

FORsooth

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Why they come: Mexico’s perspective on immigration

by Emily Brown

The immigration issue from the “other side of the border” became clearer while I was on a Witness for Peace trip to Chiapas, Mexico last summer with five other people.

The state of Chiapas is an ideal site to visit to better understand the issue of social and economic unrest which drives so many Mexicans to migrate to the U.S. Just like Oaxaca, its neighbor to the north which has been experiencing recent outbreaks of violence over economic conditions, Chiapas is one of the poorest areas in Mexico.

Part of the state is also, however, the home of the Zapatistas and their military arm, the EZLN, made famous by sub-comandante Marcos. Now known as Delegado Zero, Marcos is leading the Zapatistas in the direction of a social and political movement referred to as La Otra Campana (The Other Campaign). While becoming well known in the 1990s, the

community in which 45 people, mostly women and children, were massacred while in church praying for peace on Dec. 22, 1997. While no one has been charged or arrested, it is widely believed that the massacre was carried out by paramilitaries who operate throughout the area.

Today, there are peace groups such as Las Abejas (The Bees) who live in Acteal where they have built an impressive shrine to honor those who were massacred. However, there are also people who identify with the political party PRI, members of the Zapatista movement and right-wing paramilitaries. Finally, there are one third of the forces of the Mexican Army installed throughout the region.

As we discovered, the social and political forces at work in this area are far more complex than we had imagined. While driving through the countryside, we saw a typical military base constructed beside a small Zapatista community. It is interesting



— photo by Emily Brown

Two bicyclists ride down a street in San Caralampio in the Mexican state of Chiapas, a region whose farm economy has been badly hurt by trade policies, forcing many families to rely on money sent from members who go to the United States.

rebellion began on January 1st, the day that NAFTA went into effect.)

According to CAPISE, an NGO which has carefully mapped the military presence, there were 94 military bases in Chiapas in 2005 (down from the 120 in 2003). The military presence has definitely had an adverse effect on indigenous communities. Not only has land been confiscated, according to CAPISE, but there has been a strong negative impact on the social fabric of the area.

We were told that members of the indigenous community have been recruited through bribes by the government forces to become paramilitaries, thus breaking up

the cohesiveness of the native people, creating division and mistrust, and pitting neighbors against one another. In spite of the signing of the San Andres accords in 1996, the relationship between the indigenous groups and the Mexican government is still far from satisfactory. Much that had been promised in the way of improved health, education and self-determination has, as yet, not been realized, and the indigenous community feels that the respect, justice and dignity they are seeking is still a distant hope. They are also fearful of losing their land, natural resources and cultural identity.

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Rather than trying to “secure the border” or build a wall...isn’t it time to change some of the policies which helped to create the problem?

Zapatista movement had its roots in the 1970s and was inspired in part by the Liberation Theology movement of the Roman Catholic Church.

To better understand the plight of the indigenous people living in the Zapatista region, we made a one-day trip to Acteal, a

that the Mexican government feels the need to militarize the zone to such an extent. Even though there have been military skirmishes with some of the Zapatista supporters, there has been no violence on the part of the EZLN since the 12-day uprising in January 1994. (The military

Sterling Neal dies, helped ex-inmates, Jubilee fest

by Gracie Lewis

Sterling O. Neal Jr., who died Oct. 16 at 64 after a life helping former inmates and boosting community pride, was my political advisor.

He always had the ability to open my eyes to see beyond appearances. I could always call on him when I needed direction with some social justice issue.

He was a true servant and always willing to give others a second chance. I recall his prison program where he wanted to welcome, with open arms, those brothers who were returning home.

In 2002, two million people were incarcerated in federal or state prisons. Nearly

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Workshop for women to feature LaDuke

We know Winona LaDuke, if not from other activism, certainly from her twice being the Green Party candidate for Vice-President on the ticket with Ralph Nader.

LaDuke is an activists’ activist, and she’s coming to Kentucky November 10 to 12 for a very special, three-day workshop open to women and designed for Kentucky women activists.

It is organized by Open Ground, a group that promotes diversity and ecology, and will be held in northern Washington County, Ky.

The purpose is to look at how we might best use our creative/expressive voices to enable, enhance, and achieve our life’s work. LaDuke’s program is designed for artists, but open to non-artists as well, with the understanding that, when free to be, we are all beautifully expressive.

Funding from the Kentucky Foundation for Women has allowed the workshop to make scholarships available.

The workshop will center around conversation, making art, and living together — sharing space, meals, rituals,

and maintenance — and will provide participants an opportunity to examine and challenge the ways in which we limit ourselves and are limited by social systems. It will also focus on working individually and collaboratively within a community of mutual support, strengthening our identification and abilities as culturally, environmentally, and socially proactive agents of change.

It’s a residential camp, encouraging exploration of topics chosen by LaDuke and the group. There will be time for personal or collaborative response through choice of art mediums, opportunities to share skills and ‘loves,’ and free or reflective periods. Evening conversations will center on struggles and insights, including highlights and effects of the day.

For those unable to attend the whole three days, there will be an event open to

the public Thursday, Nov. 9, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 809 S. 4th Street in Louisville. LaDuke’s observations and encouragements will be followed by open discussion. Sliding scale admission serves as a fundraiser for the residential program and Open Ground, its sponsor and host. Ten to 50 dollars is suggested, but no person or offering will be turned down.

No reservations are needed for Winona Laduke’s Thursday evening event — just come, and bring a friend; but for participation in the workshop it will be necessary to call for reservations immediately. For more information, or to register, call (859) 375-2411.

Open Ground provides cultural, social, and expressive arts workshops for the general public (all ages), and its workshops

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Hollar: use written mail in effort to fight hunger

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

In an era when activists for justice and peace and being implored to “move on” via e-mails, one experienced anti-hunger organizer told the Louisville FOR’s Third Thursday Lunch Oct. 19 that concerned people may want to put the computer mouse aside for a while get the pen and paper out. Larry Hollar, a senior regional organizer for Bread for the World, a faith-based grass-roots group lobbying for new social and trade policies, told the lunch that floods of e-mails to Congress - often generated by groups using the internet - don’t carry the weight of individually written letters.

“I have a lot of skepticism that arises whenever I get together with Bread for the World members. They say ‘Is it still good to write letters? In this technological age, don’t e-mails work better?’ Study after study has shown that the handwritten letters are still the best thing that you can send to Capitol Hill,” Hollar said. “Unfortunately (representatives) are inundated with e-mails and can’t deal with the volume.... So the letters are still extremely valuable.”

Hollar, a lawyer who, before joining the Bread for the World staff in 1985, served as chief counsel for the U.S. House committee on banking, finance and urban affairs, said he often speaks on campuses and in churches asking for letters. He feels U.S. mail also better suits the tone and purpose for Bread for the World, a Christian organization with multi-faith membership of 56,000 people nationwide.

“Each letter is a prayer. That’s the way I look at it. And it doesn’t take that many letters to change hearts and minds or at least get the attention of members of Congress,” Hollar said, adding that just a few letters can prompt a representative or senator to direct staff members to look into an issue.

In particular, Hollar asked at the lunch for letters for increased U.S. funding for Millennium Development Goals, a plan to reduce poverty worldwide.

Two examples of BFW’s grass-roots, letter-oriented activism working to ease suffering are the group’s work on behalf of the federal food stamp program and the Child Survival Fund.

