behavior. Only if every effort at dialog were to fail would the church actually divest from the companies.”

In response to this first step toward divestment, the Israel Lobby launched a major effort to pressure the Presbyterian Church to take divestment off the table.

The Lobby mobilized its many supporters at local Jewish Community Federations and synagogues and told them to meet with Presbyterian leaders to try to talk them out of divestment. Rabbis and Jewish leaders in Louisville and across the country told Presbyterian pastors that divestment from companies doing business with Israel was anti-Semitic and hurtful to Jews. They said if the church proceeded with it, then Jews would no longer be able to engage in interfaith projects with Presbyterians. They essentially threatened to boycott the Presbyterian Church if the church followed its conscience on divestment.

In 2006, in response to massive pressure from the Israel Lobby, the Presbyterian Church voted (482 to 28) to remove the phrase “initiate phased, selective divestment” from its policy statement. The Israel Lobby was delighted that the church also issued an apologetic statement acknowledging the “hurt and

misunderstanding among many members of the Jewish community” that had resulted from the divestment vote in 2004.

When Polly was asked why her church had caved in to Israel Lobby pressure, she had a simple explanation: “We didn’t cave in. Regardless of that apologetic wording, the 2006 vote of the General Assembly left divestment firmly in the hands of the Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee (MRTI) of the Presbyterian Church.”



Russ Greenleaf

The 2006 vote had simply deleted the phrase, “initiate a process of phased, selective divestment,” and had replaced it with the phrase, “urge that financial investments of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as they pertain to Israel, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank, be invested in only peaceful pursuits, and affirm that the customary corporate engagement process of the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment of our denomination is the proper vehicle for achieving this goal.”

Divestment was still on track in the Presbyterian Church and was moving forward. The MRTI was affirmed to continue its gradual process of dialog and engagement with corporations profiting from the Israeli occupation. And divestment was still understood to be the final step in that process.

(See the conclusion of this article in next month’s issue of FORsooth)

Russ Greenleaf is a Jewish peace activist and writer. He is a member of Louisville Jewish Voice for Peace, the Louisville Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), and the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East. Contact him at russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

Healing Possible Quorum tackles unequal health, housing, income

By Tom Louderback

Sociologist Nancy DiTomaso believes that white folks are mostly unconcerned about minority disadvantages today because they do not think they contribute to its existence. Yes, they believe racism is wrong and immoral. The vast majority know in their heart of hearts that they have racist attitudes themselves. Ironically, that particular perception is largely correct, according to DiTomaso.

Too many white folks think they are blameless simply because they don’t nurture racist attitudes. That’s unrealistic. By just about any objective measure, minorities are getting the short end of the stick. They are almost always worse off than whites. These disparities of opportunity and treatment are known today as racial inequality. There are obviously causes somewhere in our society. DiTomaso has conducted plenty of research in this area, and she examines it at great length in “The American Non-Dilemma: Racial Inequality without Racism,” her recently released book.

When DiTomaso presented her findings to the Healing Possible Quorum last April, many of those in attendance looked surprised. Many attendees asked the following: if racial inequality persists even without racism, what can we do about it?

Tough questions and the larger problem of racial inequality were the reasons for the assembly of the Healing Possible Quorum last January. Led by the Center for Health Equity, a division of the Metro Louisville Department of Health and Wellness, the Quorum’s goal was to develop public policies to reduce racial inequality in our community. The participants met to carefully study the problems and possibilities on numerous Saturday mornings from January-to-September. There were 100 participants in all.

The general idea for such a quorum was drawn for the Center for Health Equity’s 2011 edition of the Louisville Metro Health

Equity Report: The Social Determinants of Health in Louisville Metro Neighborhoods. In the report, the 100 participants read about significant indications of racial inequality in our own community such as the following:

Louisvillians in our poorest neighborhoods have lower life expectancies, sometimes as much as ten years shorter than the overall Metro life expectancy. Deaths due to heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are significantly higher. Newborn health problems are significantly higher. Residents ages 40 to 65 who earn less than \$20,000 a year are more likely to report symptoms of heart attack.

