

FORsooth

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November 2007

At tenth dinner, unity called crucial in ‘perilous times’

by Ike M. Thacker IV
and Eustace Durrett

It was not by accident, of course, that Rev. Dr. William Barber II’s keynote speech at the 10th annual Unity Dinner at Louisville Gardens Sept. 29 bore the title, “Mobilizing Action to Challenge the Current Wave of Racism & Political Repression.”

For by now it is well-known that we are in such a “wave” and Barber is a prominent mobilizer/organizer of mass action, especially in his adopted home state of North Carolina.

The Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression organized the dinner, which was catered by Expressions of You, an African-American caterer, and included various musical selections by area artists.

Based in Durham, Barber is a renowned scholar, speaker, and activist who leads the North Carolina state NAACP and participated in the National Reconciliation Task Force.

He is one of the leaders of a 70-group Peoples Agenda coalition that operates and advocates statewide, and which in February coordinated what members called “H K on J:” Historic Thousands on Jones Street (Jones Street is the location of the state capitol in Raleigh), in which the marching “K” (thousands) — numbering at least 2,000 — presented a 14-point Peoples Agenda to their state government.

This brings back memories, for those



North Carolina activist Rev. Dr. William Barber II, left photo, told the 10th annual Unity Dinner Sept. 29 that the task for the peace and justice movement is to hold on to “an agenda of hope in the midst of hurt.” Right photo, Mattie Jones, left, and Kay Tillow, share some joy after being honored at the dinner.

of us in the Louisville peace and justice movement, of the Coalition for the People’s Agenda that flourished in the early years of this decade.



— photos by Eddie Davis

The coalition presented a People’s Agenda calling for many issue-related actions, collected into eight groupings, to the new Metro Council that had been

created by voters’ approving in 2000 the merger of Louisville and Jefferson County governments.

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— photo courtesy Terry Taylor

Singer John Gage, back to camera, performs Oct. 12 during the five-day Heschel/Merton Pilgrimage for Peace and Non-Violence as pilgrims pause outside the federal courthouse on Broadway in downtown Louisville.

Walks link activists, issues

by Terry Taylor
and Dennis Bricking

About 20 people walked 28 miles through Louisville and many more studied nonviolence, confronted social problems and heard music on the Heschel/Merton Pilgrimage for Peace and non-Violence Oct. 11 to 15.

The pilgrimage, organized by Interfaith Paths to Peace in cooperation with the Louisville FOR and more than 60 other people, groups, organizations, mosques, churches, synagogues and temples, exposed the pilgrims to a wide variety of religious and cultural backgrounds. The event’s goals were to:

- Deliver high quality non-violence training led by Jim McGinnis, a nationally renowned non-violence educator who

works through the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis.

- Enable the pilgrims to return to their synagogues, mosques, churches and temples to train others about how to confront and overcome problems related to peace and justice through non-violent means.
- Confront the pilgrims with the problems related to peace and justice (hunger, homelessness, violence, poverty, war, disease, lack of affordable healthcare, the needs of refugees) in our own community and around the world, and acquaint them with the groups and organizations in Louisville that address those problems.

The pilgrimage began Thursday afternoon, October 11 at Christ Church Cathedral (where the pilgrims spent their first night) as

(continued on page 3)

Lunch told domestic violence is everybody’s problem

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

More women visit hospital emergency rooms because of domestic violence than any other reason, including car accidents and street crimes combined, Amanda Houpt told the FOR’s Third Thursday Lunch October 18.

Houpt, a community educator with the Center for Women and Families, spoke during Domestic Violence Awareness Month in place of the originally scheduled center vice-president for development Dale Van Fleet Herink, who was unable to attend.

Houpt, 24, whose work with the center against domestic violence goes back to her volunteering there as a high school student at Presentation Academy in Louisville, stressed that the problem spans all income levels, races and ethnicities.

“It’s everybody’s problem,” she said, adding that everyone, consciously or not, knows someone hurt by domestic violence.

The problem takes many forms besides just battery, Houpt added, explaining that emotional abuse, verbal abuse, economic abuse — where one partner has total control



— photo by George Morrison
Amanda Houpt

of finances - are also forms of domestic violence, as is unwanted sexual touching.

Another common form, she said, is isolation, trying to stop a partner from seeing friends or relatives.

“The way the center defines it, is that domestic violence is a pattern of behavior used to gain and maintain power and control over a domestic partner,” she said.

The Center for Women and Families

provides an emergency shelter for adults and their children, a transitional shelter for more long-term safety, legal advocacy, counseling and a 24-hour crisis line at 877-803-7577.

Houpt also told the lunch:

- One out of four teenagers will experience relationship violence by adulthood.
- Men who grew up in violent homes are three times as likely to perpetrate domestic violence.
- In 95 percent of the cases the center sees, men are the perpetrators, but men sometimes are victims and space is reserved at the center for men.
- Domestic violence happens in same-sex relationships, with an additional form of abuse being threatening to “out” the partner if he or she seeks help.

Although Houpt described the question of to what extent traditional gender roles lead to domestic violence as “tricky,” she said altering the male view of his position as superior is part of the solution. She praised efforts to accomplish this by a group called Menswork, which was co-founded by Louisville-based Rus Funk, an acclaimed activist, teacher and author who

has worked against sexism and violence.

Also on a positive note, materials distributed by Houpt included a description of healthy relationships. The qualities of such relationships include:

- Being friends as well as lovers.
- Respecting each other’s privacy.
- Not making long-term commitments before both partners are ready
- Both partners being allowed their own ideas and opinions.
- Not expecting the other to be perfect or to meet stereotyped ideas of roles in life.

To volunteer at the Center for Women and Families, call the business line at (502) 581-7200.

Doug Stern, a consultant to the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, will speak at the Nov. 15 Third Thursday Lunch about organizing faith communities for abolition.

For \$7 reservations, which cover the meal and talk, or more information, call Polly Johnson at (502) 473-8435 or Mary Ann Lambert at (502) 425-3844 by Nov. 13.

Unity called crucial in ‘perilous times’ (continued from page 1)

Comments made in the Unity Dinner program make it clear that the Kentucky Alliance, at least, intends to follow up on this similarity of purpose.

One of the key oft-repeated themes of Barber’s address, for which he cited his grandmother as the source, was that, “These are perilous times.”

Barber used the travesty in Jena, Louisiana (in which the black “Jena 6” were charged while white perpetrators who started the trouble there have not been) as a metaphor for our broken “justice” system and to show just how “perilous” these times can be.

Nooses, like the ones the white Jena perpetrators placed, are objects of terror, he pointed out, and tennis shoes are not deadly weapons. What kind of permission should one have to have to sit under a tree, he asked.

Barber pointed out that we have “Jenas” all around the country (he briefly discussed some of them).

But the task for us in the peace and justice movement, Barber said, is to hold on to “an agenda of hope in the midst of hurt.”