The fund, Hollar said, is an effort to earmark money for the U.S. Agency for International Development and UNICEF to try to provide low-cost intervention to save lives by preventing dehydration and making immunization available to children.

Although Hollar said the effort has far to go, he described “gratifying results” from successes of the Child Survival Fund, which BFW was instrumental in setting up in the early 1980s. U.S backing of the fund has risen steadily since its inception, he added.

When the George W. Bush administration proposed cuts in the Food Stamp program to try to reduce the deficit, BFW was steadfast in its opposition, a trait Hollar traced to the organization’s grassroots structure.

“Bread for the World said ‘No cuts,’ “ Hollar said. “Some of our allies inside the beltway in Washington who don’t have the grassroots power that Bread for the World has... said: ‘Well, maybe we can live with President Bush’s cuts.... We don’t want to antagonize Congress. We need to be realistic about this.’ We said, at Bread for the World, ‘No. No cuts.’ And you know what Congress ended up doing? No cuts.”

Hollar said nonviolent conflict resolution to prevent or end wars is crucial to ending hunger, describing the debilitating effect of Mozambique’s civil war in the early 1980s on the southern African nation’s agriculture

He also told the lunch crowd that small banks backing micro-enterprises in the third

Diet’s effects on planet topic of Nov. 12 dinner

University of Chicago geophysicist Gidon Eshel will talk about how choosing healthy food affects the fate of the planet as well as the eater when he serves as keynote speaker for EarthSave Louisville’s 15th Annual Turkey-Free Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, Nov. 12.

The dinner will be held at The Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Ave. in Louisville. The event begins with a reception at 6 p.m. that includes a cash bar and silent auction. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. The master of ceremonies will be Dr. Bryant Stamford, professor and chair of the Department of Exercise Science at

Hanover College. Stamford writes the syndicated newspaper column “The Body Shop” and is a member of EarthSave Louisville.

Tickets are \$40 for EarthSave members and guests, \$50 for non-members and \$20 for children under 12. They can be ordered by calling (502) 458-8515. All proceeds benefit EarthSave, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating people about the powerful effects our food choices have on the environment and our health and to encouraging a shift toward a healthy, plant-based diet. For more info, visit www.louisville.earthsave.org.



Correction

Due to internet transmission problems, the October Labor Paeans column included several words in Spanish that were without their accent marks. Also, the word Chucheria was misspelled as Churcher.

world have helped by freeing women to generate wealth.

“It’s really been gratifying to me personally over the last 18 years or so to see the growth and attention to micro-enterprises. I don’t think it’s necessarily the be-all, end-all of poverty. I mean it has its limitations. But in a place as densely populated as Bangladesh, that has worked really well in that setting.”

Hollar, noting that many members of Bread for the World and other groups (including the ONE campaign, which has backed the Millennium Development Goals) were at the lunch, said he wished BFW and allied groups could count more

victories against hunger and poverty, but said significant struggles have been won for “hundreds of millions, even billions of dollars” for effective programs.

“Thank God for that,” Hollar said. “Thank you for that.”

Activists for single-payer health insurance in the U.S. will speak at the Nov. 16 Third Thursday Lunch about how the method could solve the health care crisis. Reservations are required by Nov. 14 and the lunch costs \$6. Call Polly Johnson at (502) 473-8435 or Mary Ann Lambert at (502) 425-3844.

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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.

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Swift story portrayed the real victims as oppressors

The neighbors living near the Swift plant were dismayed and angered by the September 2006 lead article in FORsooth titled “NIMBY, jobs for oppressed clash at Swift”. While the article correctly identifies the battle at the Swift meat packing plant as a “justice” issue, FORsooth has offered its front page to the wrong side in this fight. The article is filled with deceptions and half-truths intended to mislead FORsooth readers in an attempt get them to side with the oppressors against the oppressed.

First, lets get the facts straight. The article paints Jim Segrest and the “unfriendly Butchertown Neighborhood Association” as the villain. In reality, this battle is much larger. All neighborhoods around Swift have put up with the stench from Swift, and its predecessor Monfort, for many years. The neighborhoods of Phoenix Hill and Clifton have joined Butchertown in this fight. The citizens affected go far beyond Butchertown. In fact as I picked up my copy of FORsooth to see this offensive article, the stench in my Phoenix Hill home from Swift was almost unbearable.

The FORsooth article paints this as a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) issue, but no one that I know of is attempting to shut down Swift or move them from our neighborhood. What neighbors want is for Swift to be a good neighbor. Why is it politically correct to attack the Rubbertown companies for their pollution and affect on neighbors, but wrong to try and get Swift to clean up its act? In the Phoenix Hill neighborhood, other companies that were adversely affecting residential neighbors have cleaned up their acts after complaints. A bad odor problem at Kent Feeds was corrected with the addition of a new piece of equipment, after neighbors complained. And a terrible noise problem at the Phoenix Hill Tavern was corrected by the addition of a noise deadening roof to the “roof



Letters to FORsooth

garden” bar. These businesses have taken actions to be good neighbors and peacefully co-exist in residential neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, this had not been the experience with Swift, and its predecessor Monfort. Complaints from neighbors have been ignored. Neighbors calling in complaints are simply hung-up upon by Swift management. Instead of the odor problem improving, it has only gotten worse since Swift has taken over the plant from Monfort. The real breaking point came when Swift decided to park refrigerated trailers in an old MSD parking lot, in the midst of the residential core of the Butchertown neighborhood. There is a major difference between MSD trucks and refrigerated trailers. The MSD trucks sat quietly, bothering no one. In contrast, the refrigerated trailers have cooling units with noisy motors that need to run all night long to keep the meat inside from spoiling. Imagine placing a bunch refrigerated trailers that run all night in the middle of a residential neighborhood. It is easy to see why neighbors are up in arms.

Unlike businesses in our neighbor-

hoods that attempt to be good neighbors, Swift has the attitude that they are big enough that they can and will do whatever they want, and they simply don’t care what neighbors think. The troubling new element in this fight is that instead of Swift fighting their own battle, they have enlisted their labor union, the UFCW, to do their dirty work. In the past, large corporations attempted to shut down any public opposition to their nasty practices by filing a SLAPP suit (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation), to divert all of their

but they have now adopted the nasty tactics of the big corporations to use their significant power to squash the “little guy” and progressive causes.

The UFCW is not the only union guilty of using their significant power to fight against progressive causes. The United Mine Workers have been fighting against action being taken to control global warming. When unions do the dirty work for large corporations to fight against progressive change, it is no wonder that public support for labor unions is declining.

The FORsooth article paints this as a NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) issue, but no one that I know of is attempting to shut down Swift or move them from our neighborhood. What neighbors want is for Swift to be a good neighbor.

oppositions resources into fighting the law-suit instead of the bad practices of the corporation. Many progressive groups that are fighting for justice, especially environmental groups, have faced these outrageous actions by big corporations attempting to shut down any public opposition.

In the Swift battle, it is the labor union, the UFCW, not the corporation itself that has resorted to this disgusting action of filing a SLAPP suit against private citizens in an attempt to squash public participation and free speech. Labor unions like the UFCW have come a long way from the days that they were fighting for the “little guy” against the giant corporations to today when they are not only trying to cover up these misdeeds of a large corporation,

So what is the solution for the battle at the Swift plant? Residential neighbors simply want Swift to act as a good neighbor and clean up its act. Instead of suing neighbors and covering up Swift’s dirty deeds, the UFCW should be putting its efforts into getting Swift to clean up its act. If and when Swift begins to act as a good neighbor, it can peacefully co-exist in a residential neighborhood the way that many other businesses do, and the UFCW can feel comfortable that their jobs at the Swift plant are secure.