In our community, poverty rates for Blacks and Hispanics are nearly three times higher than poverty rates for whites. The unemployment rate is double the rate for whites. They are significantly more likely than whites to depend on temporary employment or part-time employment.

Neighborhoods characterized as “food deserts” for lack of grocery stores have diabetes mortality rates two to three times higher than the overall Metro rate.

Home ownership among Black and Hispanic families in our community is significantly lower, which means significantly less opportunity for these families to accumulate equity they can pass on to future generations.

The racial segregation of our neighborhoods exacerbates the disparity in property values.

Mortgage loan costs are significantly higher for Black and Hispanic families.

Poor neighborhoods are significantly more likely to be subjected to on-site toxic releases from nearby industries.

The housing stock in poor neighborhoods is much older and presents more environmental hazards.

Parks and recreational facilities in poor neighborhoods are often underutilized because of inadequate maintenance or fear of crime.



Health problems are clearly associated with poor performance in school.

These indications appear to form a mirror image of the key attributes of racial inequality widely recognized by researchers nationwide such as these: persistence across generations; stereotyping and unreasonable suspicions; higher rates of incarceration, as well as criminal victimization; housing conditions that pose health and safety hazards; frequent exposure to poor air quality; and higher rates of health problems coupled with lower life expectancy. This is only a partial list of those key attributes.

At the last of the Quorum’s meetings, the participants labored to assemble these issues into a proposal for the Mayor which they hoped would be feasible and acceptable to public officials and the public. The centerpiece was a proposal to establish a permanent commission on racial inequality that would

study the many public reports available on local conditions and resources, consult with experts and stakeholders, identify current policies and propose new policies.

Other commissions and task forces concentrate on specifically defined problems. This one would regularly search for causes linked to a network of persistent problems. It would work something like a physician administering treatments to her patients. Let’s hope for more news on this effort in the near future.

Tom Louderback is a member of the Healing Possible Quorum for sustainable policies to reduce structural and institutional racism and the Friends Meeting of Louisville (Quaker). The Religious Society of Friends has advocated unequivocal racial equality for over 250 years. He is also the Calendar Editor of FORsooth.

The serious charitable efforts of a fallen comedic genius

By Randy Nichols

We lost comedian Robin Williams recently. You may wonder why I would present a column on an entertainer in a newspaper that advocates nonviolence, peace, and ending economic injustice. Fair enough. Robin besides his gift as an entertainer was also a dedicated humanitarian. If you search the website, looktothestars.org/charity, you'll find that Williams supported some 28 charities/foundations over the course of his show business career. His predominant cause of course was Comic Relief. The charity in which Williams and fellow comedians, Whoopee Goldberg and Billy Crystal hosted here in the U.S. (The cause was actually founded in England to honor comedian Andy Kauffman and was developed for a U.S. version of which I write) has raised million in an effort to address the issue and needs of the homeless here in this country. Robin was never at a loss to support this activity and his star power, in part, helped to draw in other celebrities to lend their time and talents for this cause.

Williams was more than a host of that program for years, he also was one who quietly used his fortune to benefit others when he discovered a need. He provided money

for collegescholarships, spent time entertaining troops stationed overseas and even did a Public Service Announcement (PSA) for St. Jude's Hospital.

His efforts and dedication to reducing human suffering was every bit as impressive as his comedic routines. Williams did his acts of kindness randomly not wanting to draw attention because of his celebrity status but rather enjoying knowing that he could help make a positive change in the lives of others (many, he never knew).

There are those in business, entertainment, politics, sports and other areas of life who had more than Williams, who may have appeared publicly more than he did or had a unique gift as he did but they never bothered to try to address the needs of those less fortunate. Williams's charitable efforts have come to light even more so now that he has passed. There are those he touched who never knew he paid for something for them or provided something to help make their lives a little better. We all can take a page from Robin's life and use what we have to



Randy Nichols



make another person's life a little brighter. It may be a smile, a word of encouragement or spending some money on a fund-raising activity. We all may not have the wealth or talent Williams possessed but, we do have the potential to benefit another. If you don't bother to do so just a little, "you

aint Shazbot" as Mork would have likely offered. Rest-in-peace Robin; your life, your talent, your efforts live on!