These perilous times are full of contradictions and hurt, he added; we call people “aliens” (which is just as bad as the “n word,” Barber said.) whose land (including California and much of Texas) we stole from Mexico. But remember, Barber continued, that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was thankful for being born in perilous times, which are by their very perilousness also times of great promise.

It was to help fulfill that promise that Barber and his 2,000-plus cohorts presented their Peoples Agenda on Jones Street in Raleigh. The agenda included:

- High quality, well-funded, diverse schools for all children.
- Living wages and health care for all.
- Government redress for the Wilmington Race Riots of 1898 and forced sterilization of black women from 1947 to 1977.
- Same-day voter registration and public financing for elections.
- More funding for historically black colleges and universities.
- Redress for 200 years of discrimination in state hiring and contracting.

- Affordable housing and consumer protection;
- Criminal justice reform including abolition of the death penalty.
- Creation of an environmental job corps for youth.
- Collective bargaining for public employees.
- Immigrant rights, more funding for civil rights enforcement agencies.
- Bringing troops home from Iraq.

And the key to making the promise a reality in these times of peril is Unity, Unity, Unity!, Barber said thunderously. For example, he said, even people who support only some of the points in the Agenda should “sign on” and support it enthusiastically.

“We need a movement, not a moment” for this “agenda of hope” Barber said, quoting that grandmother again. “Sometimes the reason there is so much apathy is that folk don’t know.”

Helping people, Barber said, often also is “hoping” them — giving them hope. He ended thus with a rousing exhortation for his listeners to, “Hope somebody... Hope somebody... Hope Somebody.”

The Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression honored several area activists at its 2007 Unity Dinner.

Mattie Jones, whom the Unity Dinner program called a “fearless amazon, a warrior” and who has 28 civil disobedience arrests earned in the struggle, was the recipient of the first Carl and Anne Braden Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in Social Activism. She is a former executive director of the Kentucky Alliance and is currently a board member of the Justice Resource Center.

She is the former coordinator of racial and economic justice of the national Fellowship of Reconciliation in Nyack, N.Y. and served as regional traveler for the legendary Southern Organizing Committee. Not surprisingly, she is a member of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Kay Tillow, called by the program a “relentless activist for social change,” was

also honored for her lifetime achievements. She is the Organizing Director of the Nurses’ Professional Organization, which fights for the rights of nurses to organize.

Tillow is the state coordinator of Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care and a leader in the movement seeking health care for all.

U.S. Rep. John Conyers, a 2002 Unity Dinner speaker and sponsor of H.R. 676, the leading single-payer bill currently before the U.S. House of Representatives, said in a statement in the Unity Dinner program:

“Kay Tillow is one of the most historically important advocates for single payer universal health care in the history of the United States. She has been able to garner the endorsements of 21 state AFL-CIO organizations, and over 300 national and local labor organizations to support HR 676.... It is an honor and a privilege to know Kay Tillow. History will show that [her efforts were] one of the most important factors in why universal health care was achieved in this country.”

Another of the six activists who were honored was Christopher 2X, humanitarian and founder of the Ceremonial Healing Group, who has tried to alleviate the plight of this city’s most marginalized and impoverished citizens and comfort

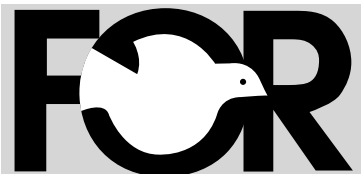
bereaved families whose losses sometimes have been at the hands of the powerful.

His work also includes motivating teens and children to achieve their full potential and creating community-based programs to reduce handgun violence.

Other honorees were:

- Brittany and Ashley Taylor, called by the dinner program “rising stars.” They are Louisville teens who have spoken out, partly through United Women Against Street Violence, in protest against violence in Louisville.
- Freddy Peralta, the dinner’s “Unsung Hero,” is a Lexington-based advocate for immigrant rights who is President of the Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (KCIRR), which calls for comprehensive immigration reform. He also works with other progressive organizations to advance social and economic justice more generally, having lobbied, for example, for ex-felons’ voting rights and a state minimum wage bill.

Ike M. Thacker IV is an advocate for radical socioeconomic equity, focusing especially on housing issues. Eustace Durrett is an advocate for economic equality and rail transit. Both live in Louisville.



Founded 1915

FORsooth is published by the Louisville chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Send submissions for news stories or commentaries to George Morrison, editor, c/o 2236 Kaelin Ave., Louisville, KY 40205, e-mail: <klm86@att.net>.

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92 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.

Cochairs: Phil Schervish 558-7175
Dennis Bricking 895-8516

FOR’s Mission Statement

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

Walks

(continued from page 1)

participants received intensive personal non-violence training from McGinnis.

That evening, a dinner and interfaith service focused on the problems of hunger and homelessness and featured presentations by Denton Randall of Dare to Care Food Bank, Mary Frances Schafer of the Coalition for the Homeless and Khara Kincade of Help Ministries. The service included music by interns from the Kentucky Opera and musicians from Christ Church Cathedral.

The second day (Friday) began with McGinnis continuing the non-violence training with a focus on the issues of racism, militarism and materialism. Friday afternoon the pilgrims began the walking portion of the pilgrimage with a prayerful walk, led by Joe Grant of JustFaith, a faith formation program emphasizing the gospel message of peace and justice, Catholic social teaching and the intersection of spirituality and action.

The walk went through the central city making brief vigils at a number of key sites related to the problems of injustice and violence. The afternoon also included a visit to the Plymouth Community Renewal Center on West Chestnut Street, which gives social, educational and cultural services in the historically black Russell neighborhood and elsewhere.

Pilgrims also held a peace rally at the Federal Building and heard a presentation from a representative of the Center for Women and Families on domestic violence and what can be done about it. After supper the pilgrims walked to Centennial Olivet Baptist Church for an evening program on the challenge of urban violence. The program included presentations by Rev. Clay Calloway, Rev. Joe Phelps, and Rev. Wilbur S. Browning Sr. of the host church. On that evening the pilgrims also observed a brief Shabbat service at CrossRoads Urban Retreat Ministry, led by three Jewish pilgrims, and joined a Muslim pilgrim in breaking the month-long Ramadan fast which ended at sundown on that day.

On Saturday the group heard a presentation from Dawn Dones of CrossRoads Urban Retreat Ministry of St. Williams Catholic community in West Louisville and two young persons associated with the ministry on youth peace and justice efforts. The pilgrims then walked along the riverfront and into the Highlands. There they took part in a two-hour discussion at the Soka Gakkai International-USA meeting house on how the ideas of peace and justice are dealt with in the world's major religions.