David Brown Kinloch
Board Member
Phoenix Hill Neighborhood Association
Louisville

CIA crimes exposed

Thanks for a great column (Just Ideas, October FORsooth, Vol. 17. No. 8) on our unwillingness to admit what we have done to other countries during the last 100 years.

For a very well-done history of American’s “century of regime change from Hawaii to Iraq” see the book *Overthrow* by Stephen Kinzer. You might also be interested in two books by Morris Berman: *The Twilight of American Culture* and *Dark Ages America*. Berman makes a strong argument that the American Empire is in its last days and its fall from grace will not be pretty.

Polk Culpepper, Louisville



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After 24 years on job, health care security still elusive

I was for almost 24 years an assembly line factory worker for one of the 50 largest corporations on the Fortune 500 list. In 1999, the company offered a retirement package. It included a pretty decent health care component, good enough, I hoped, to get me to age 65 anyhow.

They didn’t have to ask me twice — I grabbed it and ran. Although I suspected the company was planning something, I had no idea that, two years into the future, a factory that once employed 4,200 people would lay idle, moving its Louisville operations to two of its other U.S. facilities.

I have much insecurity still about my health care future. Companies such as Northwest Airlines declare bankruptcy and get bankruptcy judges to markedly reduce retiree benefits.

The cost of health care has become a big concern for U.S. workers. Tiny Cuba, which we vilify as so repressive, provides totally free medical care — exams, medicines, surgery, preventive care, etc. Canada, Western Europe and the rest of the industrialized world provide health care that is affordable. There is only one exception — the United States.

A nation where people make money off other people being sick is a nation that is itself sick. “Iatrogenic” is an adjective meaning: “(of a medical disorder) caused by the diagnosis, manner, or treatment of a physician; Induced in a patient by a physician’s activity, manner, or therapy.”

So it is: the society in which we live, and its relations of production, is in this case the physician who mistreats. The vultures have organized themselves into for-profit HMO’s and more.

Even doctors and other professionals feel threatened. So, in talking about health care, we need context. This is the context: CEOs now make 411 times the pay of the average worker, recent calculations by the Institute for Policy Studies show. In 1980, they made 42 times as much. They don’t worry about affordable health care. But the rest of us worry.

The Prescription Access Litigation Project (PAL) announced a settlement recently in a nationwide class-action lawsuit against First Databank, Inc., the most widely-used publisher of prescription drug prices in the United States. The deal will result in a \$4 billion savings for health plans that have been overcharged for prescription drugs.

PAL is a national consumer coalition devoted to challenging high drug prices. The Alliance for Retired Americans (an AFL-CIO affiliate) reports: “The case alleged that from 2002 to 2005, First Databank conspired with leading prescription drug wholesale provider McKesson Corp., to increase arbitrarily from 20 percent to 25 percent the markups between what pharmacies pay wholesalers for prescription drugs and what health plans and insurers reimburse pharmacies for those drugs. This is called the ‘spread,’ or the pharmacy’s profit on each prescription.

“The artificial increase on the spread of hundreds of drugs benefited McKesson’s customers and the purchasers of First Databank’s pricing guides. Under the milestone settlement, First Databank has agreed to ‘rollback’ the spread to 20 percent, which will reduce what health plans pay pharmacies for 95 percent of the nation’s retail branded drugs. ‘Not only will this settlement result in a major savings for the nation’s health care dollar, it will also



likely result in a shift to a more transparent and accurate way of paying for prescription drugs,” said Ruben Burks, Secretary-Treasurer of the Alliance.

Many companies are seeing their profits eaten into by spiraling health care costs. They are beginning to outsource company-paid-for medical care overseas. The New York Times reported Oct. 16: “(There was) a stormy debate between (Blue Ridge Paper Products), which saw the benefits of using the less expensive hospitals in India, and (USWA — the steelworkers union), which raised questions about the quality of overseas health care and the issue of medical liability should anything go wrong.”

The union successfully prevented the company from sending a union worker for surgery in India. In so doing “(t)he union’s resistance has brought to the fore a critical question in the path of the globalization of the health care industry — who is liable if something goes wrong in an overseas hospital? And underlying all this is the even more explosive issue of potential job losses in the American health care industry, in an economy already sensitive to the large-scale shift of jobs to cheaper overseas locations.”

Unfortunately, the worker’s “treatment has been delayed and he is now left to pay high incidental expenses and a higher co-pay for his treatment in the United States.”

While your humble scribe supports the union stance, he must also question whether some of the stance was motivated by “buy American” chauvinism (just questioning, not concluding, at this point).

President Bush is not unaware of the health care crisis, or at least his advisors are concerned about votes. Yet the Republican “solutions” are nothing but scams. The Alliance for Retired Americans said Oct 20: “According to preliminary results of a study released on Thursday, Pennsylvania seniors enrolled in Part D have yet to benefit from the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. In January 2006, the Pennsylvania Alliance for Retired Americans (PARA) launched the Medicare Education Project with a grant

from the Labor Education Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

“PARA assessed the impact of the Medicare Part D drug benefit on seven distinct categories of Pennsylvania seniors, based on how they obtain their medication. After tracking 62 seniors across the state for six months, the mid-term report has found that Pennsylvania seniors who received their medications through Medicare Part D alone, when compared with seniors getting their drugs through other sources, consistently paid more in drug co-pays and monthly premiums; were subjected to significant coverage gaps;

the beauty of Wal-Mart’s drug dealings and have announced their own deals. Remember what we wrote earlier in this column about iatrogenic diseases?

Our October column was devoted to a recent trip to Nicaragua. There were two errors of fact. The head of the Boys School we visited is a native Nicaraguan, not a Brit, as I had written. This was my error—although she had indeed lived in England.

There were, I am told, an equal number of Catholics and Protestants on the trip, not just one Protestant, as I had reported. This incorrect info was given to me by a staff person of Hand In Hand Ministries, so I

*A nation where people make money off other people
being sick is a nation that is itself sick.*

(they) had significant restrictions on covered medications.”

The plot thickens, with retailers trying to attract customers by offering reduced drug prices. Wal-Mart stores in Florida began charging a \$4 flat rate for a month’s supply of 314 generic drugs, many of them the most commonly used medicines. Smelling success, Wal-Mart announced that it will expand its prescription drug discount plan to 14 more states. Yet, three-quarters of a million Wal-Mart workers are uninsured or are on public health care, and Wal-Mart passes \$1.2 billion in health care costs to taxpayers each year.

Target and other major retailers see

had assumed it was accurate.

The Executive Director of Hand In Hand Ministries, sponsor of the trip, had concerns about what I had written. He is a decent person, and so I offered him two-thirds of this month’s column to write a response, which I would print unedited. He wrote me soon thereafter: “I am up to my eyeballs in alligators and will not be able to write the article I had promised you. Thanks for the opportunity. Perhaps at some time in the future.”

This column was written prior to the elections in the U.S. and Nicaragua. Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

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Alliance plans march on DC as crucial race case nears

by Gracie Lewis

The Black Caucus of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression is here to save Brown v. Board of Education and Grutter v. Bollinger. The Bush administration has urged the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down voluntary school integration programs across the nation that involve the use of race in deciding school assignments. We are here at this time to let the Bush administration know that we will not let a right-wing court roll back the gains of the civil rights movement.