Randy Nichols, Ph.D. is an editor with FORsooth Newspaper and can be reached at randynic@gmail.com

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCHES

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

October 2014-January 2015

October 16 What We Can Do to Prevent Louisville's #1 Cause of Violent Death

Gage Donohue, Louisville Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Every year, in Louisville and across the nation, suicide takes the lives of twice as many people as homicide. It is often preventable. Gage Donohue, Founder of the Louisville Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, will discuss how to identify people who may be at risk of committing suicide and the steps our community can take to help prevent this deadly act – especially among our young people.

November 20 Changing the World by Showing Up for Racial Justice

Carol Kraemer and Carla F Wallace

"Where are the white people organizing other white people for racial justice?" Longtime activists Carol Kraemer and Carla Wallace will share their work as co-conveners of Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). SURJ is a national network that, through community organizing and education, moves white people to act as part of a multiracial majority to challenge racism. It provides a space to build relationships, develop skills and act for change.

January 15 The Root Causes of the Child Migrant Crisis: A Look from Below...

Stephen Bartlett, Education/Advocacy Coordinator, Agricultural Missions, Inc. (AMI)

"Why are tens of thousands of children migrating from their homes in Central America?" For decades, AMI has partnered with indigenous and campesino communities in Honduras and has accompanied undocumented farm and food industry workers here in the U.S. Stephen Bartlett will give a grassroots perspective on the U.S. role in the crisis, including the impact of exploitative economic and trade policies, U.S. support for oligarchic governments in Central America, and the U.S.'s broken immigration system.

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

NeuroRestorative

(continued from page 1)

daily, but as a place in which we know we have to fight to empower ourselves. And none of us see this project as finished.

Our duty of organizing and empowering fellow workers is far from over, and we won't stop until the project is finished. I know I speak for the organizing committee when I say we have no regrets, and we're proud to now join the ranks of the American labor movement.

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



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Corporate politicians’ hot air could power a turbine

Submitted by Cara Cooper

FANCY FARM, KY- Young Kentuckians showed up in force at this year’s Fancy Farm Picnic, including a group from the KY Student Environmental Coalition (KSEC) whose message was clear, none of the candidates are talking about the issues that are important to young voters. Students carried a 12-foot wind turbine that ran on, what the group called “the hot air from our politicians” which they used to demonstrate the parts of candidate’s speeches they disagreed with. They claim that candidates who will be bold on the issues of just, economic transition and green job creation will mobilize young voters to get to the polls.

“Kentucky has a real opportunity to continue to be an energy producing state by investing in renewable energy technology and not only protect our health and environment but also put Kentuckians back to work” said Ryan Hidalgo a native of Owensboro and student at the University of Kentucky. “Right now all of the candidates seem to represent corporate interests and marginalize the issues that are important to constituents.”

The members of KSEC also took the opportunity to talk to the huge crowd about renewable energy potential in Kentucky and collected petitions urging elected officials to support legislation mandating that utilities meet renewable energy and



Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition members protesting ‘hot air’ speakers at Fancy Farm Picnic

energy efficiency portfolio standards and encourage community solar projects.

“We have over 60 higher education facilities within the state, yet when I graduate I will likely have to look outside of Kentucky for employment”, said Meredith Smith a native of Louisville and a student at

Western Kentucky University, “not only are students riddled with debt when they leave college, they don’t have a lot of options. Many of us would love to stay close to our families and our communities, but we can’t. Green jobs are something that our schools offer training in and they are jobs that we

would love to do, right here in Kentucky.”

According to an independent study done by Synapse Energy Economics, modest energy efficiency and renewable energy portfolio standards (10.25% reductions and 12.5% respectively) would create 28,000 net new jobs, lower average electricity bills by 8-10% from business as usual and add \$1.5 billion to the Kentucky economy over a decade. Kentucky currently gets less than 4% of its energy from renewable sources, the majority of which is from hydroelectric (3.5%) and less than one tenth of one percent from solar according the a report from August 2013 from the Energy Information Administration a sector of the US Department of Energy.

