

FORsooth

Volume 16, No. 8

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October 2005

Even a hurricane can inspire the greedy to exploitation

The Titanic (It Was Sad When That Great Ship Went Down) was a song popular around the time of World War I:

“It was sad when that great ship went down.

“Husbands and wives, little children lost their lives.

“It was sad when that great ship went down.

“When the ship first left England and was making for the shore,

“The rich declared they would not associate with the poor.

“So they put the poor below, where they were the first to go.

“It was sad when that great ship went down.”

Soon after Hurricane Katrina struck, two newspaper photos appeared. The first was from AFP, the French news agency, and the caption read: “Two residents waded through chest-deep water after finding bread and soda from a local grocery store after Hurricane Katrina came through the area in New Orleans, Louisiana.”

The two residents were white people.

The second photo was from Associated Press, and the caption read: “A young man walks through chest deep flood water after looting a grocery store in New Orleans.”

The man was African American. So, now we know: white people “find” food and black people “loot.”

One television reporter observed: “New Orleans’ carefree days are over.”



He meant no harm, was just doing his job, filling the airspace between commercials with Novocain. But New Orleans’ population is mostly poor and black. Believe it or not, poverty does not allow for a long succession of carefree days.

A dear New Orleans friend, who was a veteran of the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s, is safe in another Louisiana town. But I did not know whether he was living or dead for many days.

Columbia and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, maybe 70 miles inland, were without power from the Monday the hurricane hit until the next Friday.

A friend in Columbia, in her seventies, was living off canned goods — all the food in her “deep freeze” had spoiled. Will these “lesser priority” cities get aid from Mr. Bush?

Most of the New Orleans National Guard were in Iraq when Hurricane Katrina

hit. If they, plus Guardspeople from other states, were at home, and then mobilized to go to Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia and Florida — how much less time would it have taken to rescue people, shore up the levees, and more? Cindy Sheehan, we need you now more than ever.

Back in June 2004, the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), which represents Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) staffers, sent Congress a letter warning that FEMA’s ability to respond to disasters was being degraded by contractors and other outsiders with little or no valid experience being placed in top management positions.

Oh, and how many articles have I seen see opining on whether New Orleans, located below sea level, should be rebuilt. When an earthquake hit earthquake-prone San Francisco, a few years back, there was no question that it would be rebuilt. Is race a factor in what gets rebuilt?

The Kentucky Labor News reported Sept. 18: “Some of the first large-scale Hurricane Katrina relief and recovery contracts awarded by the Bush administration were awarded on a no-bid basis to corporations with strong ties to the administration and the Republican Party.

“The no-bid deals include \$100 million contracts to the Fluor Corp., a major donor to the GOP, and the Shaw Group, which is a client of Joe M. Allbaugh, President George W. Bush’s campaign manager in

2000 and the former director of FEMA.

“Meanwhile, Halliburton Co. subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root Services received a \$29.8 million clean-up contract, while Halliburton (itself), formerly run by Vice President Dick Cheney, is doing repair work at three Navy facilities in Mississippi under an existing contract. The company also has been awarded billions of dollars of federal contracts for work in Iraq and that work and the Bush administration’s Iraq procurement policies have been heavily criticized in recent years.”

And how did Mr. Bush treat the working class? He suspended the Davis-Bacon high quality construction work standards, gutted even the pitiful prevailing construction worker’s wage in New Orleans (around \$10 an hour). Also suspended are affirmative action provisions.

Brian Ross of ABC News reported September 20:

“More than 100,000 Gulf Coast homeowners who are expecting help from the federal flood insurance program may be in for a bitter surprise, according to victims of a hurricane that hit the state of Maryland two years ago this week.”

“Pennies on the dollar. And they’ll be unable to rebuild their homes and lives just as victims from numerous storms across the country have been subjected to for the last (few) years,” says Steve Kanstoroom,

(continued on page 7)

Fair comment – more at LPAC booth oppose Iraq war

by Peggy Kidwell

Many more people visiting the Louisville Peace Action Community (LPAC) “Peace Booth” at the Kentucky State Fair this year than last year felt that the U.S. should leave Iraq now.

For eleven days in August, many LPAC volunteers staffed the booth and thousands of fair visitors signed petitions stating that they wanted our military to leave Iraq.

The majority of people stopping to look at the booth, and speak with the volunteer staff wanted more information about the truth regarding the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Many thousands of soldiers Absent Without Leave (AWOLs) that Veterans for Peace is trying to assist, have stated that they were not in Iraq to help the people, but “to kill the people.” The AWOLs have been saying that the worst part has been becoming desensitized to killing Iraqis! They say they will not go back to the dehumanizing experience.

This situation in Iraq is similar to the Katrina experience, except that Katrina began with a hurricane. Iraq began with the U.S. invading a sovereign nation and

murdering hundreds of thousands of Iraqis.

Both verbal and written responses were obtained from the thousands of people who stopped at the LPAC booth.

The following are samples of responses; some responses were written at the booth and some responses are from AWOL soldiers who were at a “Veterans for Peace” national convention in Dallas, Texas:

“Send more troops — so they can come home sooner!”

“President Bush is leading America in a way that helps USA and keeps terrorist from my backyard — God bless.”

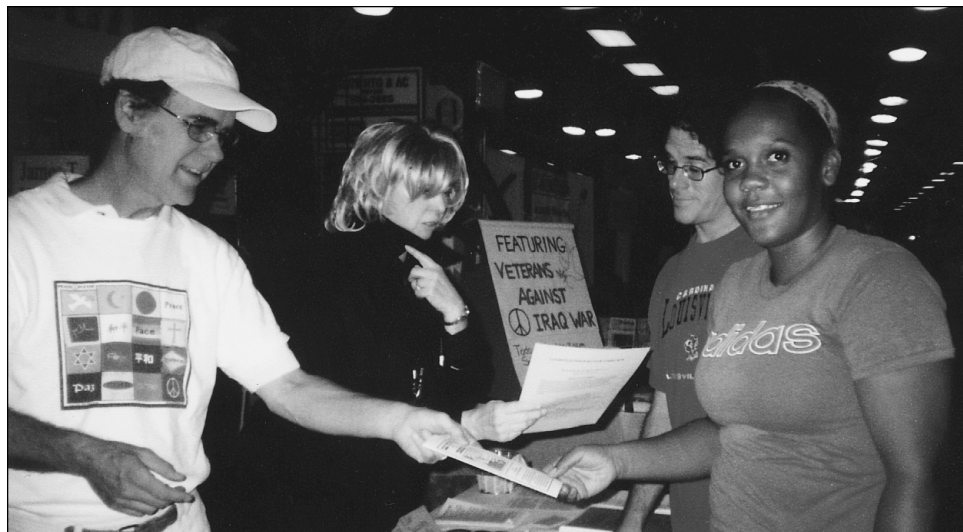
“Go in wipe them out.”

“Replace soldiers with *trained* peacekeepers pay our U.N. obligations and stop the wars. Be responsible for making it possible to have *their* elections in peace.”

“Encourage the president to ask for help through the U.N. or other contacts with other nations.”

“I wish the war was over. [drawn sad face] Just nuke Iraq.”

(continued on page 7)



— photo courtesy Peggy Kidwell

LPAC volunteers, left side, (including the author) greet Kentucky State Fair visitors in August.

Call F.O.R. at 502/458-8056

INSIDE

A peoples’ globalism – getting closer to 1.5 billion p.2

Katrina as a justice issue – the human toll p. 3

Arundhati Roy is back for another look at war p. 5

Palestinian and Israeli suffering noted on trip p. 5

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1.5 billion Asians now added to activist’s radar screen

Following are excerpts from Louisville peace and justice activist David Horvath’s Third Thursday Lunch talk Sept. 15:

I was part of a delegation of eight people who participated in a trip to Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. It was part of a two-year program called Islamic Life in the U.S. designed by Professor Riffat Hassan from the University of Louisville and funded by the U.S. State Department.