This is the most important civil rights case since Brown v. Board. It will decide if equality and integration will remain in America. We have come “too far, bled too profusely to turn back!”

This case could result in resegregation of our society because of the departure of Sandra Day O’Connor, author of the 2003 opinion regarding a ruling in University of Michigan, Gutter v. Bollinger, and the addi-

The Kentucky Alliance’s Black Caucus is mobilizing efforts here in Louisville to save Brown v. Board of Education and Grutter v. Bollinger, an affirmative action case that was brought in Michigan. We plan to “Keep Our Eyes on the Prize” and take about 10,000 people to a March on Washington where the Supreme Court is expected to hear oral arguments December 4. For more information call (502) 778-6408, (502) 214-0985 or (502) 641-1809.

tion of Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., and Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr., both former Reagan administration officials who worked against what they saw as racial quotas.

September 10, 1956, began the long process of allowing African American students to desegregate the public school

system in Louisville and Jefferson County. In observing this anniversary, the NAACP hosted a three-day conference recognizing 50 years of integration in the public schools in our community. Rep. John Conyers, during the CBC’s annual Legislative Weekend, held a forum on Diversity in Local Schools — Have We Reached the End of the Brown Era?

Louisville, which has a long history of segregated schools, adopted guidelines in 2001 that said black enrollment in each elementary school should be at least 15 percent but no more than 50 percent. In Meredith v. Jefferson County, Crystal Meredith, a white parent, sued when her son was prohibited from attending the elementary school nearest to his home, Bloom Elementary School.

In Seattle, the school board adopted integration guidelines for its high schools, beginning with the 1998-99 school year. Officials said they hoped to preserve racial diversity in the schools and prevent

segregation that mirrored the racially segregated housing patterns in the city.

In the case of Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle schools, a group of parents sued to challenge the guidelines after their children were denied enrollment in their first choice of a high school because of their race or ethnicity. The parents say the integration guidelines amounted to racial discrimination and violated the U.S. Constitution’s guarantee of equal protection under the law. On June 5, the Supreme Court agreed to hear both cases. As many as 1,000 school districts nationwide which use race or ethnicity as a factor for enrollment, will be affected.

By October 10, 2006, lawyers for the Louisville and Seattle districts, as well as civil rights advocates, will file briefs defending the integration guidelines. Observers believe this may result in a landmark ruling regarding the use of race in grade school and high school admissions and beyond that.

O’Connor’s departure means fate of cases is unknown

by Nancy Tyler Demartra

The announcement that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear two cases Dec.4 involving race in public schools puts a contentious social issue on the national agenda in an election year.

Many groups and people who have supported the principles of desegregation feel this may mark a new chapter in how public schools assign students.

Only three years ago, more than 5,000 people demonstrated outside of the Supreme Court when the justices considered whether public universities could select students based at least in part on race. The tie in this case was broken by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, who felt that race could be used in a limited way.

The two school cases — involving desegregation in Louisville and Seattle — will be heard on December 4 and have the potential to produce a far more sweeping effect than the case affecting universities.

In June, when the high court decided to hear these cases, it signaled a new and more aggressive stance toward the race challenge, which had been rejected by the court as recently as December 2005.

Justice O’Connor is no longer a part of the court and in her place is the very conservative Justice Samuel Alito..

The first case being heard by the Court has been brought by “Parents Involved in Community Schools” versus the Seattle School District No. 1.

In this suit the parents challenge an appeals court’s decision which allowed the

Seattle School District No. 1 to continue using an assignment procedure that allows students to choose among high schools and then relies on tiebreakers including race to decide who gets into schools that have more applicants than openings.

In the Louisville lawsuit, Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education, the plaintiff seeks to have the Supreme Court decide whether the race-conscious student assignment plan in operation by the Jefferson County Public Schools should be allowed to continue.

Parent Crystal Meredith is requesting the Supreme Court overturn the 2003 Appeals Court decision which allowed the JCPS to continue to use race in its student assignment in their regular programs.

In Jefferson County, most public

schools are required to maintain an African-American enrollment of 15-to-50 percent without exceptions.

According to information pertaining to how JCPS places students in schools, ethnic groups such as Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanics are considered to be “other,” then are categorized as white.

In the “Statement of the Case” in Crystal Meredith’s suit, it is stated that she was denied her request to transfer her son, Joshua, into Bloom Elementary because he was white. Meredith’s further contention is that race in the regular programs of JCPS was narrowly tailored.

The facts were not in dispute that the admittance of Joshua would have placed the school over its 50 percent ratio of whites or African-American students because the school was not at capacity.

The writer, a Louisville resident, is the secretary of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the
Fellowship of Reconciliation

September 2006 to January 2007

November 16

Single Payer: The Best Medicine for a Sick Health Care System

Garrett Adams, MD, Physicians for a National Health Program-KY and Kay Tillow, Kentuckians for Single Payer Healthcare, will explain how non-profit, publicly funded and privately delivered health care can solve the health care crisis in the U.S.

January 18

Blacks and Labor: Building a Movement Together

Attica Scott, Coordinator, Kentucky Jobs with Justice, will give a brief history of the subject, then explore some of the opportunities and tensions that exist as these groups support a progressive social justice movement and finally, suggest opportunities for action by identifying ways in which both groups can work more collaboratively

The Rudyard Kipling • 422 West Oak Street • Louisville
Buffet Lunch at 11:30 • Presentations at Noon
\$6.00 • Reservations required



For reservations, call Polly Johnson (473-8435) or Mary Ann Lambert (425-3844) by Tuesday before the Lunch.



VENEZUELA: BRAVE
NEW WORLD

Just over a year ago, Pat Robertson shocked many of us by calling for the assassination of **President Hugo Chavez** of Venezuela. On his television program, (8/22/05) he said, “We have the ability to take him out, and I think the time has come that we exercise that ability.”

The national office of the **Fellowship of Reconciliation** denounced these remarks and called on all fairh-based communities to do the same, stating, “**This public call for the murder of the democratically elected leader of a foreign, sovereign nation should be repudiated by all people of conscience and leaders of integrity.**”

We wonder how our government’s policies have created a climate in which Pat Robertson would feel comfortable in advocating the assassination of this popularly elected leader whose election was deemed free and fair by international observers.

“**The remarks also reflect the growing hostility of US corporate, media, and government sources towards the Venezuelan leader and his plans to build a socialist society in Venezuela,**” according to the **FOR** statement.

Fast forward to the recent meeting of the United Nations General Assembly when Venezuelan President **Hugo Chavez** compared President George W. Bush to the devil. Homeland Security responded by strip-searching Venezuela’s foreign minister at JFK airport. Then Venezuela seized 176 pounds of frozen chicken en route to the US Embassy in Caracas.

Why this “tit for tat” between the two nations. What lies behind the enmity? Actually it is nothing new. Some of us recall that the Bush administration tried to overthrow Chavez in April 2002. An article by **Conn Hallinan** provides real insight as he draws the connection with oil. See “Foreign Policy in Focus,” **Hunting Hugo**, 10/23/06. www.fpiif.org/fpiftxt/3630

After the coup collapsed, Hallinan maintains that the CIA, through the National Endowment for Democracy and the US Agency for International Development bankrolled Chavez’s opponents and helped organize and support the strike by white collar oil workers and ships captains. “Since then, the Bush administration has kept up a drumbeat of attacks.” Condoleeza Rice warned that Chavez was a major threat to the region. Donald Rumsfeld compared Chavez to Adolph Hitler. Others have charged that Chavez was “undermining democracy” and a “destabilizing force in the region.”