The KY Student Environmental Coalition is a state network of students and young people from over 15 campuses across the commonwealth. They work to push for energy efficiency, renewable energy, local food, environmental protection, and just, economic transition on campus and at the state level. More information can be found on their website www.kystudentenvironmentalcoalition.org. Cara Cooper Cara is the state organizer of the Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition. Cara has earned her masters degree in Environmental Science from Florida International University. She can be reached at KSEC.Cara@seac.org

From the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission

Submitted by the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission

The Human Relations Commission (hereinafter HRC) was created in 1962, by then Mayor William O. Cowger as an initial response to the widespread social unrest and protests surrounding segregation in businesses and restaurants in Louisville that denied equal access in public accommodations to African-American citizens. The Public Accommodations Ordinance was passed on May 14, 1963 and signed into law by then aMayor William O. Cowger on May 15, 1963. The ordinance ended segregation in public accommodations on the basis of race in the city of Louisville. In May, 2013, current Mayor Greg Fischer and community leaders acknowledged the 50th anniversary passage of the ordinance with a commemorative event at the Brown Theatre, and a marker dedication. You can see the marker today on 4th Street on the west side of the street between Guthrie Street and Muhammad Ali Blvd.

Since the creation of the HRC, local, state and federal anti-discrimination laws have been enacted and in 2014, we focus

on enforcement of those anti-discrimination laws as well as contract compliance monitoring. The police ombudsman/citizen’s advocate is also housed at the HRC.

The laws we enforce include protecting people from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodations and hate crimes. All individuals who fall within a protected class are protected against discriminatory acts in those areas. Protected classes recognized by the HRC are race, national origin, sex, color, religion, disability, age (employment 40 +), gender identity and sexual orientation. In housing, the presence of children (18 and under) is also protected.

The HRC is also responsible for the monitoring of companies who do business with the city to ensure that there is an opportunity for all businesses to have equal access in obtaining Metro contracts. The HRC reviews the workforce breakdown of any vendors doing more than \$20K worth of business with city government to ensure that they are equal opportunity employers and are making “good faith efforts” to use female, minority and disabled owned subcontracting businesses.

The Police Citizen Advocate’s (Ombudsman) role is to assist citizens in filing any complaints against LMPD officers. This individual walks the citizen through the initial complaint process and will accompany the citizen at the Police Merit Board hearing.

The HRC is supported by two Boards, the Enforcement Board and the Advocacy Board. The role of the Enforcement Board is to ensure that the HRC enforces the anti-discrimination laws. The role of Advocacy Board is to endeavor to promote and secure mutual understanding and respect among all economic, social, religious, ethnic, and social groups in the metropolitan area, and act as a conciliator in controversies involving intergroup and interracial relations. A recent example of the Enforcement Board’s support of the HRC would be the recently passed “Ban the Box Ordinance.” The Advocacy Board’s support of HRC is shown in the release of the “20 Year Fair Housing Action Plan.”

The HRC conducts community outreach through its staff, with the support of the two boards of Commissioners. Outreach

includes our Race and Relations Conference, Unity in the Community event, and joint outreach with federal, state and local civil rights agencies and organizations. The HRC participates in numerous community events that support our local citizenry, including, to name a few, the Americana World Festival, WorldFest, the annual Kentucky Hispanic and Immigration Networking Summit, the Construction Consortium Conference, and Fair Housing presentations for the immigrant communities and the Fairness community. All of the outreach events are supported by our Commissioners.

Overall, the HRC is active throughout the community through agency staff and board members. Our ultimate goal is contained in our Mission Statement, “The mission of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission is to promote unity, understanding, and equal opportunity among all people of metro Louisville and to eliminate all forms of bigotry, bias, and hatred from the community.” The website for the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission is <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/humanrelations/>

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Eddie Davis photo recording Civil Rights history in Louisville

Ferguson (continued from page 1)

picked up some of Mike Mike’s family members along the way. Several family members shouted, “Where would the money go? Would it go to the church or would it go to Mike Mike’s mother and father?” They were requested to simmer down and listen, but they weren’t conforming.

One of his male family members had had enough. He screamed that too many people were coming to Ferguson with promises and leaving with profits. He told Jesse Jackson to his face to tell him where the money would go. Jesse had no choice but to reply: to the church. People began to yell slanders and chants.