The presenters included Terry Taylor of Interfaith Paths to Peace, Nancy Harris of the Louisville Baha'i community, Muslim Haleh Kharimi, Jewish representatives Russ Greenleaf and Frank Schwartz, and a representative of the Soka Gakkai community. Later in the afternoon they heard a presentation from Paul Neumann and Marge Manke on Quaker ideas of peace and justice. The pilgrims were to be the guests of Douglass Boulevard Christian Church for their overnight stay.



About Heschel and Merton

ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL (1907-1972), a descendant of two important Hasidic dynasties, was born in Warsaw. Heschel aimed, through his writing and teaching, to shock modern people out of complacency and into a spiritual dimension. Before his untimely death, Heschel had become highly respected among American religionists of many faiths not only for his writings but also for his active role in the civil rights and peace movements of the 1960s and in the Jewish-Christian dialogue. Heschel's meaning for our time is bound up in the impact he made on the passions of the day. Heschel's concern and action have been pivotal in two issues: race and peace. On the first, many will remember the picture of his striding alongside Martin Luther King, Jr., in the protest march at Selma, Alabama. Mrs. Coretta Scott King, in recalling that event, called Heschel "one of the great men of our time." Rabbi Heschel described the march in these words: "For many of us the march from Selma to Montgomery was both protest and prayer. Legs are not lips, and walking is not kneeling. And yet our legs uttered songs. Even without words, our march was worship. I felt my legs were praying."

THOMAS MERTON (1915-1968) was arguably the most influential American Catholic author of the twentieth century. His autobiography *The Seven Storey Mountain* has sold over one million copies and has been translated into over fifteen languages. He wrote over sixty other books and hundreds of poems and articles on topics ranging from monastic spirituality to civil rights, nonviolence, and the nuclear arms race. His ongoing conversion impelled him into the political arena, where he became, according to Daniel Berrigan, the conscience of the peace movement of the 1960's. Referring to race and peace as the two most urgent issues of our time, Merton was a strong supporter of the nonviolent civil rights movement, which he called "certainly the greatest example of Christian faith in action in the social history of the United States." For his social activism Merton endured severe criticism, from Catholics and non-Catholics alike, who assailed his political writings as unbecoming of a monk. During his last years, he became deeply interested in Asian religions, particularly Zen Buddhism, and in promoting East-West dialogue. After several meetings with Merton during the American monk's trip to the Far East in 1968, the Dalai Lama praised him as having a more profound understanding of Buddhism than any other Christian he had known.

At the Church the group heard a dinnertime anti-war presentation by Pilgrimage leader Sam Avery and then viewed the local premiere of a new documentary film about renowned Catholic peace activist John Dear, SJ.

Father Dear, the former national secretary of the U.S. Fellowship of Reconciliation, joined the group and led a discussion of the film following the screening. He urged people to become more active in public protests against U.S. involvement in war, occupation in Iraq and Palestine, and the growing threat of nuclear weapons.

On Sunday, the group began its day with a visit to the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University for a discussion of Merton, Rabbi Heschel and their views about peace and justice. The discussion was led by Joe Rooks Rapport, co-senior Rabbi at the Temple, and Paul Pearson, Director of the Thomas Merton Center and Archives.

The pilgrims then walked along Eastern Parkway to the University of Louisville for lunch and a presentation by Mar-

garet Stewart on the topic of Mountaintop Removal in coal mining. The course then led the pilgrims to the Americana Community Center in Louisville's South End, which aids refugees and immigrants.

The center provided overnight housing, and was the location for an evening presentation by Carol Young of Kentucky Refugee Ministries and Edgardo Mansilla, the center's director, focusing on the plight of immigrants and refugees in Louisville.

On Monday the group walked first to the Southern Leadership Academy, where they heard a presentation on how this middle school uses eighth graders in peer conflict resolution. The pilgrims then moved on to the offices of Catholic Charities on South Fourth Street for lunch and conversation on the many justice and poverty-related programs and services.

The pilgrims took part in a meditation walk and peace vigil along the edge of the University of Louisville campus before proceeding to the Woodbine Catholic Worker House where Marnie McAlister

explained the hospitality and work done at the house, which has been developed as a tribute to, and following the teachings of, Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin.

The pilgrimage ended with a rally at Central Park at which the pilgrims reported on what they had experienced over the five-day journey and then invited those present to join them as they walked the final mile to Fourth Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard (the location of Thomas Merton's famous epiphany).

Then it was on to a reception by the Center for Interfaith Relations in their beautiful memorial garden where the 80 or so persons present were invited to take a vow of non-violence.

Terry Taylor is the director of Interfaith Paths to Peace. Dennis Bricking is the co-chairperson of the Louisville chapter of the FOR. To borrow copies of the documentary about John Dear, contact Bricking at (502) 895-8516 or Interfaith Paths to Peace at (502) 214-7322.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

September 2007 - January 2008

November 15 *Organizing Faith Communities for Abolition of the Death Penalty in Kentucky*

Doug Stern, a consultant to the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, will speak about KCADP's efforts to engage faith communities in key legislative districts statewide to support the abolition of the death penalty. He will talk about his experiences and give an overview of death penalty issues being considered for the 2008 Kentucky General Assembly.

January 17 *Churches Calling for Economic Justice in the 21st Century: That All Shall Enjoy the Work of Their Own Hands*

Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, Assistant Professor of Theology at Bellarmine University, will discuss the 21st Century Social Creed that is currently under review by member denominations of the National Council of Churches, highlighting significant issues that Christians of privilege should consider when calling for social and economic justice.

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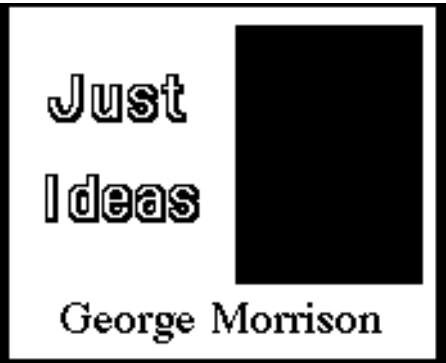


For reservations, call Polly Johnson (473-8435) or Mary Ann Lambert (425-3844) by Tuesday before the Lunch

Barbara stepped up, now you must for peace calendar

You never appreciate how good someone’s work is until you have to do it. FORsooth production person Barbara Powers, who designs brochures for a living and works tirelessly for progressive causes, blends those passions by doing the computer pagination, photo sizing and initial printing for each issue of this paper. Knee surgery during a crucial part of the production cycle for the October FORsooth kept her partially on the sidelines. Although she was able to persevere through the discomfort to do most of the electronic work for the October issue, some of her usual tasks were left to me.

With considerable help from the crew at a copy and design shop in Louisville, my trembling hands were able to tape together the “paste-ups,” an old low-tech era term for the original pages from which the more than 2,300 copies of FORsooth are made. I did it with the knowledge that one slip-up could mess up thousands of people’s newspapers and, as I said, it made me appreciate Barbara’s design talents and steady hand even more. From Barbara’s “above and beyond” to someone’s (perhaps yours) “dereliction of duty” (and I mean those in the pacifist sense). Many people have read our repeated ads seeking someone to replace the legendary Jean Edwards as editor of the Calendar for Peacemakers on page eight, which she plans to discontinue editing by the end of this year. Undoubtedly, several readers have thought about it, but figured someone else would surely step forward.