Let us remember that Venezuela’s oil reserves are enormous, greater than Saudi Arabia’s, and may be as high as 1.3 trillion barrels, according to Hallinan.

“**What really worries the US is that Chavez is trying to diversify Venezuela’s clientele. Venezuela is currently building a \$335 million pipeline across Colombia in order to ship more oil to China, and is working on plans for a \$20 billion natural gas pipeline through the Amazon and on to markets in Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina.**

China is pouring in billions to develop fields in Venezuela, Bolivia, and Ecuador to give it the inside corner on future resources. The “China connection” is one that concerns the Bush administration, not only because it siphons off oil that normally would go to the United States, but also because the White House sees China as a rival and has done its best to elbow Peking out of the Middle East and Central Asia. ...

Venezuela has helped bail Ecuador and Argentina out of debt, invested in projects in Bolivia, and is selling oil to Cuba at a deep discount.

Given Chavez’s enormous popularity ... it is hard to see what the White House can do about Venezuela’s president. But that is not likely to discourage it from trying.”

More insight into the Venezuelan social experiment is provided by **Stephen Bartlett** (our local mover and shaker) writing in *NETLINE* a publication of Agricultural Missions, Inc. After attending a meeting in Caracas, Venezuela in August, 2005, a Convergence of Peoples Movements and International Financial Institutions, he wrote about “**The Venezuelan Experiment in Redistribution (including Agrarian Reform)**”.

Stephen Bartlett, Agricultural Missions staff, began by commending the government of Venezuela for subsidizing heating oil for impoverished communities in the *U.S.* In the case of such Venezuelan generosity to the underclass in the US, “we may simply be witnessing a positive experiment in redistribution of the goods of our economic system, where a democratic process has managed to take root and consolidate itself and is now able to focus on economic justice and shared development, with an internationalist spirit.”

He witnessed a deeply polarized society, with a large majority of people living in deep impoverishment. The polarization of opinion applies also to the social programs being implemented — programs that have, in exchange for oil, brought Cuban doctors and teachers to the marginal communities of Venezuela, and sent thousands of Venezuelans to Cuba for educational courses in social work, preventative medicine and public health. Other



programs have put the unemployed to work on construction brigades.

Stephen and other participants were offered lodging by social workers living in cramped housing who had recently completed a three-month course in social work in Havana. The whole extended family expressed support for the changes underway, including the mother who said, “Hugo Chavez has taken the blinders off the people’s eyes. ... This is a genuine revolutionary change.”

On the last days in Venezuela, Stephen met with leaders representing small scale and land poor or landless farmers and farm laborers who arranged a visit to a cooperative about two hours from Caracas. Some 93 farmers had gained access to lands previously held without proper title by absentee landlords.

These land recoveries were being encouraged by the government as part of an agrarian reform movement to divide up enormous plantations. “The cooperative president told us the demand for food was high and that the marketing of locally produced foodstuffs was a priority of the Chavez government.”

He told us that for decades the Venezuelan governments had ignored agriculture, relying on the oil industry alone to purchase imported foodstuffs. This had undermined the food sovereignty of the people and made Venezuela dependent on food imports.

Stephen tells of land conflicts and other problems the government struggles to overcome, but he concludes with a positive tribute. “**Venezuela stands out as unique in managing a feat perhaps never seen before. Venezuelans of humble origin had, en masse, achieved a miracle, an historical precedent.**” (Visit AMI’s website: www.agriculturalmissions.org)



Winona LaDuke (continued from page 1)

most often center on themes of diversity and ecology. Open Ground gives frequent attention to the special needs of those who are differently-abled, or marginalized for cultural, ethnic, economic, or other reasons.

LaDuke’s program, like most OG offers, addresses more than one of these considerations — women’s issues, strengthening the Native American population, ecology, arts, and activism.

OG has a growing reputation for such notable programs. It was the host of the first known gathering in our nation’s history for deaf visual, literary, or conceptual artists — and continues to offer this program — and several others for the deaf community. This year it is working with people who have HIV/Aids to design a social/expressive camp for youth and young adults, aged 13 to 21, who are infected or affected by this virus. The social and emotional needs of this group are great, but too often exaggerated by societal fear.

There is no existing social or expressive program for this age group anywhere in the state. To find out more about Open Ground, and to offer whatever kind of support you can for it, visit their website at www.openground.info.

About Winona LaDuke

LaDuke is an Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Anishinaabeg and is the mother of three children. She is the Program Director of Honor the Earth, founder of the Indigenous

Women’s Network, and Founding Director of White Earth Land Recovery Project.

In her role as director of Honor the Earth, Winona provides vision and leadership for the organization’s Regranting Program, and its Strategic Initiatives. In addition, she has worked for two decades on the land issues of the White Earth Reservation, including litigation over land rights in the 1980s.

In 1989, Winona received the Reebok Human Rights Award, with which, in part, she began the White Earth Land Recovery Project. In 1994, she was nominated by Time magazine as one of America’s fifty most promising leaders under forty years of age. She was awarded the Thomas Merton Award in 1996, the Ann Bancroft Award, the 1997 Ms. magazine’s Woman of the Year Award (with the Indigo Girls, Amy Ray, and Emily Saliers), the Global Green Award, and has received numerous other honors and recognitions.

Winona and the White Earth Land Recovery Project received the prestigious international Slow Food Award for their work with protecting wild rice and local biodiversity. In both 1996 and 2000, LaDuke ran for Vice-President on the Green Party ticket with Ralph Nader.

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities, she has written extensively on Native American and environmental issues. Her books include *Last Standing Woman* (fiction), *All Our Relations* (non-fiction), *In the Sugarbush* (children’s non-fiction), and *The Winona LaDuke Reader*. Her latest work, *Recovering the Sacred*, was released by South End Press in 2005.

Sterling Neal (continued from page 1)

650,000 people are released from prison to communities nationwide each year. Sterling, being aware of these statistics, helped establish a project called “This Is the Way Back!” Sterling assisted former inmates to “begin again.” He believed they should focus on four areas: jobs, housing, substance/mental health treatment and reconnection with their families.

Dr. King 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.”

Sterling was there offering advice when there were instances of police brutality; he would always tell us what we needed to do to mobilize the community. He was an activist who was always on the cutting edge of the issues. Just recently he spoke up for Dan Cobble, a pro se litigant, a person who represents himself. Cobble, who had tarred the federal courthouse as a protest, was moved out of the state for testing. Sterling questioned the move and Cobble’s ability to be able to represent himself.

Sterling had a life well-lived. In his church life, he helped promote Jubilee, one of the biggest and most successful festivals

in the city. People came from everywhere to commemorate the day slaves in Paducah first heard of the Emancipation Proclamation. We looked like an African Village. You could hear all types of entertainment from gospel to such groups as “Earth, Wind and Fire!” The park smelled with all types of food being cooked. And, the children had so many games to play and all types of rides. There was a time for storytelling, basketball, and oh, we had such wonderful talent contests. Vendors would come from everywhere. One year our theme was “Dropping Our Buckets Where We Are.”