Just a little background about the project: After 911, a few people in the State Department got together and astutely concluded that we had a problem in the Islamic world. Somewhere in the bureaucracy, down at the level of Fulbright and cultural exchange programs, it was decided to try a new approach. They identified India, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh as a good focus for these efforts since that is the Muslim population center. Initially they wanted to parse out money to colleges and universities to do a lot of exchange type experiences mainly having Muslims come to America to see how nice we all were.

Riffat, who never thinks small, had a better idea and proposed a single two-year program that would result in a substantial exchange of scholars and opinion leaders into several U.S. communities. She demonstrated the huge support from the University of Louisville and local organizations, as well as regional and national Muslim communities and groups. Riffat and the University were funded for the whole program and the exchange happened two years in a row, with the second group here in May of this year. Essential in Riffat’s vision for this program, was the return delegation of Americans to visit communities in South Asia. Key to the success of the program was the recruitment of individuals who would best represent both sides of the exchange. The idea was to have delegates, both South Asian and American to meet as many people as they can and to hear diverse opinions.

I was fortunate to have been extensively involved with both visits from South Asians. This year, I was honored to have been invited by Dr. Hassan to participate in the return visit. Just by the numbers, it was 15 days, filled to bursting with interesting opportunities and encounters. Fifteen days, three countries, seven cities and nearly 30 events ranging from a meeting with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to a visit to a Muslim organized, Montesorri method school in Calcutta for impoverished children of leather workers. From discussions with the Council for Islamic Ideology in Islamabad to Foreman Christian College in Lahore. Lots of lunches, dinners, receptions and

meetings with banners announcing titles like “The Quest for Global Peace...” and “Justice, Fairness and Communal Harmony”. We were publicly referred to as “friends” and even “luminaries” and the embarrassing “honored visitors from the most powerful country in the world....”

I’ll start in a confessional mode. As surprising as it may seem coming from me, I’m about to say some positive things about the U.S. State Department *and* about a combination general and president. For those feint of heart, you may want to excuse yourself. The frail may want to hold on to their chairs for added support.

So, anticipating a question on this, let me begin with the connections with the State Department. Was our delegation nothing more than a hearts-and-minds propaganda group, seen as part of the Bush Administration “Office of Public Diplomacy” now headed by his long-time friend and confidant, Karen Hughes? Having had first-hand unfortunate experiences with the State Department and U.S. Embassy personnel in Latin America, I was more than a little concerned. But extended conversations with Dr. Tom Johnson, Senior Exchange Specialist at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and assurances from Dr. Hassan, as well as spending considerable time with the delegations from South Asia who visited here, convinced me that we were all free to say what we wanted. We found very few hand-picked audiences and even those were selected by local hosts and local groups. Local embassy officials, particularly the cultural officers who we worked with, were fine people, cooperative and not at all ugly Americans. In Calcutta, our local events and arrangements were some of the best and most touching and powerful of the whole trip. These were put together by the two Indian employees of the American Center in Calcutta including the Deputy Director and a local organizer. At many of our events, the venue was free and open, questions were hard-hitting and honest, as were our responses. I must add, that not unlike people in other parts of the world, our local hosts and audiences were quite capable of separating us “as US citizens and people” from the policies of the US government to which they often took us to task. Did any of our delegation feel time restricted in what we could say either publicly or privately? No. Not once....

One of the scourges of being a generalist is that I always get quickly to the key question: how and why did this place come to be like it is? Opening that line of questioning opens deep wells of information and lead to difficult questions with complex answers. The geography, the popula-

tion density, the diversity of religions, the obvious effects of colonization on the society, the richness of culture, the intensity of food and cacophony of sounds and deluge of sights, all pregnant with meaning.

So I’ll focus on three somewhat random observations coming from my personal encounters during this experience in South Asia.

Chapter 1. The obvious. Islam is not our enemy. Islam is not our friend. Of course! Islam is not a monolith to be personalized as friend or enemy or stereotyped one way or the other.

Individual Muslims, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indians are just that, individuals sharing human needs, fears, hopes and dreams. But the world persists in the generalizations anyway....

Does one person, sect or group speak for a whole group? Does Pat Robertson speak for Christianity? Did you know there are 30,000 sects in Christianity and of those 30,000, over 1,000 claim to be the “true and exclusive” way of Christianity? Of course we know that Pat Robertson doesn’t speak for most Christians. And we heard dozens of times, neither does Osama bin Laden or other extremist clerics speak for most Muslims.

There are many conservative to moderate Muslims who don’t respect Western values and culture and see them as degrading to their tradition, degrading to women and in general, a negative spiritual force. They are not suicide bombers however.

And there are many moderate to progressive Muslims who are working hard to move their faith tradition in ways that are more humanistic, less obsessed with ritual, more focused on women’s and civil rights, and a more modern interpretation of the Quran and Islamic teachings.

Compared to other organized religions, Muslims are no better and no worse at reforming and criticizing themselves. The Roman Catholic Church did have the Second Vatican Council but they also still have their Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (formerly the Holy Roman Inquisition) Opus Dei. And we know that religions have their dark side as well....

Do Muslims want to modernize along side their society? Again, we met with many who are not threatened with such a prospect.

A short story might illustrate: When three of “the guys” in the delegation arrived first to Pakistan, we met with two of Riffat’s friends, and partners in the intra-faith dialogs in Pakistan, Syed and Mahmood. Both are ex military veterans and had some amazing observations and analysis of the current reality in Pakistan and the changes taking place with Islam in general. They are also both devout Sufis and we accompanied them on a visit to a local shrine/tomb of Data Ganj Bakhsh a Sufi saint who is said to work many miracles and who has an enormous number of followers.

We arrived after a harrowing trip across Lahore (the traffic here is like taking Trinidad, El Salvador and Rome and multiplying by 1,000 in intensity and quantity). We were obviously the only Americans to have visited this shrine maybe ever and we were quite a curiosity. The crowds were pressing, eager to be near us, to find out what we were doing there and what our guide was telling us.

Following the very intense but enjoyable visit to the shrine complex we were invited to the home of Syed who wanted to show us several treasured and sacred religious artifacts he has had in his family for over 500 years. His family is said to be directly descended from the prophet Muhammad. With ritual devotion, Syed produced two incredible Qurans with

(continued on page 5)

About the DC march

The march on Washington Sept. 24 against the war took place after FORsooth’s deadlines. Look for coverage in the November issue.

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Founded 1915

FORsooth

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Staff

Editor George Morrison
Calendar editor Jean Edwards
Production manager Barbara Powers
Bulk mailing Beverley Marmion

90 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. To receive more information, please call 458-8056.

Cochairs: Mary Horvath 479-9262
Pat Geier 456-6586

Elites bear responsibility for much hurricane suffering

by Gracie Lewis

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

When Hurricane Katrina hit, most of the residents left behind were black and poor. They did not have cars or a way out. One wonders why state and local officials did not do more to get people moved out. Those left behind, for whatever reason, had to weather the worst hurricane our nation has ever endured. The response has been a “wake up call” for the rest of the nation.

What we witnessed is *genocide*. By the time President George Bush and Federal Emergency Management Agency arrived on the scene, people had been left without food, clothing or shelter. There was widespread turmoil with so many people unclear as to how long it would take for help to arrive. There were family members dying before the eyes of their helpless children.

We witnessed *racism* and poverty up close and personal. The response was slow and people were devastated. A sense of abandonment set in. Clearly there was no disaster plan.

We have cruise ships, commercial aircraft that could have helped with the evacuation, rescue and relocation along with the helicopters.

The devastation was overwhelming, covering three states, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. Over a million people have been left *homeless*.

The death toll has risen to 423 and is expected to rise more. Nearly 80 percent of New Orleans was flooded. Engineers and oceanographers had been studying the problem for years. No monies were forthcoming to fix the levees and floodwalls which could not withstand Hurricane Katrina with winds up to 145 mph.

According to Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson, more than \$71 million of the budget for the New Orleans Corps of Engineers (the body responsible for protecting the city from floods) was cut. We know for a fact that much of this money is going directly to finance the war in Iraq.

The weather was hot and humid. News reports told of the devastation. So many residents died from starvation and dehydration. Diabetics were without insulin. Elderly people were trapped without oxygen and electricity. Some were left in nursing homes.