Well no one has, so if you have pondered becoming the new editor, you *must* respond. You’ll need an internet-access computer, but we’ll train you fully. It is an unpaid position but the spiritual dividends are vast. Contact me at klm86@att.net or 944-6460. As I’m writing this, the BBC is reporting on U.S. public television that Turkey has bombed Kurdish strongholds in northern Iraq and may send its ground forces across the border. Some people warned in late 2002 and early 2003 that simply ousting Saddam Hussein wouldn’t necessarily bring freedom or peace. The region, they said, was very complex and ousting Saddam’s regime may merely free up violent forces just as troubling. The people who said these things got plenty of media coverage, too. They were constantly being called traitors and cowards by talk radio hosts and right-wing commentators on Fox and other television outlets.

I remember one caller to a radio show who read from her dictionary the definition of “treason” and concluded that it accurately described all criticism of the war. In 2007, I wonder if that caller would be willing to publically read the definition of “farsightedness,” which, rather than treason, was what early critics of the war were practicing. Of course looking ahead, not back, is the task of peace activists. The Cheney-Bush

rights of health care and education to its people, is the other principal target of Cheney-Bush venom. One thing makes Cuba much less vulnerable than Iran to another unilateral U.S. military adventure like Iraq: the region of Latin America is almost totally opposed to any strike against Cuba and would isolate the U.S. in the United Nation or even the Organization of American States if Washington tried to act unilaterally.

*...looking ahead, not back, is the task of peace activists.
The Cheney-Bush administration knows no shame and learns
not one lesson from it many giant failures.*

administration knows no shame and learns not one lesson from it many giant failures. It talks of another unprovoked war, against Iran, a nation ruled by a largely reactionary regime (“We have no homosexuals in Iran,” president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said.) Cuba, which is making great strides on gay rights and guarantees the human

Venezuela would probably even commit troops to defend Cuba, as other nations might also, meaning we’d be talking about a wide war. That’s leads to the other force curbing Cheney-Bush: an American public sick of war and much more difficult to hoodwink this time. Contact George Morrison at klm86@att.net.

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American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)/Kentucky Chapter (502.893.9828) www.adckentucky.com

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FORsooth

Racial justice eludes six black teens in Louisiana town

by Gracie Lewis

The Jena 6 case represents the most thoroughly racist case in America. On August 30, 2006 a black student asked school administrators at Jena High School in Jena, La. if he could sit under the “white tree” where only white students customarily sat. The following day, three nooses in school colors were hanging from the tree. Three white students were identified as having hung the nooses. They were expelled from school.

The black students exercised their First Amendment constitutional rights and staged a protest. They alleged the nooses were a hate crime and intimidating. I would take this a step further. A noose is not only a hate crime, but punishable. The noose represents one of the most brutal periods in the life of black people.

During slavery, a noose was an act of terrorism. It meant castration, death and destruction. More than 4,000 men and women were lynched, and no one to date has ever been charged. It was an act of terrorism, and an effective form of “slave control.”

When jazz singer Billie Holiday

traveled for the first time to the south and witnessed a body hanging from a tree, she returned to New York, unable to get the stench of burning skin out of her mind and sang “Strange Fruit.”

The nooses are a hate crime. Now there are nooses showing up everywhere, which calls for federal intervention. The recent noose hanging at Columbia

the students to settle down and put the incident behind them. He went on to tell them, “With a stroke of my pen, I can make your lives disappear.”

After the assembly, a group of black parents came to a school board meeting to express their disagreement with the decision not to expel the students for hanging the nooses. Because they had not arranged to

On September 20, more than 20,000 people from around the country marched on Jena. On September 27, Mychal Bell was released after paying \$45,000 bail. The judge in his case is the same judge who placed him in a secured juvenile facility for 18 months for two prior unrelated cases.

This is cruel and unusual punishment. Mychal Bell was on the verge of receiving a diploma and a scholarship to go to college. This is a classic example of a hostile environment in a school setting, and the reality of discrimination. We must do all we can to dismantle “the school to prison pipeline.”

And we want those charged for hanging the nooses indicted for a “hate crime.” Now that nooses are being found everywhere, a strong message needs to be sent that we won’t tolerate any more injustices. Federal intervention is required and now!

Free the “Jena 6.” We demand nothing less than justice here! No justice, no peace.

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

The noose represents one of the most brutal periods in the life of black people. During slavery, a noose was an act of terrorism.

University in New York City and at the University of Maryland are examples.

After the initial decision to expel the noose hangers was reduced to suspensions, with school officials calling the nooses a prank, the students were able to continue their education. The principal called an assembly and told the students that it was time to put the incident behind them. At the same assembly, the La Salle Parish District Attorney, flanked by police officers, warned

be on the agenda, they were denied an opportunity to address the board.

The following week, they were given that opportunity. The board refused to have a meaningful discussion with these parents.

There was a fight that broke out, and six black youth known as the Jena 6 were charged as adults with crimes ranging from aggravated battery to attempted murder for their involvement in the schoolyard fight. An all-white jury found them guilty.

Just beyond prosperity, thousands live in squalor in US

by Fred Hicks

Deer Canyon is a rough and undeveloped area on the outskirts of San Diego, surrounded by rapidly expanding neighborhoods of spacious and luxurious homes. Hidden in this canyon, within sight of some of the most expensive real estate in America, some 2,000 undocumented Mexican immigrants live in improvised shacks, made of scrap material and plastic sheeting.

They work as day-laborers, sometimes as groundskeepers for the owners of the luxurious homes. Filmmaker John Carlos Frey spent considerable time with them, interviewing them and filming their lives. The result was *The Invisible Mexicans of Deer Canyon*, a remarkable film that was shown recently at Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, with Frey as a special guest.

The immigrants in the film are not mere statistics. The film introduced us to many of them; we learned their names, where they were from, something about their families back home, and why they left Mexico.

They came, mostly as single men, from various parts of Mexico. Many had worked in agriculture, either as independent farmers or for commercial farms, but recent free trade agreements have decimated Mexican agriculture, and the resulting impoverishment forced them to emigrate.

One of the migrants shown in the film had worked on a coffee farm, which was good work when coffee sold for 25 pesos a kilo, but when the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) went into effect, the price dropped to five pesos, and he could no longer make a living.

Those that live in Deer Canyon make about \$7,000 to \$10,000 a year, which is more than the \$5 a day they were making in Mexico. And they pay no rent. If they did, they couldn’t survive.