Jubilee gave us a unique opportunity to bring prospective members into the fold. Had we not ventured out of our comfort zones, we would have missed an opportunity to witness to others. Sterling, full of wisdom and favor, was there enjoying it all.

So family and friends, another warrior has been called home. Where do we go from here?

The writer is an activist with REACT, a group fighting toxic pollution in Louisville, and the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.





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Three reviewers paw over evidence of transmigration

the lives and times of archy and mehitabel
edited by don marquis
doubleday, doran and co., inc.— garden city, new york, circa 1935
apparently 4 books in all, copyrights, sun printing and publishing association, new york tribune, p.j. collins and son, and, of course, don marquis

reviewed by miss kitty, mr. moxie and lady ariel

in this review we have used all lower case to honor archy, the author of mehitabel’s biography; but we have taken the liberty of adding punctuation. we think archy would approve since he always left space for the commas, periods, etc. archy would surely approve of making it easier for the reader. some scholars are of the

BOOK REVIEW

thought that the lack of punctuation is due to archy’s inability to provide it. we tend to find sympathy with that school of thought. all told, this is one volume of the four in which archy chronicled the life and times of mehitabel. the other three are, shamefully, out of print as is this one; further the other three were not available to this reviewing collective. we contend that it’s functionally impossible for a cockroach writer like archy to capitalize or punctuate since he has to jump up on the individual characters successively to produce each word. we feel that the fact that archy was willing to jump on the space bar to make those spaces for punctuation and between words is a

reflection of his character, dedication and concern for his readership. mehitabel’s times and archy’s as well seem to be in the late 1920s and early 1930s. the use of language, particular words and phrases and descriptions of places (for instance the speakeasy outside of which archy meets a rather decadent and alcoholic fellow cockroach) and events support this assumption. mehitabel, seemingly a common alley cat, is the reincarnation of cleopatra, or, as archy puts it, the transmigration of cleopatra’s soul. frankly, we reviewers do not see a difference. archy, however, insists on it. and, after all, he is not just mehitabel’s boswell, but the definitive scholar of her life and times. he avers that his soul is a transmigration of shakespeare’s soul and definitely claims to have been, as he puts it, a vers libra poet. his use of language certainly supports the latter. regardless of the many mishaps and irresponsible “toms” that appear in mehitabel’s life, she always follows her basic philosophy of “toujours gui.” this philosophy is close to a “keep on dancing” attitude toward life. archy points out that mehitabel is deeply concerned with feline cosmology as well. archy neither belongs to the “make a hero” nor the “show all the warts” school of biographers. he is clearly critical of mehitabel’s approach to motherhood when she stuffs her litter of kittens in an alley garbage can. he is equally critical of her alley behavior when the two tour paris together. we conclude this review with the observation, “not since boswell.”

Miss Kitty, Mr. Moxie and Lady Ariel are good feline friends of Eustace Durrett and Ike Thacker, who are likewise good friends and, one supposes, fellow transmigrators.

Mexico’s perspective on immigration *(continued from page 1)*

As for the *Mestizos*, those having a mix of indigenous and Spanish heritage, the threat to economic survival is reflected in the thousands who leave their communities to head to the U.S. Somehow, their situation becomes much more real when you can substitute names and faces for mere statistics. During our stay in the town of San Caralampio, Don Javier and his family played host to me. Both his sons, one of whom is still in the U.S., had crossed the border with the help of a coyote from their hometown. The eldest son, Javerito, is now back home because his father needed his help on the farm. But it was only because of the remittances, or money sent home from the U.S., that the family now has a solidly constructed house with an enclosed patio in front where the three girls operate a small *taqueria* in the evening. Don Javier, along with Don Flavio and don Bipo, two other farmers whom we met in San Caralampio and with whom we had several conversations, all wanted to be sure that we felt welcome and that they had done all they could to make our visit worthwhile. In exchange, they asked that we let people know about the extremely difficult economic conditions they face. One of the largest hurdles is their inability to compete with corn exported to Mexico by the U.S. Currently, there are only four U.S. products which still have import tariffs placed on them by the government of Mexico: beans, corn, sugar and powdered milk. When 2008 arrives, as

cattle. Don Javier, on the other hand, partly with the help of the Catholic Church, is trying to develop organic fertilizers to reduce costs and lessen damage to the environment. He has already developed a type of foliar fertilizer in which fruit (papaya, platano and apple) are mixed with tortilla, and then boiled. A second type is similar, but two kilos of fresh manure are added. He also has developed an organic pesticide using sulphur. Prior to the introduction of chemical fertilizers and weed killers in the early 1960s, farmers basically used machetes to cut down weeds in their fields. Having heard about fertilizers and other chemical products, they asked the government to supply them in order to increase production and make weed control easier. At the time, such products were very inexpensive (three-to-four pesos for a 50 kilo bag). The government accommodated their request and granted them credit to purchase them. The farmers, however, had been accustomed to growing plants such as beans, squash, watermelons and yucca in between the rows of corn. When they began using chemicals such as Esteron and Gramazone, these plants were all killed along with the weeds. As for fertilizers, they have also been a mixed blessing. When there is plenty of rain, the fertilizers can be beneficial, but when the weather is dry, the plants are burned by their use. Spraying is often done by individuals wearing a *bomba*, or backpack containing



— photo by Emily Brown

The house of a family in San Caralampio, Chiapas, Mexico was built with money sent back as remittances by relatives living in the U.S. With this cash coming in, the house is of substantially better quality than most in the town.

In addition to corn, coffee production in Chiapas has also suffered from international forces which have depressed prices for coffee farmers. While coffee is mainly grown in the indigenous highlands area and is not as widely produced as corn, the drop in prices has also contributed to the increase in poverty. Many families have had to borrow money to cover expenses and have accrued high-interest loans which have forced them to seek other work, sell their land or grow illegal crops in order to get out of debt. As a result, even indigenous coffee farmers have begun to migrate north, something that was not common before. As mentioned above, the community of San Caralampio is an *ejido* community, and until the 1970s, the process of forming *ejidos* was common throughout Mexico. As additional families were incorporated, *ejidos* would expand, but the original structure was maintained. Then, in 1992, President Salinas changed Article 27 of the Mexican constitution so that it is now possible to sell and buy land which is part of the cooperative. As a result, a new government program called PROCEDA has been developed in order to grant land ownership rights to the *ejidatarios*. If the majority of farmers in a particular *ejido* vote to accept the right to own their land, the rest have to accept the decision. Many farmers feel this is a clever way for the government to take back the land previously granted; if a farmer needs to buy supplies, for example, and uses his land title as collateral, he risks the loss of that land should he be unable to pay back the loan. In addition, property taxes would have to be paid to the government and currently farmers pay taxes only to the community, thus having a lower tax base. The farmers of San Caralampio have not succumbed to all the challenges facing

them yet. In 1982, they joined a union called OCEZ (Emiliano Zapata Campesino Organization) which unites campesinos from various areas. Their group, along with others in Mexico, connects to the umbrella organization CNPA (Coordinadora nacional plan de Ayala) which solicits the government for help to the farmers. While successful in some respects, government help has not been sufficient to offset the powerful market forces plaguing their existence. Interestingly, it has recently been the Catholic Church which has helped them organize, manage their money, take out loans and become more capable of handling their finances. Sadly, however, many fear that several years from now towns such as San Caralampio could become ghost towns. Not only would this be tragic from the standpoint of Mexican culture and tradition, but there will be even more immigrants trying to get a foothold in the United States and an ever-shrinking agricultural base within Mexico. Rather than trying to “secure the border” or build a wall (which many think would be useless), isn’t it time to change some of the policies which helped to create the problem, and if continued, will help to perpetuate it? One note of encouragement: in the September 11 issue of *Time*, it was stated that there is a growing consensus about the need to invest in the rural sector of Mexico. The new President-elect, Felipe Calderon, is quoted as having said that, “One kilometer of new road in Oaxaca is worth more than 100 miles of fence on the U.S.-Mexico border.” Let’s hope that such insight translates into true change.