The most vulnerable members of our society, babies and children, were left without the basic necessities. Babies needed to be changed. Children were hungry. In some cases residents looted for something to eat or drink. There were hospitals where premature babies were left in ICU operating on “back-up” generators with little or no air conditioning. Parents were separated from their newborn babies. Even today, there are some children still separated from their parents.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Oct 7-9 (FSS) **KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH (KFTC) ANNUAL MEETING**, “Building Power for the 2006 legislative session - and beyond!” Kentucky Leadership Center, Faubush, Kentucky. Call 270-86-4215.

Oct 21-23 (FSS) **PEACE WITH JUSTICE WEEK, Henderson, KY** beginning on Friday night with a presentation of Irwin Shaw’s anti-war play, “**Bury the Dead.**” Zion United Church of Christ, 8:00pm. For complete schedule, call: 270-826-0605 or 812-437-9295. Fax: 812-437-9296. E-mail: pwjw2005@aol.com

Nov 18-20 (FSS) **REMEMBRANCE AND RESISTANCE TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (WHINSEC)**. Start planning now for another bus trip. This November action will be crucial because a vote will be taken next summer in the House of Representatives to close this school of assassins.

Finally troops and supplies began to arrive, and people made their way out of the “valley of the shadow of death.” However, once they got out, there was mass confusion up ahead. Survivors were moved to the Superdome, and then to the Houston Astrodome. The rescue mission was slow. Only 150 buses were sent despite the request from the Governor for 500. This slowed the process of evacuation. Oprah Winfrey brought her crew through and distributed much needed food and supplies. Her “Angel Network” (Jamie Foxx, Chris Rock and her friend Gayle) traveled from town to town through Baton Rouge to Slidell, and then on to New Orleans. Even in the midst of such devastation there were still smiles on their faces.

The damage was so overwhelming that one airport had to be turned into a “hospital” to treat patients waiting to be transported to other hospitals. John Travolta helped distribute food and clothing to those in shelters in Baton Rouge. It was good to see that “helping spirit” revived again. Jeremiah 29:11 says God will move us to our “expected end,” regardless of what the President does or does not do. Crises of this magnitude often bring out the very best in us. People were also taking people into their own homes.

I was moved myself to issue “A Call for Action.” This was a “state of emergency” and everyone united to do their part

to ease the suffering among those who had lost everything — their homes, their jobs, and in some cases their whole family. Rev. Louis Coleman and the First Congregational Methodist Church moved immediately to give comfort to the families who made it out before the hurricane hit. They are sharing space with family members here in Louisville.

The city set up a Family Assistance Center at The Louisville Gardens. Short- and long-term help was made available there for food, shelter, jobs and medical assistance. Some \$50,000 worth of personal care items were donated to the Salvation Army.

On Saturday, September 10, WAVE 3-TV hosted a concert, “Storm Aid: Voices of Hope” at Louisville Slugger Field to welcome the survivors and raise funds. A storm survivor, Gaile Thomas, told her story. Her husband stayed behind to help save the lives of 103 people in LaFon Nursing Home. A 500-voice choir then performed.

The Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center was set up for 500-600 evacuees scheduled to arrive on September 8. There were problems with FEMA, and the next thing the Louisville mayor knew was that the evacuees were not coming. Approximately 1,000 people have arrived on their own in Louisville and Indiana. They are receiving assistance from the city and churches.

Meanwhile there are still many com-

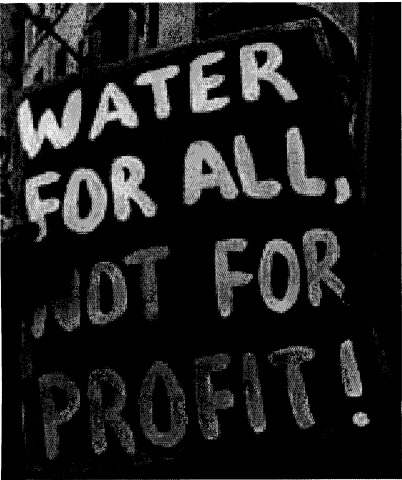
plaints coming from victims all over the Gulf Coast. The survivors are not receiving the monies they need. Families were separated and sent as far away as Utah. Rev. Jesse Jackson brought in truck loads of food, clothing and supplies to care for the displaced. As he dropped off supplies in Memphis, he noted there were 300 trucks full of products to transport to the victims, but there were no relocation plans for the evacuees.

The churches now have a real opportunity to carry out the “Mission of the Church.” There are over 350,000 churches in America and over one million people temporarily *homeless*. College students are also seeking a place to study. We need to do whatever we can to help. There are many local churches doing their part, including mine, which has set up an organization called “Operation We Hope” to provide family assistance. This is truly needed because these families need to feel whole again. The losses have been overwhelming. Most importantly, the parents and the children need space to grieve and regroup. This may take some time. But, with God’s help, we will make it. We can turn this tragedy into a real opportunity to love and take care of one another. Morning has come!

The writer is a member of REACT, a group fighting pollution in West Louisville. She said that to apply for hurricane relief assistance, call FEMA at 1-800-462-7585.

The Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean and St. William Peacemaking Community are pleased to present

Privatization: Arms of the New Colonizers



Daysi Grenados
Monday, October 17, 2005
James Lees Presbyterian Church
1741 Frankfort Avenue

6:30 Pot luck
7:30 presentation and discussion

About the speaker:

Daysi Grenados is a community organizer from Ramon Garcia, Nicaragua. Daysi has been a leader since the community was formed in the early 1990s. She has been actively involved in the defense of people’s services and hope in the face of increasing privatization of utilities and land control. She tells of the harmful effects of privatized public utilities including water and electricity on the poorest and most vulnerable members of the population.

For more information contact:
Amy Shelton (502) 561-9120
David Horvath (502) 479-9262

The Book of Ruth

by Marilyn Jones 8/21/05

I grieve when I am at odds with you
for I love you,
learned this love from earliest memory,
was taught it from infancy,
so that when we disagree,
I do so quietly,
leaving room for your response,
anticipating deep unfalseness
from both of us
to embrace in the center
of our beingness –
together-
having always believed in the way of Ruth
who counseled me to “go where you go,
lodge where you lodge,
that your God would be my God,
your people mine,”
but I find
I can no longer live with you,
not happily,
not comfortably,
and I am wretched because I see your lie,
your dark untruthfulness,
and I can no longer hide in the heart of you
where before I found only contentment,
joy,
the peace,
the faith I believed in all the days of
my youth,
for you have killed my trust,
exploited me,
torn value from my soul,
left me split,
unconfident,
reeling from each new rift
in our attachment,
so that now we are unbonded,
you and I,
rent apart,
and I grieve because I cannot-
totally-
dislodge you from my heart-
my country! ’Tis of thee,
this misery!

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

September 2005 to January 2006

October 20

Pearl Harbor, Hiroshima and Beyond:
Subversion of Values

Arch Taylor, an ordained Presbyterian minister, social activist, and long time missionary and teacher in Japan, will discuss the importance of this subject as we approach the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor

November 17

Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide:
Growing Self-Sufficiency in West Louisville

Ivor Chodhowski, President, Community Farm Alliance, and Patricia Bell, Manager of the Smoketown Shelby Park Farmer’s Market, will talk about ongoing efforts to create new markets for farmers and ways to make local, healthy, quality food available in urban areas.

January 19

Casa Latina

Sue Scharfenberger, OSU, will discuss her work with Casa Latina, a Catholic worker house for Latina women located in Old Louisville. Sue, who lives at the house and works with Latin American people in Louisville and Peru , represents a community of Latina women who care about other Latina women.

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Buffet Lunch at 11:30 • Presentations at Noon

\$6.00 • Reservations required



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She has sung at thousands of demonstrations and labor rallies from the WTO uprising in Seattle to the March For Women's Lives in Washington, DC. Her songbag draws on Irish, bluegrass, traditional, labor, folk and contemporary material. Feeney's anthem, "Have You Been To Jail For Justice?", is featured on Peter Paul & Mary's CD, "In These Times".