One person did get a steady job on a horse farm, and a modest place to live for \$200 a month rent, but then the boss didn’t pay him, and wanted to raise the rent, so he had to quit. There was a tomato farm nearby, which provided some work, but it was sold to a developer, and is no longer farmed. The people walk to their places of work, or to the highway where they may be picked

up by someone offering them a job. This may require an hour’s walk, and they often start as early as 5:30 a.m.

Their homes, actually more like camps, are very small, sometimes with just room enough to sleep. They cook outside on stoves if they have them, or buy meals from a lunch truck that comes by.

They have no electricity and no running water. For washing, they use runoff from irrigation canals, which are too polluted to drink. For drinking, they buy bottled water, but sometimes they can’t afford it, and have no choice but to drink polluted water.

In the canyon, they built an open-air church, with benches and a simple altar, and a priest from San Diego comes out and gives services. The church was vandalized, but it still functions.

Despite their very low earnings, they send, on average, about \$100 a month back to their families in Mexico. They do not want to live here permanently, nor do they want to become U.S. citizens.

They prefer Mexico, where their family and friends are, and they are here only to help support their families. They used to alternate between home in Mexico and work up here, spending half the year in each place, but tightened border security has made it harder to cross, so they stay up here longer.

Home owners of the area fear the migrants. Made-up horror stories circulate, which make the migrants seem criminal and dangerous, and the news media report these. Sometimes people come in and wreck the homes or steal the possessions of the migrants.

Periodically, eviction notices are put up, and they have to move deeper into the canyon, and camouflage their homes better. Yet Frey came in with some \$25,000 worth of TV equipment to make the film, and often left it unattended in one of the huts, and nothing was ever taken.

As undocumented immigrants, they have no rights — no access to the law, nor to health care. It has happened that an employer, on pay day, declines to pay the worker what he is owed, and threatens to call the authorities and have him deported if he makes a fuss. Back in the 1970s, Cesar Chavez managed to



—photo courtesy Fred Hicks

Migrants wait for work in Deer Canyon in the shadow of multi-million dollar homes.

organize farm workers and their living conditions improved. At its height, the United Farm Workers had about 10,000 members, but now it is down to just 3,000.

The UFW can’t organize undocumented workers, because if such workers try to join a union, they will be threatened with deportation. The undocumented migrants, in Deer Canyon and elsewhere, make up, or can be made into, an underclass, a source of cheap, exploitable labor.

With their status criminalized, they can be blamed for anything, and have no defense. They cannot be unionized, and have no claim on social services. Yet the economy needs them. There are some three million farm workers in the U.S., and about 90 percent of them are undocumented. If they were all deported, American agriculture would be devastated.

The film presentation was organized by the Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean (KITLAC), the Intercongregational Multicultural Committee, the Hispanic/Latino Coalition, and the May Day Coalition.

At the Crescent Hill presentation, more than 60 people attended, and the film was followed by lots of discussion with the filmmaker. It was also shown at several other locations in the Louisville area and in Bardstown.

Every place, it is a real eye-opener. Frey, a native of Mexico who now lives in Los Angeles, has made or directed other films, but because of its subject matter, this one has been hard to market. However, copies of it on DVD, can be ordered from www.invisiblemexicans.com.

One thing the film brought out, which is all too seldom mentioned in discussions of immigration, is the role of U.S.

agricultural policies and “free trade” agreements in forcing Mexicans to emigrate to the United States.

Before the era of unrestricted free trade, government support of agriculture in this country took the form of paying farmers not to produce too much. This avoided oversupply and kept the price high enough to provide a living for farmers. Mexico had been self-sufficient in food and productive in many other crops, grown mostly on family farms or cooperatives. Farmers rarely got rich, but they did not starve, and there was rural stability.

But beginning in the 1990s, this changed. In the United States, new high-yield seeds and improved technology made industrial agriculture much more productive, and farmers were encouraged to produce as much as possible, for export.

Massive government subsidies to American agribusiness, which Mexico could not match, made it possible to export these crops very cheaply, often below the costs of production. Soon Mexican markets were flooded with cheap American imports, which the NAFTA agreement required Mexico to accept.

In most cases, Mexican farmers could not compete, and millions of them saw no option except emigration to the United States, with or without proper documentation.

If we are truly concerned about the growing number of immigrants, we might look not just at the immigrants themselves, but at the ways in which U.S. trade policies have been the root cause of such migration, and how these might be changed.

The writer, of Louisville, is a retired professor of anthropology and an activist for fair economics.



Groups unite to extinguish blazes of racism, unjust pay

Last Spring I was in the IBEW (electrical workers) union hall in Louisville. A large crowd of unionists and others was there to hear a report-back from U.S. Representative John Yarmuth, a decent progressive Democrat.

This would be his first speech in Louisville since defeating the Republican multi-term incumbent and long-time ally of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell.

Standing near me was a fellow I did not know. We nodded courteously at each other, and then struck up a conversation. Craig Willman is president of Louisville Professional Fire Fighters Local 345. He said his union has been without a contract with the City of Louisville for two years.

I identified myself as having served eight years on the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council, representing Local 16T of the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grainmillers Union. I also told him I write a newspaper column, and am a board member of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

Craig said the city was stonewalling on the contract, and the union has, additionally, sued the city over millions of dollars of back pay the workers are owed. We exchanged business cards.

A month later he called me. “We are not getting anywhere with the city. Can you assist?” We got together for lunch.

Craig described the dire situation of firefighters, including the fact that the salary of many beginning firefighters is so low they qualify for government assistance.

I told Craig that my column, in print and on the several listservs that carry it, has many readers who would write letters and otherwise assist. But I also said my circulation is nowhere near, for example, that of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*, a Gannett paper. Craig complained that the *Courier-Journal* does not cover his side of the dispute.

“Certainly, I’ll assist, but first I’ll have to tell you what I think of your union.” Craig’s eyes widened. “Go ahead.”

“What do I think of your union? Not very much! The last firefighters’ recruitment training class had only white recruits. While this shows the city’s racism, your union never protested this. Maybe that’s why there is a separate Black firefighters organization.

“But your cause is a righteous one, and I will help as best I can.” So I suggested we



call a meeting of labor and community groups. I suggested we meet in the Braden Center, home of the Kentucky Alliance and located in the largest of Louisville’s African American communities. I, frankly, wanted to see if the firefighters would come to the West End.

They certainly did come. In fact, we held a second meeting as well. Rev. Louis Coleman, of the Justice Resource Center, was present. He has been highly critical of the building and construction unions for not pushing for the hiring of more non-whites. Reps from the latter unions also came, critical of Rev. Coleman, they claim, for not recognizing the changed situation today — that is one where they are making an effort to include more non-whites.