The male family member angrily expressed how they had been out there every day and how it not only robbed them, but it would jade the purpose of demanding justice for Mike Mike.

Jesse Jackson rowdies and organizers demanded for the man to understand their position and to be quiet. I was standing right next to them and noticed that they began to use their arms and push the man away from the front. I jumped in and stated, “Everyone has a voice and everyone has something to say. People can spend their money where they want, but this man has the right to be mad! He’s in mourning!” I proceeded to get the man out from around the other men and made Jesse move on somewhere — I wasn’t interested where — but we had a mission to organize, so that’s what I wanted my time spent for.

Eddie Davis (continued from page 1)

lieved having a professional skill was crucial for succeeding in a segregated community.

“My father taught me the basics of photography in the basement. After he got out of the service he did photography as a hobby,” Davis said, adding that his father founded the Davis Trade School in Louisville after World War II as part of that belief that professional skills were indispensable.

“During that era, Louisville was heavily segregated. There weren’t any training facilities for Black GIs coming home.”

The school taught skills ranging from refrigeration maintenance to radio repair, Davis said. Many entrepreneurs of the Old Walnut Street black business district west of downtown were Davis Trade School graduates, he added.

That business district was demolished in an ill-conceived urban redevelopment plan in the 1950s, but Eddie Davis has acted on his family’s tenet, doing prolific photography revealing the depth of Louisville area activism for FORsooth, Louisville Magazine, The Louisville Defender and the Voice Tribune Newspapers.

He has produced pictures for national publications Jet, Entrepreneur and the New York Times, as well.

Davis also works as an administrative assistant in the Louisville office of the state

(Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue of FORsooth.)

In solidarity with Ferguson’s fight for their human rights, those of us who traveled to Ferguson — along with WIT, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, the West Louisville Urban Coalition, Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice, The Carl Braden Memorial Center, and the National Action Network Louisville Metro Chapter — will hold “Stand Up Sundays” at 3208 W. Broadway, Louisville, KY 40211.

We will rally and protest until the demands of the citizens of Ferguson are met. Along with their demands, and the national agenda against police brutality, we have set our own demands against the Louisville Metro Police Department. You can find more information about both at rasriders.weebly.com

Chanelle Helm is the President of the Board of Directors of Women in Transition; Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Kentucky Alliance for Youth and Development Board of Advisors; Fellow of BAEO’s Bailey-Sullivan Leadership Institute; Parent Representative for JCPS Early Head Start/ Head Start; and Executive Board Member of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

Cabinet for Health and Human Services, specifically for child protective efforts.

A graduate of Flaget Memorial High School, Davis studied political science in the 1970s at Jefferson Community College, then began helping out with the Kentucky Alliance, describing its West Broadway venue in the Braden Center as a neighborhood draw.

“It attracted anybody who had social consciousness.... Anne was there almost 24-7,” he said. “The Justice Resource Center... a lot of their administrative operations were tied to the Alliance. We would do supportive work (for the JRC), like phone banks.... You really could almost get involved in two organizations at once.”

Davis said forget about reported differences of opinion over whether justice groups should rely on street activism or online work. Both are crucial, he said.

“My experience with Anne Braden is, you’ve got to cover all bases.... You’ve got to do electronic media. You’ve got to do telephone. You’ve got to do door knocking.”

Brian Arbenz, formerly known as George Morrison is Editor Emeritus, and Assistant Editor of FORsooth Newspaper. Contact him at cyw_us@yahoo.com



Dr. Joseph H. McMillan (with bullhorn) and Rev. Louis H. Coleman (on the right), part of the photographic chronicle of Civil Rights history in Louisville by photographer Eddie Davis

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)
- KENTUCKIANS FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 5:30 PM. Board Room on the Mezzanine of the Louisville Free Public Library. www.kyhealthcare.org 636-1551
- KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)
- KITOD [KENTUCKIANA INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON DARFUR] – (553-6172)
- KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. (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-org/lwv
- 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 (502-587-7755), louisvillyouthgroup.com
- 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)
- NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK, LOUISVILLE METRO CHAPTER – 4th Sunday of each month, 5 p.m. (778-8624 or 470-362-0317)
- 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)
- SOWERS OF JUSTICE NETWORK – sowersofjusticenetwork.org, sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com
- VETERANS FOR PEACE, Louisville Chapter 168 – (502) 500-6915, CRawertTrainer@twc.com
- 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