"Anne Feeney is the best labor singer in North America"
-Utah Phillips

"a catalyst in the topical song movement"
-Peggy Seeger

"I adore Anne Feeney, not only because she's a wonderful songwriter, which she is, but also because she's a person who has lived her songs. Anne is a role model for us."

-Peter Yarrow, Peter Paul & Mary



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The Reel Revolution
Film Series

A project of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression
presents

Hidden in Plain Sight

by John H. Smith
Narrated by Martin Sheen
122 minutes

Every November, thousands of people from across North America gather outside Fort Benning, Georgia, to form one of the largest antiwar demonstrations in the U.S. since the Vietnam War. The issue is the controversial U.S. Army School of the Americas, where over 60,000 Latin American soldiers have been trained, among them dictators like Manuel Noriega of Panama and death squad leaders like Roberto D'Aubisson of El Salvador.

Demonstrators denounce the SOA as a "School of Assassins" but Army officials argue that the school has played a crucial role in bringing democracy and stability to Latin America. Noam Chomsky, Eduardo Galeano, Christopher Hitchens, and Michael Parenti broaden this debate to include subjects such as militarism, globalization, national security, and international terrorism. Personal Accounts from victims of violence and repression in Latin America raise questions and concerns about the true aims of U.S. foreign policy.

There will be a discussion with organizers of the November protest at Fort Benning after the film.

Thursday, October 27th, 7 pm
The Kentucky Theatre
651 S. 4th Street

Suggested donation \$5-25; no one turned away for lack of funds.
Wheelchair accessible.

All proceeds support the work of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; call (502) 558-3568 for more information.



Roy again on the mark versus war

War Talk

by Arundhati Roy

reviewed by Anita Martin

Made famous by her novel, *The God of Small Things*, Indian writer, Arundhati Roy has now written *WarTalk*, a book every American should read. Described by Howard Zinn as combining her brilliant style with a powerful commitment to social justice, the book presents the most powerful indictment I have seen, not only of our war with Iraq but of war in general.

The first allied attack on Iraq occurred in January 1991. Roy points out that many people don’t realize the war didn’t end then. “The initial flurry simmered down into the longest sustained air attack on a country since the Vietnam War,” she states. Over the last decade, Iraq is said to have been bombed with three hundred tons of

BOOK REVIEW

depleted uranium, apparently one of the reasons for the increase in cancer among children, the book said.

Iraq, which we now know had no nuclear weapons, was subjected to the weapons inspections demanded by our government. Roy finds this strange, since the United States, which “has the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the world,” would probably not permit weapons inspectors on its territory.

An attitude Roy finds especially reprehensible is that of Richard Perle, former chair of the Defense Policy Board, who is quoted as saying that the United States would “act alone if necessary” and use a “pre-emptive strike” if this is determined to be in our interest.

She also reports a comment of columnist Thomas Friedman~ “America will use force, without negotiation, hesitation or UN approval.”

Roy is also highly critical of President Bush. She points out that what he calls “a peaceful nation” has actually been at war with various countries for the past fifty years.

She believes that declaring war following the deaths of 9/11 was “only a brutal desecration” of the memory of those who died in New York and Washington.

In spite of Bush’s touting of democracy, Roy sees this as undermined by multinational corporations and corporate globalization.

And if Americans wonder why people in other countries hate us so much, Roy suggests that after reading such brilliant critics as Noam Chomsky, their question might well be, “Why don’t they hate us more than they do?”

The reviewer is an FOR member in Memphis, Tenn.



‘The power of pain’ – a Mideast journey

by Sara Todd

The following is a brief report back of my experiences on the August 2005 delegation to the Middle East with the FOR. FOR organizes three to four interfaith peace delegations a year to Israel and Palestine. The delegations “seek to bear witness to the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict, support grassroots activists, and consider the effects of U.S. foreign policy on the conflict.”

“*American Money, Israeli Apartheid*” - graffiti on The apartheid wall in Bethlehem.

These words spoke to me of my implication in the Israel/Palestine conflict as our van passed through one of the few entrances to Bethlehem in The Wall, which confines the town of Bethlehem and the Palestinian Refugee Camps D’heisha and Aida and allows Israel to annex more Palestinian land.

The apartheid wall, an enormous concrete barrier adorned with sniper towers and “checkpoints” (Israeli controlled entrances in and out of Palestinian areas), cuts through Palestinian land and restricts (or entirely prohibits) Palestinian movement from town to town thereby separating Palestinian families and obstructing travel to work and school.

Some members of the Palestinian family I stayed with overnight in Bethlehem had not been able to visit Jerusalem in years even though it was a short drive away. The construction of the wall is a land grab and all I had to do to understand this was to look out onto the landscape.

Israel has the military power (partly financed by the U.S.) and uses violent force to build the 8m high wall beyond its internationally recognized borders and deep into the West Bank — what should be the state of Palestine.

At many stops on our delegation, I stood there with one of our delegate leaders, Ramon, one of the few Palestinians with Israeli citizenship, as he pointed out onto the landscape what should be the border between the State of Israel and the

State of Palestine. Instead, we would stand next to the wall, well into Palestinian territory, and see how Israel uses the wall to steal land and then develop enormous communities — housing complexes, commercial areas, schools, and places of worship.

“We are working on protecting as much land as we can in the West Bank from the apartheid, racist war” - Mahmud Mdane, advocate of Palestinian political prisoners.

What I didn’t realize before setting foot onto the beautiful land of Palestine is how Israel makes the viability of a Palestinian state more difficult everyday. The term I hear often around this issue is the “two-state solution” — meaning the Jewish state of Israel, and a Palestinian state (the West Bank and Gaza). However, the Israeli Government is slicing the entire West Bank — what is supposed to be Palestine — into a few impoverished Palestinian towns surrounded by Israeli development and the apartheid wall.

With my eyes, which are all I can really speak for, I would say that a viable Palestinian state is going to require enormous concessions on the side of Israeli citizens residing in the West Bank. And it’s not that this isn’t possible. Israelis committed to peace — anyone committed to peace for that matter — will take great actions to make it possible.

But it’s going to require enormous work on all parts, including our own to stop the U.S. involvement in the occupation. The Gaza Disengagement, which occurred in mid-August 2005, was the removal of illegal Israeli development in the small area of Gaza (illegal because it was autonomous Palestinian land upon Israeli takeover and development).

However, what the corporate media failed to mention here in the U.S. is that Israel is illegally continuing to steal and build on the West Bank, what should be the future home of an autonomous state of Palestine — *and not planning to ever disengage from the West Bank.*

I witnessed the takeover of the West Bank, which makes it impossible for

Palestinians to have all the things that make up a viable state — a sustaining economy; autonomous control over resources such as water, electricity, land; freedom of travel between cities and towns; dignity and human rights. I simply don’t see peace. Apartheid is what I see. Ghetto-ization of Palestinian towns and villages is what I see.

The Power of Pain

One of the most moving experiences on the delegation for me was meeting with Israeli Rami Elhanan who lost his 14 year old daughter, Smadar, to a Palestinian suicide bomber. Rami has chosen to take this horrific personal tragedy and turn it into an vehicle for peace in the Middle East.

He works with the Israeli and Palestinian Bereaved Families for Peace — a “Parents’ Circle” of Israeli and Palestinian family members who have lost a family member to the conflict. Rami has taken what he calls the “power of pain” and used it for the cause of peace.

Rami explained to us that he had two choices after the murder of his daughter — to continue living among isolated Israeli society and among the widespread ignorance of the conflict or to use his pain to grow in his own humanity and work for peace. Rami’s experience reminded me so much of those in our community who have lost family members to violence.

I look to the parents of Smadar and to those here at home to find hope in this saddening and maddening world. I believe that here in Louisville we can work in solidarity with Palestinians and Israelis struggling for peace and use this partnership to continue to build local power and a Louisville free of racism, poverty, and violence. The parents of Smadar Elhanan show us that we can all take the pain we face living under an oppressive society — whether being targets of oppression or agents — and use it for our own liberation and the creation of a peaceful world.

The writer is an FOR member from Louisville.