We also had to deal with unions representing both sides of the rupture in the U.S. labor movement: Change to Win, and the AFL-CIO. In fact, presidents and other officers from unions in both camps came to assist: AFSCME, Carpenters, Firefighters, Jefferson County Teachers Association, Laborers, UAW, United Food and Commercial Workers. Others present: Greater Louisville Central Labor Council, Ken-

tucky Jobs With Justice, Justice Resource Center, and the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. I hope I am not leaving anyone out.

Brother Willman came again to the Braden Center, to address a meeting of the Kentucky Alliance. But he did more than that: he purchased a table for eight for the Alliance’s then-upcoming Unity Dinner, and bought a half-page ad in our dinner journal.

Truth be told, the firefighters had to settle for a half-assed contract. Beginning firewomen and firemen will start out at a mere \$11.19 per hour. Our first responders earn a decent living only by working as wage slaves, sometimes sixty hours per week.

They turned down the city’s contract proposal last summer. The city would not budge and the firefighters, in a bind, agreed to settle for that last contract offer. But the city said the firefighters responded too late: that offer was off the table and a worse one was then proposed by the city!

Additionally, the union had sued the city for overtime pay which the city had refused to pay. Your columnist remembers well our mayor, and other officials, paying tribute to the New York City Firefighters, and other first responders, who were entering the World Trade Center while WTC employees, those not consumed in the flames, were fleeing for their lives.

Please don’t tell me how forward-thinking are our municipal sovereigns when they can repeatedly treat our firefighters like crap.

I do not know whether the relationship the firefighters and the Kentucky Alliance have established will have been but a fleeting one. Somehow, I think it will be ongoing. Nor can I say that the solidarity shown by the AFL-CIO and Change to Win can be carried to other projects.

What I do know is that we ignore such unity — to our peril.

Louisville has other woes, as well. A pharmacy in my neighborhood recently posted this sign: “To Our Great Customers: We, at Douglas Pharmacy... would like to thank everyone who has visited us. This is to let you know that we are merging with CVS.... It has been an honor and privilege to have served you the past 22 years.”

Now, even a dummy like me knows that that aint no merger. The little fish was gobbled up by the big fish. Medicare Part D doesn’t pay little pharmacies enough to make their efforts profitable. Mega-store drug retailers buy in bulk, and undercut mom-and-pop outfits. And the Wal-Mart behemoth and its competitors have been reducing many generic drug prices to the point where small stores cannot compete.

One more item about Louisville bears mentioning. The Bristol Bar and Grille, on Bardstown Road, has been frequented by your columnist over the years: good food, nice atmosphere. The climate is changing.

Corey Nett has cerebral palsy. It seems that on one restaurant visit, last August, his voice rose, through no fault of his own, to a pitch outside the manager of the Bristol’s comfort zone. So the manager asked Corey to move to the back of the bus — oops, I mean restaurant — claiming Corey’s voice was bothering other patrons.

One hundred protesters picketed the restaurant in September, including your correspondent. Corey has taken the Bristol to court. But, to our mind, more picket lines are necessary, in addition to court action, to force the restaurant to do the right thing. Has this restaurant no shame?

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.



Enjoy Thunder!
But we can make it
family entertainment
for everyone
next year...

Demilitarize Thunder – Say NO to the warplanes. Tell Derby Festival:

- Don’t mistake fighters and nuclear-capable bombers flying overhead for “family entertainment”.
- Respect and welcome Louisville’s growing immigrant communities, some of whom relive the terror of warplanes bombing their towns
- Don’t equate reveling in glamorized military might with patriotism.
- Take these symbols of the divisive war, and the recruiters that are a part of the air show deal, out of our celebration
- The Derby is about friendly competition. Bombers never will be.

Let’s create alternatives for our children and friends – here, and around the world. How about peaceful skies, more aerobatics, more skydivers, more music, but no bombers over – or military recruiters on – the Great Lawn. Call KY Derby Festival President Mike Berry (584-6383), Mayor Abramson (574-2003), Metro Council (574-1100), or e-mail the sponsors (Caesars, Chase Bank, E-on, and UPS).

Sponsors: Louisville Friends Meeting (Quakers); Central Presbyterian Church; The Peace and Compassion Buddha Circle; Jeff Street Baptist Community at Liberty; First Unitarian Church Social Concerns committee; Interfaith Paths to Peace; Pax Christi; Fellowship of Reconciliation; Louisville Peace Action Community; The Board of Kentucky Refugee Ministries; Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; American Veterans Against War; Feminist Peace Network; St. Williams Catholic Church Peace and Social Justice committee; Fairness Campaign



PROTESTING
POLAR BEARS
ARRESTED

These groovin’ polar bears were just some of the characters who graced the sidewalks near the congressional office buildings on October 22, 2007. Their slogan, “**No War, No Warming**” was also being chanted by protesters who snarled DC traffic by bodily blocking cars on Independence Avenue.

This was a breakthrough demonstration that brought together people concerned about the issues of peace and climate change. These issues are closely interrelated and if the two movements join together, both will become stronger.

No War, No Warming was a project instigated by Linda Schade, founding executive director of **Voters For Peace**. There were approximately 60 arrests including Iraq vets, people in Blackwater costumes, and a solid contingent of fresh new SDSers (that’s right, Students for a Democratic Society).

You can see a short video of ‘polar bears’ getting arrested at: http://www.readexpress.com/read_freeride/2007/10/video_protesting_polar_bears_arrested_on.php

Also read the article by Voters for Peace board member, David Swanson at: www.democracyrising.us/content/view/1118/164/



THE MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT
STRONGLY PROTESTED

The June 26 week of action was highly praised in a letter from **Sister Dianna Ortiz**, OSU, Executive Director of TASSC (Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition Int’l).

The annual 24-Hour Vigil on June 23 was attended by over 100 survivors of torture and hundreds more “friends of TASSC.” All three major television networks were present, and a Washington Post reporter wrote a good article.

On Monday, June 25 they held a teach-in on the Military Commissions Act and the campaign to repeal this horrific law. On Tuesday, TASSC joined with the ACLU, Amnesty International and many others to rally in front of the Capitol to demand an end to the Military Commissions Act. Specifically they urged passage of the “**Restoration of Habeas Corpus**” bills currently in the House and Senate. Sister Dianna was joined on the podium by a multitude of senators and representatives and leaders from supportive organizations. Following the 2 hour rally, ***over 2000 people headed toward the capitol*** to meet with Congressional leaders to urge their support to repeal the Military Commissions Act.

The survivors went in teams to meet with representatives and senators and were very well received. Fourteen representatives added their names to the House bill, and six more senators joined the Senate bill to restore habeas corpus. Now Sister Dianna turns to us. Please contact your senators and urge them to cosponsor **Senate Bill 576**, the “Restoring the Constitution Act.” Then contact your representative to urge cosponsorship of **House Bill 1352**, the “Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act.”

“The passage of these bills would reverse some of the devastation caused by the Military Commissions Act,” says Sister Dianna Ortiz. Please call today!.