Sept 30 to Oct 3 **IDEA FESTIVAL**. Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, 9AM to 5PM. Hear global thinkers on the future of arts, business, technology, design, science, philosophy, and education. Visit www.ideafestival.com

Oct 1 to 31 **ARTISTS FROM IRAQ**. Iroquois Public Library. See local artwork in several media. Learn more about our immigrant and refugee families from Iraq. Visit www.lfpl.org

Oct 1 to 31 **BLACK FREEDOM, WHITE ALLIES, AND RED SCARE**. Exhibit at the Main Public Library. This year marks the 60th anniversary of a home purchase, bombing, and trial that shook Louisville and the nation. Visit www.lfpl.org

Oct 1 to Dec 31 **WOMEN ARTISTS**. The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 10AM to 4PM, Mon thru Fri. Enjoy the art of Louisville's most respected artists in ceramics, textiles, and painting. Visit www.kcaah.org

Oct 1 (Wed) **SISTERS WHO CARE**. Parkland Family Scholar House, 10AM to 12PM. Every Wednesday. Share knowledge, experience and support. Help each other work through issues. For more information, call 583-6820.

Oct 1 (Wed) **MEETING OF THE MINDS**. Crescent Hill Public Library, 7 PM. A group discussion on many of today's most challenging public issues. Visit www.lfpl.org

Oct 1 (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>

Oct 1 (Wed) **NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS**. Blackacre State Nature Preserve. Every Wednesday, 9AM to Noon. Help care for gardens, trails, and farmland. Visit www.blackacreconservancy.org

Oct 1 (Wed) **CITIZENSHIP TUTORs**. Kentucky Refugee Ministries, 6:30 to 8:30PM. Every Wednesday & 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.

Oct 1 (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.

Oct 1 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF FOR-sooth**. Every first Wednesday. Contact John Hartmann, editor, at 296-1793 or johart.john@gmail.com. Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com.

Oct 2 to 5 **HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES**. Immerse yourself in another community and experience first-hand the hardships associated with extreme poverty. Perform essential volunteer work. Make friends and connections. Other trips to Appalachia, Oct 8 & 26. Trips to Belize, Oct 5 & 12. Visit <http://myhandinhand.org>

Oct 2 (Thurs) **NATIONAL PEACEMAKERS DAY OF CELEBRATION**. Interfaith Paths to Peace, 6PM. A celebratory service in honor of those who serve in various peacemaking roles. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Oct 2 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**. Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Oct 3 (Fri) **FRIDAY NIGHT ON THE STREET**. Wayside Christian Mission. Every Friday. Learn first-hand about homelessness. Hear testimonies. Ask questions. Serve a meal. Bring a sleeping bag. Visit www.waysidechristianmission.org

Oct 4 (Sat) **OLMSTEAD PARK VOLUNTEERS**. Bingham Park, 9AM to Noon. Help maintain and restore our urban forests. Visit www.olmsteadparks.org

Oct 4 (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.

Oct 4 (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

Oct 4 (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.

Oct 4 (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>

Oct 4 (Sat) **SUPPLIES OVER SEAS RECYCLING**. SOS office in Clifton. Every Saturday, 9AM. Help sort through surplus medical supplies for distribution to overseas agencies. Other volunteer opportunities too. Visit www.suppliesoverseas.org

Oct 4 (Sat) **JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST VOLUNTEERS**. Land Stewart Project. Every first Saturday, 9AM to Noon. Also, Wednesdays. Help improve landscape and protect native flora. Visit www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/

Oct 4 (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

Oct 4 (Sat) . **ARAB AMERICAN STORIES**: The Movie. Iroquois Public Library, 1PM. Learn more about the lives of Arab American families. Meet your neighbors who originated in the Countries of that region. Visit www.lfpl.org

Oct 5-6 **WITNESS FOR PEACE SPEAKER**. Julia Vallejos, a founding member of the Nicaraguan factory Free Trade Zone aka Masilf is available during these two days for religious and school groups. Contact David Horvath, 502-435-3265 with questions or ideas.