Asians added to radar screen (continued from page 2)

beautiful calligraphy and the real treasure, a footprint of the prophet preserved in sandstone which was given to his family centuries ago — a source of mystical connection and stories of healing miracles. These men’s devotion and spiritual intensity is something we don’t see much or at all in our culture. In fact, much of what I experienced in those few hours had little or no resemblance to anything we understand or experience in “the west.”

Then for 180 degree change of perspective, after the showing of the sacred objects, we went with Mahmood and Syed to their favorite restaurant on the other side of town called Freddy’s. Freddy’s could have been someplace on Bardstown Road in the Highlands and filled with Pakistani Muslims, eating, with families and casual after-work groups, loud and laughing. Mahmood looked at me when we were leaving and said “What do you think of the distance between the shrine and this restaurant?” I thought he meant the drive or the time it took. He didn’t. He said, both these experiences are the reality of Pakistan. Both are realities for Islam, adding “We are not against everything that is modern....”

Chapter 2. Sometimes the enemy of our enemy is our friend. Our visit with President Musharraf..

If you had told me before I left for Pakistan that I would have so thoroughly enjoyed a conversation with a general/ president, in uniform, I would have had my head examined. Is he as some critics have said, a devil “with myopic vision, malevolent intent and megalomaniac mindset?” or is he misunderstood, misrepresented and unfairly maligned? So we’re asked: Is he like Bill Clinton? Is he like Ariel Sharon?

Not really. Maybe more of the former and hopefully not much of the latter.

Using the word friend might be a little chummy. But after our meeting I think the members of the delegation are prepared to give him the benefit of the doubt on certain issues and believe he is sincerely working for positive change in Pakistan. Having said that, I will continue to be as critical and skeptical of President Musharraf as I am of any government official in any country. Having read the book *The Generals of Pakistan* and *Bangladesh* by Borh-anuddin Ahmad I know that the Pakistani military rule has had a scary past. I am not under an illusion that there are no other skeletons in the closet for President Musharraf....

The people of Pakistan understand the war on terrorism first-hand. They also know how terrorism came to be a problem for them historically.

President Musharraf talked with us about his vision of a future of “enlightened moderation” or the Muslim Renaissance. Riffat Hassan has, along with others in Pakistan and South Asia, planned a vehicle for this to happen. On August 29, as hurricane Katrina roared into the Gulf coast and the day before the levies broke in New Orleans, revealing the lingering dark shame of racism and classism and the true weakness of our emperor, President Musharraf was announcing a new organization that he was forming to work for this Muslim Renaissance. He said “Let Pakistan be the source of light. Let Pakistan be the centre of Muslim Renaissance”

For Riffat and the other Pakistanis with us, we were clearly focused on the importance of this meeting to help further the work to start this exciting new effort. And our visit with Musharraf was affirming to the ongoing efforts of Riffat and the other women and men in South Asia who

will lead this effort....

So in summary: Pervez Musharraf not without fault. He is both commander in chief of the army and president and he is the most powerful and sometimes feared man in Pakistan. His life is in constant danger from many sides. But he can also be the catalyst and force for meaningful change.

Chapter 3. The justice movement is alive and well in South Asia.

(Of) the 1000 women nominated for Nobel Peace Prize, 29 were from Pakistan, 91 from India, 16 from Bangladesh, (with) 157 total from South Asia.

The issues they work on are the same but, oh so different in details and in scope. The “Peace Movement” in Pakistan and India means moving away from the historical animosity and suspicion between the two countries that was exacerbated by colonial rule (a recurring theme) and political partition and fed by politicians with centuries of manipulation and movements of culture and religions. The U.S. considers itself a “melting pot” but India is nothing less than a religious laboratory. Hindus and Muslims, Siiks and Buddhists, Jains and Animists don’t always fight....

So beyond my expectations, I found an even more complex , infinitely more crowded world with thousands of years of traditions, the beauty and tyranny of culture and religion; the deep and painful scars of colonialism, all woven into a fabric with a billion threads.

Our meetings and discussions were excellent, but I would love to be a fly on the wall in their discussions before and after “the Americans” came. What did they expect to hear? What did we say?

New geography and a billion and a half souls have been added to my radar screen.

Cindy Sheehan’s Speech at UFPJ Rally (9-24-2005)

Ahhhh, I love the smell of Patriotic Dissent in the afternoon!

As we stand here on the grounds of a monument that is dedicated to the Father of our Country, George Washington, we are reminded that he was well known for the apocryphal stories of never being able to tell a lie. I find it so ironic that there is another man here named George who stays in this town between vacations and he seems to never be able to tell the truth. It is tragic for us that our bookend presidents named George have two completely different relationships with honesty.

I also find it ironic and heartbreaking that my son, Casey, who was a brave person, tall and proud, who loved his country and was honest beyond measure, could be sent to his death by someone who is even too cowardly to meet with a broken hearted mom, let alone go and fight in the illegal and immoral war of his generation. We are losing our best and our brightest in a country that we are destroying that was no threat to the United States of America. Iraq was and still is no danger to our safety and security, or to our way of life. The weapons of mass destruction and mass deception reside in this town: they are the neocons who pull the strings and the members of Congress who have loosened the purse strings with reckless abandon and have practically given George and company a blank check to run our country into monetary and moral bankruptcy. We are out here in force today to take our country back and restore true democracy and sanity to our political process. The time is now and we are here because we love our country and we won’t let the reckless maniacs destroy her any further.

We as a young colony of Great Britain broke from another tyrant, King George the Third. Well, I wish our George the Third were here today to see us out here in force protesting against his war and against his murderous policies. George is not here, though, because he is out galavanting

Calendar

(continued from page 8)

Oct 24 (Mon) **UNITED NATIONS DAY, founded sixty years ago.** Eleanor Roosevelt, as U.S. Secretary to the U.N., formulated the Declaration of Human Rights. Her legacy will not be upheld if John Bolton, newly appointed, **pushes through 750 amendments to reorganization plans. Child health and survival are at stake.**

Oct 26, Nov 2, Nov 9 (Wed) **THREE PART CONVERSATION ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AS A MEN’S ISSUE.** How men can join women in effectively responding to and combating domestic violence. Presbyterian Seminary, 7:00 to 9:00pm. Contact Johanna Bos, 992-5432.

Oct 24 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor**, 944-6460. E-mail: klm86@netzero.com **Note: For calendar listings**, contact Jean Edwards, 458-8056. E-mail: edwardsfor@bellsouth.net

Oct 25,26,27 (TWT) **FALL COMMUNITY INSTITUTE**, sponsored by the Peace Education Program. Three days of hands-on training in interpersonal conflict resolution, the mediation process and prejudice reduction skills. Limit 40. \$200. Some scholarships available for faith-based affiliation. Register by Oct 17. (589-6583)

Oct 28 (Fri) **ANNE FEENEY, Singer, songwriter, activist, IN CONCERT.** Benefit for Single Payer Health Care and Physicians for a National Health Program - KY. St. Philip Neri chapel, Floyd and Wodbine. Donation of \$8 requested. Call 636-1551.

around the country somewhere pretending that he cares about the people who are in the path of hurricane Rita. We know that he cares nothing for the people of America: Katrina, Iraq, and his idiotic response to 9/11 are evidence of that. He is just out and about play-acting like a President whose country is in crisis just like he pretends to be a Commander in Chief and a Cowboy (I wonder if before he took off to Texas or Colorado or wherever he went, he watched a movie like Independence Day to see how that other fake president acted?). The reason he is out today is that his handlers told him that he got a little flak for playing golf and eating birthday cake with Senator Me Cain while some of his employers were hanging off rooftops and treetops in New Orleans. He swaggers around arrogantly like he is a macho dictatorial tyrant who doesn’t have to answer to his employers, the people of the United States of America. Those days are over George, we are here today to tell you that we are a majority and we will never rest until you bring our young people home from the Middle East and until you start putting money into rebuilding OUR communities: the ones natural disasters destroy with your help, and the ones which your callous and racist war economy are decimating. We won’t allow you to take anymore money out of social programs to

finance Halliburton to rebuild the Gulf States: there is no money. Our bank account is empty. George, this is our rainy day and you have failed us miserably. Stop pouring money into the pockets of the war profiteers and into building permanent bases in Iraq. It is time to bring our billions of dollars home from Iraq too!!!