SAN FRANCISCO BANS PLASTIC
SHOPPING BAGS

Last April the city’s Board of Supervisors approved groundbreaking legislation to outlaw plastic checkout bags at large supermarkets in about six months and at large chain pharmacies in about a year. The ordinance is the first such law in any city in the United States and has brought forth worldwide attention.

Fifty years ago, plastic bags — starting with the sandwich bag — were seen as a more sanitary and environmentally friendly alternative to the deforesting paper bag, so states an article in the San Francisco Chronicle (4/3/2007). Now an estimated 180 million plastic bags are distributed to shoppers each year. Made of gilmy plastic, they are hard to recycle and easily blow into trees and waterways where they are blamed for killing marine life. They also occupy much-needed landfill space.

San Francisco will join a number of countries, such as Ireland, that already have outlawed plastic bags or have levied a tax on them. Large markets and pharmacies will have the option of using compostable bags made of corn starch or recyclable paper.

It takes an estimated 430,000 gallons of oil to manufacture 100 million bags. Compostable bags can be recycled in the city’s green garbage bins and will make it more convenient for residents to recycle food scraps.



Calendar for peacemakers

(continued from back page)

Research Institute.” **Dr. Cate Fosl, Jardana Peacock, Amber Dukes**. DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Pkwy. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Nov 17 (Sat) **FAIRNESS NIGHT at “Angels in America.”** UofL Playhouse. Sliding scale tickets \$15 to \$50. Call Fairness to reserve tickets, 502-893-0788.

Nov 18 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** (Every third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Mamion, 451-5658.

Nov 18 (Sun) **CONCERT FOR CONTEMPLATION** with *HARRY PICKENS*, internationally known pianist. Experience the power of music to help you slow down, relax and deepen your conscious connection with the Source of peace within. 7:30 pm at James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Donations welcome.

Nov 19 (Mon) **RUDOLPH ALEXANDER, FORMER DEATH-ROW INMATE**, will lecture at 1:30 pm on “**The Crininal Justice System: Contemporary Issues**” and participate in a panel discussion afterward. University of Louisville Library Auditorium. Dr. Alexander teaches social work at Ohio State University and is sponsored here by the UL Kent School of Social Work. In his autobiography, he describes how injustices in the criminal justice system affected him after his arrest at age 17 in a gang member’s murder. After his parole he earned advanced degrees in social work and has written several books about racial justice. For more information, call Sharon E. Moore at 502-852-0751. (Note: Prior to the free lecture, Alexander will participate in a NETWORK lunch costing \$8.50 at the University Club. Reservations are required by Nov. 16. Call Marian Vasser at 502-852-2252 or Linda Wilson at 502—852-0274.)

Nov 23 (Fri) **PIZZA and A MOVIE: “The Mouse That Roared”** sponsored by the Center for Faith & Action and Interfaith Paths to Peace. Pizza at 6:00pm. Film at 6:30pm. Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S 2nd St. Free. Donations welcome for pizza. Call 896-0172.

Nov 26 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Visitors encouraged. Call cochairs Phil Schervish, 451-6638, or Dennis Bricking, 298-0590.

Nov 26 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE Dec/Jan issue of FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor**, 944-6460, E-mail: klm86@att.net **Note: For calendar listings**, contact Jean Edwards, 458-8056. E-mail: edwardsfor@bellsouth.net

Nov 27 (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 (Thu) **KET DOCUMENTARY “Every Heartbeat Has a Voice: Kentuckians Speak Out about Health Care.”** Seven Kentucky communities are visited, including Smoketown. Includes an interview with Sister of Mercy **MARY SCHMUCK**, a parish social ministry coordinator for Catholic Charities. She was interviewed on the campus of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth in Nazareth, Ky where her office is located. 9:00 pm.

Dec 1 (Sat) **19th ANNUAL WORLD AIDS DAY.** What signs of progress do we see in coping with this virus? Despite massive amounts of money being donated to provide 2 million HIV-positive people with lifesaving antiretroviral drugs, the number of people infected each day far outpaces the number going on treatment, states Richard Holbrooke, former ambassador to the United Nations and president of the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. (Washington Post 10-10-07). Prevention is the only cure, since HIV lives undetected in people for about eight years before it explodes into full-blown AIDS. Thus the virus is unintentionally spread for those eight years. “**A sound prevention strategy would encompass education and counseling, free condoms, female empowerment, more male circumcision, and abstinence.**”

Dec 6 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING**, at Beverley Marmion’s, 6:30pm. **BOUQUETS to those who carry on this essential work every month.** Call 451-5658.

Dec 9 (Sunday) **CONCERT FOR CONTEMPLATION** with *Harry Pickens*, internationally known pianist. Experience the power of music to help you slow down, relax and deepen your conscious connection with the source of peace within. 7:30 pm at James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Donations welcome.

Dec 10 (Mon) **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY.** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the United Nations on Dec 10, 1948. Learn more about human rights through the campaign, ***Trade for People, Not People for Trade.*** Check out the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, a network of over 90 churches and Christian organizations. Go to www.e-alliance.ch/trade_resources.jsp#worship

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Dec 1-15 **IRAN PEACE DELEGATION** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This Grassroots Civilian Diplomacy initiative works to lift up the nonviolent potential in local communities and individuals. Dennis Bricking plans to represent our Louisville FOR chapter. To learn more, visit www.FORpeace.net Also see iran@FORusa.org Call the Nyack office, 845-358-4601, ext.31.

“I dreamed I saw a beautiful shining railroad train that circled around a mountain. Streams of children — and adults as well — rushed toward the train and could not be held back.” I asked the train conductor where it was going. The deathly figure replied, ‘This train is going to hell.’ I would like to call out to everyone who is riding on this train, JUMP OUT OF THE TRAIN BEFORE IT REACHES ITS DESTINATION, EVEN IF IT COSTS YOUR LIFE.”

— Franz Jaegerstaetter

Calendar for peacemakers

SHALOM! “Just to be is a blessing ... Just to live is holy”
— **Abraham J. Heschel**

Nov 4 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00pm, sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-691.

Nov 4-10 **2007 FESTIVAL OF FAITHS: “Birth and Creation through the Eyes of Faith.”** The Festival creates an opportunity for those of different faith traditions to come together, share meaningful dialogue, and identify commonly held beliefs while working on a project that addresses shared issues. For a brochure with complete listing of the week’s events, call **The Center for Interfaith Relations**, 502-583-3100. *Note some highlights of this year’s Festival:*

Nov 4 (Sun) **KENTUCKIANA INTERFAITH COMMUNITY’S HUNGER WALK/RUN/BIKE** to benefit the 16 area Community Ministries, Kentucky Harvest, Heifer International and Hand in Hand Ministries in Nicaragua and Belize. A 5k walk/run or a 10 or 15 mile bike ride to demonstrate the faith community’s commitment to those in need. Waterfront Park, Festival Plaza, near Joe’s Crab Shack. Register at 1:00 pm. Event at 2:00 pm.