The writer, of Louisville, is a Spanish teacher at Our Lady of Providence High School in Clarksville, Ind.

“Tenemos cultura, pero de Monsanto (We have a culture, but it is Monsanto’s). The people who produce seeds have a future, but the farmers don’t.” — Don Javier

a result of NAFTA, there will be none. Farmers in Chiapas are, for the most part, organized into *ejidos*, a type of farming cooperative. The *ejido* of San Caralampio was established between 1934 and 1936, starting out with a group of 20 families. It now numbers about 400. Within the *ejido*, farmers vote on issues which affect the whole community, but each farmer has a tract of land on which he or she can personally decide what to grow. One decision regretted by all three farmers with whom we spoke, was the decision to use chemical fertilizers and weed killers. While not denying that insects were a problem in the past, they have developed a dependency on costly fertilizers and insecticides. As a result, the cost of producing corn often exceeds the price they receive for their crops. Using something of a “back of the envelope “ technique during our conversation, the three estimated that it costs approximately \$14,260 pesos to farm one hectare (2.2 acres) and that the revenue for the corn produced is roughly \$10,000 pesos. As a result, don Flavio has given up entirely on growing corn and now raises

the chemicals. People have been affected by breathing the chemicals as well as by absorbing them through their skin. Some have even passed out in the fields due to chemical exposure. Farmers continue using the *bombas*, however, because it would take a farmer with a machete a week to accomplish the same thing as a single spraying can achieve. A second regret is the decision to use genetically modified seeds. Not only are they uncertain about the eventual outcomes from their use, but they have virtually lost the seeds of native Indian types of corn which, in their opinion, were inherently better in flavor and quality. Monsanto has supposedly agreed to bank these seeds for 20 years, but even if this plan is successful, farmers wonder if they will have access to them or even be able to afford them. In short, according to Don Javier, “*Tenemos cultura, pero de Monsanto.* (We have a culture, but it is Monsanto’s.) The people who produce seeds have a future, but the farmers don’t. If you do make a penny it all goes back into taking care of the tractor and all the machinery or you have to go to the U.S. to get the money to fix it.”

Calendar for peacemakers

Nov 4 (Sat) **“GAY CUBA” VIDEO** and **“AN EVENING WITH CAROL KRAEMER AND LAURA SHINE.”** 7:30pm. At the Alternative, 1032 Story Ave. \$10 donation suggested for the Henry Wallace Brigade Scholarship Fund.

Nov 4 (Sat) **“VIVE EN NEGRO”/“LIVE IN BLACK,” Performance by ALETHA FIELDS.** 11:00pm. At the Jazz Factory, 815 W Market St. \$10 donation suggested for the Henry Wallace Brigade Scholarship Fund.

Nov 5 (Sun) **28th ANNUAL HUNGER WALK**, sponsored by the Kentuckiana Interfaith Community (KIC). Waterfront Park, Festival Plaza. Register at 1:00pm. Walk/Run/Bike at 2:00pm. Benefits local Community Ministries as well as Women’s Agricultural Project in Western Africa, Kentucky Harvest’s Blessings in a Backpack, and Dare to Care’s Backpack Program. Contact Rosemary Cavanaugh 451-3860x15, Evelyn Vaughn 239-4317 or Doug Fowler 468-0438.

Nov 5 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign or candle. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvlllepeace.org

Nov 5-11 **FESTIVAL OF FAITHS 2006**, including signature events: Community Thanksgiving Celebration, Children of Abraham Dinner, and Interfaith Breakfast. New this year will be the **“Festival Scholars” program**, providing a public forum for local scholars of religion to share/discuss topical information in relation to the Festival. Also new will be the **“How to Be a Perfect Stranger”** series complimenting the goal of better knowing our neighbor’s religious practice when dealing with death. The theme of this year’s Festival will be “Death and Dying Through the Eyes of Faith.” Most Festival activities will be at the Louisville Gardens, 525 W Muhammad Ali Blvd. Call 583-3100. info@cathedralheritage.org

Nov 5 (Sun) **READINGS FROM THE SUFI POET RUMI, by Coleman Barks**, part of the “Festival of Faiths” celebration. Through his translations and reworkings, Coleman Barks has made the ecstatic poems of Jelaluddin Rumi, 13th century mystic, the number one best-selling poet in the US. Barks recently retired as teacher of contemporary American poetry at the University of Georgia, Athens. Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S Second St. 4:00pm. Call Terry Taylor, 299-7591.

Nov 6 (Mon) **PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY LUNCHEON**, 1044 Alta Vista Rd, featurng renowned poet, **Ann Weems, Rabbi Gaylia Rooks**, and **Cantor Paula Pepperstone** in a poetic, historical, and musical experience of the “Psalms of Lament.” Sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Relations during the “Festival of Faiths “ celebration. Tickets \$15. Call 583-3100.

Nov 7 (Tue) **COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING**, part of the “Festival of Faiths” celebration, at the Cathedral of the Assumption, 443 S. 5th St. 5:30pm. Call 583-3100.

Nov 7 (Tue) **ELECTION DAY!! Vote for progressive candidates.** A list of endorsed candidates is available from the Committee for Fairness and Individual Rights (CFAIR). Call 502/893-0788.

Nov 8 (Wed) **ANNUAL CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM DINNER & PRAYER SERVICE.** Temple Shalom, 4615 Lowe Road. 7:00pm. Part of the “Festival of Faiths celebration.” Tickets \$15. Call 583-3100.

Nov 8 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Every second Wednesday, Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 10, 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Nov 9 (Thu) **INTERFAITH BREAKFAST**, sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Relations during the “Festival of Faiths” celebration. Louisville Gardens, 525 W Muhammad Ali Blvd. 7:30-9:00am The speaker is **David Zinner**, executive director of **Kavod v’Nichum**, whose mission is to “restore to Jewish death and bereavement practice the traditions and values of honoring the dead and comforting the bereaved.” Call 583-3100.

Nov 9 (Thu) **APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Program).** Every second Thursday, League of Women Voters Building, 115 S. Ewing (off Frankfort Ave). 7:30 pm. Call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Nov 9 (Thu) **WINONA LaDUKE** (Green Party Candidate for V.P. in 2004): **“Freeing Ourselves to Be Agents of Change.” Observations on proactive participation in and creation of one’s world, with emphasis on knowing and developing personal strengths and communal support.** Unitarian Church, 4th & York, 7:00pm. Sponsored by **OPEN GROUND.** (859/375-2411) Donation suggested in support of OPEN GROUND.