One thing the Camp Casey movement that hunkered down in Crawford, Texas this past August taught us is that we the people of America have the power and we can and should name our national policy and make sure it is carried out. I constantly get asked if we are making a difference and if we think (like we’re naive boobs) that we will actually stop the war. Well, looking back at how Vietnam was ended and looking back in the history of our country, most notably in the suffragette, union, and civil rights movements, we the people are the only ones who have been able to transform history and affect true and lasting change here in America: so to those people who question if we are making a difference: I tell them to go back to school and read their history books!! And another thing these questioners overlook is that **WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!!!** And we are here to tell the media, Congress, and this criminal and criminally negli-

gent administration: **WE ARE NOT GOING AWAY!!!**

We in the peace movement need to agree on one thing: yes we need an exit plan, but it is not a strategy, it is a command. The command should be: have all of our military personnel and paid killer mercenaries out of Iraq within 6 months and the generals carry out the command. Simple, it’s not brain surgery and I think it is so easy even George Bush can sign the order. We can’t give the homicidal maniacs any wiggle room or long term strategy sessions. For one thing, when our leaders strategize, we are put in even more jeopardy, they have proven that they are not too bright or even a little compassionate. But the most important thing is that people die everyday in Iraq for absolutely no reason and for lies. We have to say **NOW** because the people on the other side are saying **NEVER**. We can’t compromise, we can’t say please, and we can’t retreat. If we do, our country is doomed. We have to honor the sacrifices of our loved ones by completing the mission of peace and justice. It is time. Bring our troops home, **NOW!**

Submitted to
www.afterdowningstreet.org
by David Swanson
on Saturday, 09-24-2005



TEACHING PEACE/ PROMOTING JUSTICE

Sunday, November 6, 6:00 pm
at Bellarmine University Frazier Hall

A FESTIVAL OF FAITHS EVENT



An evening celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation USA and the 30th anniversary of FOR-Louisville. The evening consists of a multi-media history of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (beginning at 6:00 pm), and features music by John Gage, Paul Whiteley and Kate Sanders with an address by nationally known activist/writer/peace educator **Colman McCarthy**, of the Center for Teaching Peace (7:15 pm), with light reception.



Colman McCarthy is a speaker whose fresh ideas, sense of social justice and sparkling wit have been stirring audiences for the past 25 years. Mr. McCarthy is a Washington journalist who has written for The Washington Post since 1968. He is also the founder and director of the Center for Teaching Peace, a nonprofit group that helps schools begin or broaden peace studies programs. As a journalist, Colman McCarthy is one of the rare few whose lectures are as captivating and as lively as his columns and books.

Those who follow the writing of Colman McCarthy cherish him for the passion of his convictions and the idealism of his beliefs. It is the same with his lectures. He convincingly calls on his audience to defy the conventional by becoming citizens who are other-centered, not self-centered. He argues persuasively that each of us is called on to be a peacemaker in our personal and political lives.

Advanced tickets for Mr. McCarthy’s address and reception available for donations of \$10, \$30 or \$90. Contact Mary Horvath (502) 479-9262 or LouisvilleFOR@yahoo.com. Tickets also available at the door.



This event is **sponsored by the Louisville Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation** with co-sponsorship from Bellarmine University in partnership with The Thomas Merton Center and Bellarmine University’s Ethics and Social Justice Center.

Sowing Seeds of the Beloved Community
Harry Pickens, Jazz Pianist and Educator

Oct. 8–10—EDWARDS LECTURE



Examine spiritual practices as a foundation for “the beloved community.” Tap into the beauty, power, and magic of jazz for personal, organizational, community, and global transformation.

PIANIST HARRY PICKENS has performed internationally with many of the finest artists in the jazz field. Pickens blends an active performance career, which has taken him to 17 countries on four continents, with a deep passion for making a difference as a teacher, consultant, and professional speaker.

TO REGISTER and RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION:
www.lpts.edu



SOWING SEEDS OF THE BELOVED COMMUNITY:
Spiritual practices for an increasingly diverse community of peace and justice.
Featured speaker is **Harry Pickens**, noted peace educator and jazz pianist.

All events are free, but reservations are required.

Saturday: October 8
5:00-6:30 pm - Community Meal of soup, salad, and bread. -Winn Center
6:30-8:30 - Lecture “Building the Beloved Community” -Winn Center

Sunday: October 9
2:00-5:00 pm - Workshops, about discernment of self and gifts
“Birthing the Beloved Community”
6:30-7:45 pm - Contemplative Service of music, prayer, and celebration - Caldwell Chapel
“A Time For Peace: Healing Our Selves, Healing our World”

Monday: October 10
2:00-5:00 pm - Workshops Continued
“Birthing the Beloved Community”
7:00-8:15 pm - Closing Celebration - Hundley Hall, Gardencourt
“Being the Beloved Community”

All events are Free. Reservations required.
[register online](#) for this event or contact the [Office of Lifelong Learning](#).
10/8/2005

Calendar (continued from page 6)

Nov 3 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley Marmion’s, 6:30 pm.** Bouquets to those who help with this vital endeavor. Call 451-5658.

Nov 3-5 (TFS) **ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA CONFERENCE: “On the Threshold of Discovery,”** exploring the changing landscape of community media. Over 15 workshops will clarify the role community media plays in your community. Marriott Downtown, International Convention Center, 2nd & Jefferson. Call 502-574-1904. See www.caregionacm.org

Nov 4,5,6 (FSS) **DEAD MAN WALKING.** Film showings scheduled at 8:00pm on Nov 4/5, and at 2:00pm on Nov 6. Wyatt Hall Theater on Bellarmine University Campus. For tickets, call 452-8431.

Nov 6 (Sun) **F.O.R. CELEBRATION of the 90th anniversary of FOR-USA, and the 30th year of the Louisville Chapter.** The evening will begin at 6:00pm with exhibits and a multi-media history prepared by Paul Schervish, tracing both national and local journies. Musicians John Gage, Paul Whiteley and Kate Sanders will add to the nostalgia. **Featured speaker will be Colman McCarthy**, well-known peace advocate, teacher, journalist, and author of *I’d Rather Teach Peace*. **Topic: “Teaching Peace/Promoting Justice.”** Bellarmine University, Frazier Hall. A Festival of Faiths Event. Reception follows. See flyer in this issue of FORsooth. Tickets available for \$10, \$30 or \$90 or whatever. No one turned away. Call Mary Horvath, 502-479-9262. louisvillefor@yahoo.com

Nov 6-11 **FESTIVAL OF FAITHS, “Faith and Cooperation,”** sponsored by the **Cathedral Heritage Foundation.** A weeklong event to celebrate the diversity of our faiths, be grateful for our unity and strengthen the role of religion in society. For schedule of events, call 583-3100.

Nov 7 (Mon) **MEXICO SOLIDARITY NETWORK, Fair Trade and Human Rights Tour, “Women Confronting Globalization: Cultural Resistance.** Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, 4936 Brownsboro Road. Call Nancy Jakubiak, 812-280-9034. nancyjak@hotmail.com

Nov 20 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** (Every Third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York. 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Nov 21 (Mon) **PARENTING FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE**, cosponsored by St. William Church and CrossRoad Ministry, featuring **MARY & DAVID HORVATH to share their stories and struggles as parent-peacemakers.** Reservations requested for supper at 5:30pm and childcare. Call Anne Walter, 635-6307. Program scheduled from 6:45 to 8:00.