Nov 4 (Sun) **FESTIVAL OF FAITHS THANKS-GIVING SERVICE.** 7:30 pm at the Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 S Fifth St. Sponsored by Highland Community Ministries, 451-3695.

Nov 5 (Mon) **THE BIRTH OF GREENFAITH** — helping people to rediscover their relationship with the sacred in nature; sharing success stories and helping Louisville to launch its own green faith effort. Convention Ctr, 8:30—11:30 am. Reservations required. Call 502-583-3100

Nov 5 (Mon) **PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY LUNCHEON**, 12:00 at Gardencourt. 1044 Alta Vista. Dialogue on creation myths and stories with Mary Ellen Hill and Dr. Eugene March. \$15.

Nov 5 (Wed) **FREDERICK HART, Guided Art Bus Tour.** 2:00 beginning at Convention Center followed by reception and lecture with author and former ambassador **MICHAEL NOVAK**. \$35. Reception and lecture only, \$17.

Nov 7 (Wed) **CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM DINNER & WORSHIP SERVICE.** 6:00 pm at James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. \$12

Nov 8 (Thu) **INTERFAITH BREAKFAST, “Birth of the Social Artist”** with **Jean Houston**. Convention Center, 7:00 am. \$25

Nov 8 (Thu) **THANK GOD FOR EVOLUTION!** with **Rev. Michael Dowd**. 7:30 pm. Convention Center.

Nov 8 (Thu) “**LET’S TALK ABOUT SEX**” day-long program, 8:45-2:00, including morning workshops with **Courtney Renee Avery** of the National Black Church Initiative, **Steve Clapp** ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and author of *Faith Matters*. Lunch talk with **Bani Hines Hudson**, Coordinator of the Saturday Academy, “Sex Education: A Reality Check” followed by panel/discussion, book signing, and curricula review. St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 330 N. Hubbards Ln. \$25. Call 866-606-0988.

Nov 8 (Thu) **FIFTH ANNUAL ELIZABETH CADY STANTON AWARDS LUNCHEON**, sponsored by the UofL Women’s Center, at 11:30 am in the Malcolm Chancey Center (University Club), honoring the legacy of generations of suffragists who struggled from 1848 to 1920 to win the vote for women. Highlighted this year will be Susan B. Anthony. Keynote speaker: Nora Bredes, director of the Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership in Rochester, NY. For details, call 502/852-8976. e-mail the Women’s Center: womenctr@louisville.edu

Nov 8 (Thu) **PEOPLE AND THE LAND** (new version). A film that examines the concrete realities of Israel’s conduct in the West Bank and Gaza, the level of US support, and the human cost in Palestine and the US. Sponsored by APPAF (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum), League of Women Voters Bldg, 115 S Ewing (off Frankfort Ave). 7:30 pm. Call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Nov 8 (Thu) **CITIZENS AGAINST POLICE ABUSE (CAPA)**, every second Thursday at the office of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, 3208 W Broadway. 7:00 pm. Call K. A. Owens, 778-8130.

Nov 9 (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 for a two state solution 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 9 (Fri) **YOUNG DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS**, every Friday afternoon, 2:30-4:00 pm. Louisville Free Public Library, Mezzanine, Fourth & York Streets. Call Edward Elam, 502/712-2338.

Nov 10 (Sat) **PEAK OIL** Every 2nd Saturday, main library 4th & York, Mezzanine, board room. 9:00am. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Nov 10 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** 11:00—2:00 Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History. At 12:30 **Dean Edward Halperin** and **Dr. Toni Miles** will present “**Race and Medicine in History.**” DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th Street just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Nov 10 (Sat) **KENTUCKY FAIRNESS ALLIANCE, Third Annual “OUT & ABOUT” Dinner and Dancing. 7:00—11:00 pm. Frazier International History Museum**, 829 W Main St. Cosponsored by the Fairness Campaign. Master of Ceremonies *Jeff Lutes* Executive Director of Soulforce. Keynote *Vic Basile* Executive Director of Moveable Feast and former executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. Music *Robbie Bartlett* performing in Louisville area night clubs since 1982. \$125. **PLEASE RSVP: 866-205-3239**. More info at www.kentuckyfairness.org

Nov 11 (Sun) **INVITATION to meet Penny Loeb**, author of *Moving Mountains*, and *Patricia Bragg*, grassroots leader in the West Virginia Movement to Preserve Appalachia. Portland Museum, 2308 Portland Ave, 2:00-4:00 pm. Music by *Public Outcry*. Contribution requested (\$5-\$50). Refreshments & book signing. Sponsored by Kentuckians For The Commonwealth and the Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund, celebrating the life of *Earl Wilson*, Davis-Putter scholar. Call Jessica George 502-500-8082.

Nov 11 (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. *colonel221@yahoo.com*

Nov 14 (Wed) **KITLAC** (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean). Every second Wednesday at the Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Nov 15 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, featuring **DOUG STERN: “Organizing Faith Communities for Abolition of the Death Penalty in Kentucky.”** Doug is a consultant to the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, engaging faith communities in key legislative districts statewide to support abolition. 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 15 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**, every first and third Thursday, 5:30pm. Main library, 4th & York Sts, Board Room, Mezzanine. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Nov 15 (Thu) **LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community)** every third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914. Also go to www.louisvillepeace.org E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com

Nov 16 (Fri) **MARTYRS OF EL SALVADOR REMEMBERED.** Six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter were murdered by the Salvadoran military in the middle of the night, November 16, 1989. They will be remembered again this year at Ft Benning, Georgia, along with more than 75,000 other Salvadoran victims since 1980. This will be the year of decision to close the training school WHINSEC.

Nov 16-18 (FSS) **CLOSE WHINSEC (School of Assassins).** Legislation to cut off funding for the School lost by only six votes last June, the closest vote ever. **Reserve your seat now for the bus trip to Columbus, Georgia, leaving at 5:00 am on Saturday morning.** Call Dotti Lockhart, 897-9680, dottianbob@aol.com or Mary Ann Lambert, 425-3844, lambertmalcontent@msn.com

Nov 17 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** 11:00-2:00. **Dr. Blaine Hudson** begins with Black and African World History. At 12:30, **The Female Perspective Series:** “Who are we? Why are we? How did we get here? Three Women’s Journeys to the Anne Braden Social Justice

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)

APPAF (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum) – 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 – First Sunday at 5:00 PM (384-3875)

COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (775-4041)

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 – (774-4305)

LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)

LOUISVILLE MEDIA REFORM COMMUNITY – 3rd Wednesday (584-4811)

LOUISVILLE PEAK OIL GROUP – 2nd Saturday (425-6645)

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 (502-609-6020)

YOUNG DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS – every Friday at 2:30 PM (712-2338)

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.

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