Nov 10-12 (FSS) **RETREAT WORKSHOP: “Women Artists as Change Agents”** at OPEN GROUND, 981 Rye Lane, Harrodsburg, KY 40330. Scholarships available. (859/375-2411). For info visit www.openground.info

Nov 10 (Fri) **STEWARDSHIP OF THE EARTH** presented by **Wendell Berry**, noted Kentucky author and professor, and **Dharma Master Heng Sure**, Director of the Berkeley Buddhist Monastery. Sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Relations during the “Festival of Faiths Celebration.” 10:30am, Louisille Gardens. 583-3100

Nov 10 (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.

Nov 10 (Fri) **CUBAN FOOD/MUSIC/SILENT AUCTION.** 6-9 pm. At the Americana Community Center, 4801 Southside Dr. \$10 donation suggested for the Henry Wallace Brigade Scholarship Fund.

Nov 10 (Fri) **SPOKEN WORD AND MUSIC. 11:00 pm.** At the Jazz Factory, 815 W Market St. \$10 donation suggested for the Henry Wallace Brigade Scholarship Fund.

Nov 11 (Sat) **SAVING A DYING PLANET: A Call to Action — The World’s Faith Traditions Respond to the Desecration of Earth.** A full day of ecological programming featuring a presentation by **CARL POPE, Executive Director of the Sierra Club.** Sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Relations during

the “Festival of Faiths” celebration. Cathedral of the Assumption, 443 S 5th St.

Nov 12 (Sun) **JOURNEY TOWARD JUSTICE, promoting a welcoming society for LGBTQ people in our faith communities and beyond.** Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky Streets, 1:00-4:00pm. Call the Fairness office, 893-0788.

Nov 12 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 7:00 pm, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the **FOR** office. 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. Call Chris Harmer, 893-2334. charmer@ch2m.com

Nov 14 (Four Tuesdays) **CREATION SPIRITUALITY as articulated by Matthew Fox, Joanna Macy, Thomas Berry.** Presented by **Mark Steiner** of Cultivating Connections. Sponsored by the Center for Faith & Action, James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave, 7:00pm, \$40. Call 896-0172. www.faith-action.org

Nov 16 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation: SINGLE PAYER: The Best Medicine for a Sick Health Care System.** Featuring **Garrett Adams, MD**, Physicians for a National Health Program-KY, and **Kay Tillow**, Kentuckians for Single Payer Healthcare. They will explain how non-profit, publicly funded and privately delivered health care can solve the health care crisis in the U.S. Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W Oak St. Buffet lunch, \$7, begins at 11:30. Presentation at noon. Reservations required. Call Polly Johnson, 473-8435 or Mary Ann Lambert, 425-3844.

Nov 16 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**, every third Thursday, 5:30pm. Main library, 4th & York Sts, Board Room, Mezzanine. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Nov 16 (Thu) **LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community)**, every third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914; Ellen Schagene, 451-6392; or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. www.louisvillepeace.org

Nov 17 (Fri) **PIZZA & A MOVIE: “Never Cry Wolf.”** Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. 6:00pm. Free. Donation for pizza suggested. Call Terry Taylor, 214-7322. tatduende2@yahoo.com

Nov 18 (Sat) **LOUISVILLE DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR COLUMBUS, GA. They will participate in the annual protest at the School of the Americas (combat training school for Latin American soldiers).** Some scholarship help available. Board the bus at Executive West at 1:00am. For details, call Dotti Lockhart, 897-9680, or Mary Ann Lambert, 425-3844. dottianbob@aol.com lambertmalcontent@msn.com

Nov 27 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30pm. Visitors welcome. Call Phil Schervish, 451-6638 or Dennis Bricking, 895-8516.

Nov 27 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/ JANUARY 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

Nov 28 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Rd, 6:30pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885 or Mark Meade, 541-9998. kcadp@earthlink.net

Nov 29 (Wed) **DINING OUT FOR LIFE.** Call a friend and plan now to dine out at a participating restaurant. A portion of your check will benefit **HIV/AIDS** services provided by the **HOUSE OF RUTH/GLADE HOUSE**, thanks to the generous support of our local area restaurateurs. A list of participating restaurants is available. Call 587-5080. Visit www.diningoutforlife.com.

Nov 29 (Wed) **AN EVENING TO SUPPORT VENEZUELA AND CUBA DELEGATIONS. MUSIC, SPOKEN WORD and MORE.** 7-9 pm. At the Rudyard Kipling, 422 W Oak St

Dec 1 (Fri) **HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION: “Finding Refuge Under God’s Tent,”** featuring **Mrs. Claudia Peralta-Mudd**, International Program Specialist in the Louisville Metro Office for International Affairs. Sponsored by Church Women United. Bring items for the Center for Women and Families such as children’s books, knitted gloves and hats, non-violent toys, crayons, and diaries. Mothers need date/ time planners and bath and body items. Registration begins at 9:30am. Program at 10:00am. Light lunch follows. Stoner Memorial Zion Church, 1127 W Oak St. (Call 239-5931)

Dec 3 (Sun) **CONTEMPLATIVE CONCERT** with **HARRY PICKENS**, internationally known jazz pianist seeking to inspire constructive action in service of a world that works for all. Center for Faith & Action, James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave, 7:30pm. Donations welcome. Call 896-0172. www.faith-action.org

Dec 7 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley Marmion’s. 6:30pm.** Please share your expertise and enjoy the conversation. We need you for one hour. Call Beverley, 451-5658.

Dec 8/9 (FS) **“HOLIDAY CONCERT” by “Voices of Kentuckiana.”** Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, 8:00pm. Tickets \$15.00, Call 583-1013. www.voicesky.org

Dec 21 (Thu) **POTLUCK/CELEBRATION AND SEND-OFF FOR THE HENRY WALLACE BRIGADE TO CUBA.** 6-8 pm. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Kentucky. Call Sonja Wallace, 558-3568.

May 25-29,2007 (TFSSM) **BEATLES TRIBUTE FESTIVAL “Abbey Road on the River,”** with bands and merchandise. Memorial Day Weekend. Riverfront Plaza/Belvedere/Galt House, \$200 until Jan 2007. \$220 after Jan 2007. One-day tickets also available. Call 216-378-1980. www.abbeyroadontheriver.com

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Feb 16-25, 2007, **KENTUCKY WITNESS FOR PEACE DELEGATION TO VENEZUELA.** Meet directly with civil society leaders. Put a “human face” on US policy toward Venezuela. *Sign up now!* Call Amy Shelton, 634-2109. amyeshelton@gmail.com or kitlac@yahoo.com

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) – (568-1918)

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)

APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Program) – 2nd Thursday (895-8155)

BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 1st Tuesday (239-4317)

CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)

C.E.A.S.E. [Citizens for Equitable Assignment to School Environments] – (778-9427)

CLARK & FLOYD COUNTIES AIDS COALITION – (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 (454-7797)

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)

COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – Second Sunday (893-2334)

EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Sunday (569-1876)

FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (451-6638 or 895-8516)

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)

GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (897-3335)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (637-6265)

HATE FREE SCHOOLS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (454-3300)

INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Tuesday (214-7322)

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)

JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (562-6737)

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 (541-9998)

KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (774-4000)

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 (893-0788), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org

METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)

METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)

MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)

NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (776-7608)

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)

PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)

PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)

POWER [PEOPLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING FOR ENERGY REFORM] – 2nd Monday, jointly with KFTC (778-2687)

RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (866-606-0988)

RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)

SHADHULIYYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – (637-5010)

SINGLE WOMEN’S GROUP – 3rd Sunday (812-866-1667)

911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6022)

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.