Oct 5 (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.

Oct 6 (Mon) **URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**. Louisville Urban League, Every 2nd Monday, 6PM. Network-

ing opportunities for emerging leaders of all minority back-

Oct 6 (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.

Oct 6 (Mon) **COMMUNITY COALITION ON THE HEALTHY HOMETOWN**. 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.

Oct 7 (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

Oct 7 (Tues) **THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCT OF RACE**: Immigrants and The Box. Iroquois Public Library, 6:30PM. Hear Palestinian American scholar & film maker, Amer Zhar, and other knowledgeable speakers. Visit www.lfpl.org

Oct 7 (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.

Oct 7 (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

Oct 7 (Tues) **AMERICANA 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.

Oct 7 (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.

Oct 7 (Wed) **COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE**. Noon, meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Louisville's ten-year campaign for compassion. Call 214-7322 or visit <http://compassionatelouisville.org> for more information.

Oct 7 (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.

Oct 7 (Wed) **LOUISIVLLE FORUM**. Every 2nd Wednesday, Noon at Vincenzo's Downtown. Speakers on current public issues. nonpartisan discussion. For details, call 329-0111.

Oct 7 (Wed) **REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS**. Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter. 4PM to 5PM. One hour interactive tour of VOA's work and programs for self-determination. For more information, call 636-4660

Oct 8 (Wed) **GRANTSEEKING BASICS**. Main Public Library, 6PM TO 8PM. Learn the research process, find resources, and write successful proposals. Visit www.lfpl.org

Oct 8 (Wed) **Y-NOW CHILDREN OF PRISONERS MENTORING**. Luncheon at YMCA Safe Place. Learn how you can help break the cycle through mentoring and encouragement. RSVP to 635.

Oct 9 (Thurs) **EMPTY BOWLS**. Highland Community Ministries at Bellarmine University, 5:30PM to 8PM. Enjoy a delicious soup meal in a handcrafted potter's bowl with bread to raise fund for HCM. For more information, call 451-3695.

Oct 9 (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.

Oct 10 to 19 **TRAINING FOR INTERPRETERS AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES**. Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services. Learn to apply your proficiency in other languages to the practical needs of newly arrived refugee families. Call 636-9786 for more information.

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

Oct 10 (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

Oct 10 (Fri) **KENTUCKY WATERSWAY ALLIANCE**. Gheens Foundation Lodge at The Parklands of Floyd's Fork. Fundraiser for clean water and celebration of 21 years of work. Stunning view of Floyd's Fork. Visit <http://kwalliance.org>

Oct 10 - 11 **THE BLUES LIVE**. The Garvin Gate Blues Festival. A celebration of the blues and the arts that annually draws a large multi-racial and intergenerational audience. Visit www.garvingatebluesfestival.com

Oct 10 - 11 **WATER & HEALTH TRAINING**. Water Step. Obtain skills for providing safe drinking water to tens of thousands of people. Visit <http://waterstep.org>

Oct 11 (Sat) **LOUISVILLE SOLAR TOUR**. UofL, 10AM to 3PM. See solar power homes by bus tour. Catch a glimpse of the future. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>

Oct 11 (Sat) **THE WAR ON POVERTY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES**. UofL, Brandeis School of Law, Noon. Free. How research into poverty traps and social-ecological resilience better informs policymakers today. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>

Oct 11 (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.

Oct 11 (Sat) **PEAK OIL**. Every 2nd Saturday, St. Matthews Public Library, 10 AM to Noon. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Oct 11 (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

Oct 11 & 18 **COMPOST FOR HEALTHIER PLANTS**. Brightside Compost Sale at Outer Loop Recycling and

Disposal Facility. This compost is made of leaves, grass clippings, and other yard waste and was screened to eliminate debris. Call 574-2613 for more information.