Fair comment (continued from page 1)

“Leave my son alone! — They should nuke them.”
“Train them to defend themselves.”
“Stop this ——— war now!!!”
“Get out of there and fix what is wrong at home.”
“Don’t quit Stay till it’s done.”
“Get us out of the war and the United Nations.”
“Fight only for this country’s safety — not for *oil* or *Haliburton*.”
“Wrong reasons. No WMD – Korean veteran.”
“This war is illegal, immoral, and totally bad. We were lied to.”
“Another war for the elite of the world”
“Get the hell out of Iraq — I am a veteran”
“Send Barbara and Jen in!!”
“Send the twins “

The following are quotations from AWOLs and other soldiers attending a “Veterans for Peace” national convention in Texas, in the summer of 2005

An army staff sergeant who was sentenced to a year in military prison in May, 2004 for refusing to return to Iraq after being home on leave, talks openly about what he did there: “What it all comes down to is redemption for what was done there. I was turning ambulances away from going to hospitals, I killed civilians, I tortured guys ...and I’m ashamed of that. Once you are there, it has nothing to do with politics.... It has to do with you as an individual being there and killing people for no reason. There is no purpose, and now I’m sick at myself for doing these things.... It wasn’t until I came home that I felt it — how wrong it all was and that I was a coward for pushing my principles aside. I’m trying to buy my way back into heaven....

The staff sergeant was then quick to point toward the success of his organization and his colleagues. “When I went back to

Iraq in October of 2003, the Pentagon said there were 22 AWOLs. Five months later it was 500, and when I got out of jail that number was 5,000. These are the Pentagon’s numbers for the military.” It is now many thousands more — two years later Veterans for Peace puts the number at 20,000.

“I didn’t want to kill another soul for no reason. That’s it,” says another former soldier. “We were firing into small towns.... you see people just running, cars going, guys falling off bikes.... It was just sad. You just sit there and look through your bins and see things blowing up, and you think, man they have no water, living in the third world, and we’re just bombing them to hell. Blowing up buildings, shrapnel tearing people to shreds.”

“Most of what we’re talking about is war crimes... war crimes because they are directed by our government for power projection.... We were put in a foreign country to fire artillery and kill people.... and it shouldn’t have even happened in the first place. It’s hard to put into words the full tragedy of the death and suffering on both sides. I feel a grave injustice has been done and I’m trying to correct it. You do all these things and come back and think, what have we done?”

The writer is a criminologist who has worked as a prison psychologist in Canada and the U.S. She is a member of the Louisville FOR steering committee.

The Mission Statement of LPAC, the sponsor of the expanded booth at the Kentucky State Fair, is: “LPAC. is dedicated to peace, justice and world community. Our goals are to educate ourselves and to impact public opinion through creative nonviolent action, the use of technology and lifestyle changes. We strive to build local and national coalitions in order to restore participatory democracy and to act as an outlet for alternative voices in order to promote human rights, economic justice and self determination for all people.”

Hurricane (continued from page 1)

founder of FEMAINFO.us, a website advocating for flood victims, including those whose homes were damaged when Hurricane Isabel triggered a flood surge in the Chesapeake Bay.” Would it surprise you to learn that FEMA runs the National Flood Insurance Program?

Ross continues: “Maryland Insurance Commissioner Alfred W. Redmer told ABC News that FEMA adjusts systematically low-balled the losses of Maryland flood victims.”

How will the most reactionary sector of monopoly capital, now in power, pay for all the rebuilding, and will they be more trustworthy and compassionate than the National Flood Insurance scoundrels?

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence (R-Indiana) was quoted on PBS Newshour September 20: “We ought to take a really hard look at delaying implementation of the new prescription drug entitlement.

That alone would put \$40 billion back on the books that we could apply to Katrina next year.”

You’ll also be happy to know that the Federal Trade Commission, packed with Mr. Bush’s cronies, is checking to see if oil companies have constrained refinery capacity to manipulate fuel prices and gouge us with high prices. Would they really do that?

But that aint all. Reports Christopher Heredia in the San Francisco Chronicle Sept. 18: “About a dozen evacuees from Hurricane Katrina are filling in for striking workers at California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) in San Francisco, hospital officials said Saturday.

“The workers — among them janitorial staff and nursing assistants from the storm-ravaged gulf — are employed by a temporary employment agency, CPMC Medical Director Allan Pont said.

“Union members walking a picket line

outside the hospital were aghast to find out the hospital was using evacuees from Hurricane Katrina to fill their jobs.

“ ‘It’s such an extraordinary irony,’ said Sal Rosselli, president of SEIU United Health Care Workers West. ‘SEIU is sending nurses and psych techs to New Orleans to care for people there. We’re engaging the government to establish training programs there for workers who are unemployed.

“Pont said there are no immediate plans to hire the Katrina evacuees permanently.”

Are there alternatives to the corporate hustlers and pimps who, even in tragic circumstances, put profits before people? Community Labor United, a seven-year-old New Orleans group, and many other organizations, recently formed The People’s Hurricane Relief Fund & Oversight Coalition. Check out their website at www.communitylaborunited.net.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt had the federal government hire millions of unemployed people in the 1930s to build roads, dams and other public works projects. He was no less a big business booster than Mr. Bush. Will Mr. Bush learn from FDR, and hire the Gulf Coast displaced workers to rebuild their cities and towns?

As we reflect upon Katrina — nature-made but corporate-made-worse — let’s also reflect upon what we can do now. Brutus, in Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar put it this way:

“There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;

“Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat,

”And we must take the current when it serves, or lose our ventures.”

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Calendar for peacemakers

Oct 2 (Sun) **PHOTO EXHIBIT, “Close to Home,” Opening reception.** Ky Center for the Arts Lobby, 2:00-5:00pm. Poignant faces and stories of Louisville homeless individuals. Coordinated by the Coalition for the Homeless. Donations welcome. 589-0190.

Oct 2 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. Bardstown Rd at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

Oct 3 (Mon) **BISHOP NICOLAS DJOMO: “THE UNIVERSALITY OF SUFERING AND HOW WE COPE: From the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to Indonesia, to New Orleans.”** Laura Dills, Louisville Relief Worker, wil join in the presentation. Bellarmine University, Frazier Hall, 7:30 pm. Free and open to everyone. Call 502-550-0997.

Oct 3-7 (MTWTF) **PRIDE WEEK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE.** For complete schedule of events go to: www.louisville.edu/rso/commonground. All events are free unless otherwise noted. Proceeds from Friday night event will go to the House of Ruth.

Oct 6 (Thu) **TAKE BACK THE NIGHT**, observing domestic violence awarenes month. Feeder march begins at 4:00pm at the Center for Women and Families new campus, 927 2nd St, continues up 3rd Street to the Red Barn. Contact Rus at 581-7271. **MARCH BEGINS AT 5:30pm at the Red Barn**, UL campus. Contact Sharon Larue, 852-7014.

Oct 7 (Fri) **NOON VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, including a news update. **EVERY FRIDAY AT SIXTH AND BROADWAY**, in front of the Federal Court House (where Senator McConnell’s office is located). We vigil in solidarity with the **“Women in Black”** who vigil every Friday at noon in Israel. Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Oct 7 (Fri) **NEWBY NETWORK**, *every* Friday, United Methodist Church, 3620 West Broadway, 5 to 6:30 pm. Call 772-1178 or the Kentucky Alliance, 778-8130.

Oct 7 (Fri) **PROJECT IMPROV: THE NEXT GENERATION**, *every Friday*. Kentucky Theatre, 651 S. 4th St. 9:00 pm. Tickets at the door, \$12 (students \$8). Call Chris Hartman, Executive Producer, 502/548-2430. ProjectImprov.com (Our own Mike Slaton will perform!)

Oct 8-10 (SSM) **EDWARDS LECTURE: “Sowing Seeds of the Beloved Community”** led by **Harry Pickens**, jazz pianist and peace educator. Sponsored by the Presbyterian Seminary. The weekend will include workshops, worship, and discussion gatherings. Free, but reservations are requested. Call 895-3411. Or visit Lifelong Learning on the website, www.lpts.edu (See flyer with schedule in this issue)

Oct 9 (Sat) **COMMUNITY HUNGER WALK, to benefit the Dare to Care Food Bank, the 16 Area Ministries Food Bank, and a world hunger project.** Harbor Lawn, Waterfront Park, 1:30pm. To register, contact KIC (Kentuckiana Interfaith Community), P.O. Box 7128, Louisville, KY 40257. (Tel: 468-0438). Or contact **Rosemary Cavanaugh**, chairperson for this year, at 451-3860, FAX: 459-9782. rcavanaugh@ascension-parish.com www.neighborhoodlink.com/org/hungerwalk/

Oct 9 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 6:00 pm, 2263 Frankfort Ave. Call Mike Slaton, 636-5848, cheslaton@hotmail.com This group would welcome invitations to speak about conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for highschool students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters.