Oct 12 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE**. Every second Sunday. A remembrance of all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. 4PM to 5PM, Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community) and Veterans for Peace Chapter 168. For more information, call Carol Rawert Trainer at 500-6915. Oct 13 (Mon) **SPANISH BILINGUAL CAFÉ**. Okolona Public Library, 7PM. Practice Spanish language with your Spanish speaking neighbors. Visit www.lfpl.org

Oct 14 (Tues) **FREE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR**. Energy Pros Sustainable Home Education Group, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Learn the basics. Visit www.theenergypros.net

Oct 14 (Tues) **AMERICAN HIPHOP AND CHINESE ART**, The Crane House, 6PM. Hear noted scholar Christin Hachett on the fascinating interactions of these art forms. Visit www.cranehouse.org

Oct 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

Oct 15 (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

Oct 16 (Thurs) **THIRD THURDAY 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 or Polk Culpepper 948-2077, cathyculpper@insightbb.com

Oct 16 (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

Oct 16 (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.

Oct 16 (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.

Oct 18 (Sat) **SICKLE CELL ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKIANA (SCAK)** Support group meeting on 3rd Saturdays at St. Stephen Church. Call 569-2070 to RSVP.

Oct 18 (Sat) **CARP KITES WORKSHOP**. The Crane House, 10AM. Learn to make traditional Japanese carp kites with your family. Visit www.cranehouse.org

Oct 20 (Mon) **SOCIAL CHANGE BOOK CLUB**. Every third Monday, Heine Bros., 119 Chenoweth, 6PM. For book list, Visit www.greenlistlouisville.com

Oct 21 (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.

Oct 24 (Fri) **POKING THE LILY PADS**. The Crane House, 6PM. A presentation of ceramics from emerging Asian and Asian American artists. Visit www.cranehouse.org

Oct 24 (Fri) **ANNUAL DIALOGUE ON DIVERSTIY**, UofL Shelby Campus. Learn more about best practices, current research, and diversity-based techniques. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>

Oct 24 - 25 **SPIRITUAL ROOTS OF PROTEST**. The Merton Center. A retreat to consider the lessons learned from issues such as terrorism, environmental protection, racism, and war & peace. Renown presenters. Visit <http://merton.org>

Oct 24 to 26 **BLUEGRASS BIONEERS**. UofL. Consider how Nature can solve our environmental and social problems. How we can live in the web of life. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>

Oct 26 (Sun) **KENTUCKY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST AND POLTICIAL REPRESSION (KAARPR)**. Bellarmine University, 11AM to 4PM. A tribute to folk musician and activist Pete Seeger. Live music and teach-ins on civil rights, labor rights, peacemaking and environmental justice. For more information, CALL 778-8130.

Oct 28 (Tues) **FREE NONPROFIT STARTUP CLINIC**. Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 3:30PM. Learn about the fundaments and how to avoid the pitfalls. Visit www.cnpe.org

Oct 28 (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

OUT OF TOWN

Oct 1 to 22 **KENTUCKY ACLU / FAIRNESS ORGANIZING MEETINGS**. Help us build Fairness committees in in Berea, Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Morehead, Frankfort, Campbellsville, Shelbyville and Owensboro. Visit www.aclu-ky.org

Oct 2 (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.

Oct 6 (Mon) **KENTUCKY MIGRANT NETWORK COALITION**. Lexington KY at the Cardinal Valley Center, 12PM. Every first Monday. Get better acquainted with Kentucky's immigrant and refugee families. For more information, call 859-258-3824.

Oct 16 (Thurs) **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP**. KSU Research Farm, Frankfort, KY. Every third Thursday. Participate in efforts to develop local food economies with the Community Farm Alliance and others. Visit www.communityfarmalliance.org

Oct 17 to 19 **TENNESSEE INDIAN EDUCATION POW WOW AND FALL FESTIVAL**. Long Hunter State Park near Nashville. Learn more about Native American culture and join our celebrations. Visit www.naiatn.org.

Oct 24 – 25 **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**, Lakeside KY. Workshop theme is Restorative Justice. Speakers include : Rev. Dr. Carl Stauffer and Ms. Nontombi Tutu and Sr. Helen Prejean. Visit www.kycouncilofchurches.org