Oct 10 (Mon) **OFF TO WAR Community Project**, A public conversation about the Human Impact of War. Free forum inviting individuals to experience the war in Iraq through the eyes of a National Guard unit from Arkansas, offering a sneak preview of the documentary to premier on Oct 15, 10:00pm, Discovery Times Channel. Hosted by League of Women Voters (Amy Shir) and UL Pan-African Studies (Ricky Jones). UL Strickler Hall Auditorium, off Cardinal Blvd, 7:00-9:00pm. Contact Amy Shir, 502-412-8288. amy.shir@insightbb.com

Oct 12 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Every second Wednesday, Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Oct 13 (Thu) **THE FIRE THIS TIME**, presentation by **ALETHA FIELDS**, spoken word artist, live and uncut, solidly based in her experiences as a woman of African and Native American heritage. Join her as **The Fire This Time** is recorded live for release to CD and DVD by Kentucky Digital Media. Tickets available at **ear X-tacy**, sliding scale \$15-\$150, students \$5-\$15 (over 18 with valid ID). Clifton Center, 2117 Payne St, 6:30 pm. Net proceeds benefit the Fairness Campaign. Call 502-262-4272. allpossible1@aol.com

Oct 15 (Sat) **ALL-DAY WORKSHOP ON SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVITY** entitled **“A Workshop with Three Creative Women, But Not for Women Only!”** featuring **Patrice Vecchione**, author of *Writing and the Spiritual Life*; **Carrie Newcomer**, composer and recording artist; **Diane Aprile**, author of a book about the spirituality and life of the Abbey of Gethsemani. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. Christ Church United Methodist, 4614 Brownsboro Rd, 9-4:30. \$45 includes lunch. Call 214-7322 E-mail: director@interfaithpathstopeace.org

Oct 16 (Sun) **CHEROKEE TRIANGLE TOUR OF HOMES WILL BENEFIT THE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS.** Six historic homes will open and also the Triangle’s earliest church. Trolley transportation will be on hand. Plus there will be a traditional English tea break. 1:00 - 5:00 pm. Advance tickets at Carmichael’s Bookstores, \$30. Call the event chairs, Deirdre Seim, 473-8510, or Polly Adler, 458-8759.

Oct 17 (Mon) **DAYSI GRANADOS, Witness for Peace Speaker and Community Organizer from Nicaragua.** Sponsored by **KITLAC** (Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean). Call David Horvath, 479-9262.

Oct 20 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation: **PEARL HARBOR, HIROSHIMA AND BEYOND: SUBVERSION OF VALUES**, featuring **ARCH TAYLOR**, Presbyterian minister, social activist, long time missionary and teacher in Japan. Arch will highlight the importance of this discussion as we approach the sixtieth anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Rudyard Kipling Restauant, 422 W Oak St, 11:30am buffet, \$6. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Polly Johnson, 473-8435, or Jean Edwards, 458-8056, by Tuesday beforehand.

Oct 20 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Monthly meeting, every third Thursday, 5:30 pm. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Oct 20 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Monthly meeting every Third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914; Ellen Schagene, 451-6392; or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. www.louisvillepeace.org

Oct 21-23 (FSS) **MORE LIGHT PRESBYTERIANS REGIONAL CONFERENCE** will feature three icons of justice/peace work in Louisvile as keynote presenters. **George Edwards** will speak on Friday night at 7:15pm at James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Avenue. **Carla Wallace** will speak on Saturday morning at 9:00am at Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky Streets. **Anne Braden** will deliver the closing address at 2:45pm on Saturday at Central Presbyterian Church. Excellent workshops are also planned. Learn more by visiting the web: www.mlp.org and click on the “Regional Conferences” box on the left.

Oct 21 (Fri) **DALE RECINELLA**, lawyer, Catholic lay chaplain on Florida Death Row, and author of *Sacred Scripture and the Realities of the American Death Penalty*, will appear in a book signing event at Carmichaels Bookstore, 2866 Frankfort Ave, 7:00pm.

Oct 22 (Sat) **DALE RECINELLA: “BIBLICAL TRUTH,”** presentation at the **Annual Meeting** of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Registration starts at 9:30am in Horrigan Hall on the Bellarmine University Campus. Reservations are necessary for lunch (\$15) at 11:30am. Call 721-8885. Later, at 1:00pm, Recinella will make a presentation for the general public at St. Mary of the Woods Chapel on the Bellarmine Campus.

Oct 22-23 (FS) **RUSSILL PAUL, teacher and musician from South India who serves on the Faculty of Matthew Fox’s programs in Creation Spirituality**, will appear in concert on Friday and Saturday nights, and will lead a **Saturday workshop with Harry Pickens**. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. Call 214-7322. E-mail: director@interfaithpathstopeace.org

Oct 24 (Mon) **INTERNATIONAL PEACEMAKER FROM COLOMBIA COMING. Following the FOR International Conference in Chicago** (Oct 21-23) the delegate from our partner community, San Jose de Apartado, will speak in Louisville at a potluck dinner. He will be accompanied by Erik Reinhart-Vidal, former National Council member and former cochair of the Louisville FOR chapter. Erik has visited San Jose de Apartado three times. Everyone is invited to the potluck to hear this first hand report from the peace communities in Colombia. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th and Ky Streets. 6:00 pm. Sponsored by the Louisville FOR chapter. For more details call Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

AD HOC COALITION FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – (778-8130)
ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (585-3375)
AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)
BIONEERS / SUSTAINABLE LOUISVILLE – Tuesdays (336-9440)
BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 2nd Tuesday (239-4317)
CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd & 4th Thursdays (778-8130)
C.E.A.S.E. [Citizens for Equitable Assignment to School Environments] – (778-9427)
CLARK & FLOYD COUNTIES AIDS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (288-2706)
CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and Working Together] -(583-1267)
COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)
COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (228-1534)
COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (473-2659)
CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)
CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD – Books by Neale Donald Walsch. 1st Monday (468-2305)
COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – Second Sunday (636-5848)
EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Sunday (569-1876)
FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (456-6586 or 479-9262)
GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (897-3335)
GREEN PARTY – 1st Tuesday (456-9540)
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (583-6599)
HATE FREE SCHOOLS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (454-3300)
INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Tuesday (214-7322)
JEFFERSON COUNTY WELFARE REFORM COALITION – 2nd Friday (585-3556)
JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (625-3724)
JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (562-6737)
KENTUCKIANA FOR KUCINICH IN 2008 – 1st Thursday (473-2659 or 459-6361)
KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday, jointly with POWER (589-3188)
KY AIDS LIFE ALLIANCE (KALA) – Every Thursday (479-7884)
KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)
KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (721-8885)
KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)
KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (774-4000)
LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP – 2nd and 4th Thursdays (587-6225)
LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
LOUISVILLE MEDIA REFORM COMMUNITY – 3rd Wednesday (584-4811)
LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – 3rd Thursday (558-9124)
LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation 1st & 3rd Sundays (473-8435)
LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (454-3300), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org
LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (L.I.F.E.) – Sunday evenings (473-2659)
METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)
METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)
NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (776-7608)
NAACP Youth Council – 3rd Saturday
NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)
PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)
PAX CHRISTI – Last Wednesday (456-9342)
PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)
PEOPLE’S AGENDA – 2nd Tuesday (778-8130)
POWER [PEOPLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING FOR ENERGY REFORM] – 2nd Monday, jointly with KFTC (778-2687)
RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (585-3050)
RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)
SHADHULIYYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – Thursday nights (893-6122)
SINGLE WOMEN’S GROUP – 3rd Sunday (812-866-1667)

Note: If your group would like to be added to this list or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by calling 458-8056.

(continued on page 6)