

FORsooth

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Dec. 2005/Jan. 2006

West to speak, two to be honored Jan. 21

by Anne Braden

Excitement is beginning to build throughout the entire Louisville area in anticipation of the annual Unity Dinner, where Activist/Scholar Cornel West will give the keynote address.

The event, sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, is scheduled for Saturday, January 21, at The Gardens, Sixth St. and Muhammad Ali Blvd. There will be a social hour at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 6:30 p.m. During the social hour, Dr. West will sign copies of his best-known books.

The honorees this year will be long-time activist Henry Wallace and West End organizer Eboni Neal Cochran. There will also be an Unsung Hero Award presented to a little-known grassroots activist, whose name will not be announced until that evening.

The theme of this year's dinner will be: "Bigger than Katrina; Fighting Racism and Creating Democracy."

The History of the Unity Dinners

This will be the 9th Unity Dinner sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance. The annual events have become landmark occasions in Louisville's justice-and-peace communities, bringing together a wide diversity of people. Activists come from many geographic areas, constituencies and ethnic groupings, includ-

How To Get Tickets

Tickets to the Unity Dinner are \$40 each, tables of eight, \$320. Tickets may be ordered by mail to P.O. Box 1543, Louisville, Ky. 40201, e-mail to kyall@bellsouth.net, by phoning (502) 778-8130, or faxing (502) 778-8173, or by visiting the Alliance office at 3208 W. Broadway in Louisville. The deadline for ordering tickets or reserving tables in Jan. 14.

ing people of all ages, both genders and different sexual preferences.

The dinners have served to give people new strength for another year of struggle. Starting a decade ago with 200 people, they have grown to about 600 participants.

This year, the Alliance says, it is already receiving multiple ticket orders from people it never heard of in the Louisville area. And people who have some connection to this community and the Alliance are coming from as far away as Wyoming and from Atlanta, Cincinnati, Nashville and other communities. They want to hear Dr. West, who is nationally recognized as one of this country's most outstanding intellectuals with strong connections to community-based political action.

Who Cornel West Is

He came to national prominence with publication of his book *Race Matters*, which has been described as a "searing analysis of the scars of racism in American democracy" and which has sold 400,000 copies. His most recent book *Democracy Matters* relates racism to this country's situation on the world scene today.

Dr. West was scheduled to speak at the 2001 Unity Dinner and had to cancel a week before the event because serious illness forced him to cancel all engagements. Now recovered from his illness, he is even more widely known than he was then because he has become a regular participant in several national TV and radio panels and developed the story line and is spokesperson for the popular *Matrix Trilogy*.

In 2001, Dr. West was associated with the Pan African Studies Department at Harvard University and is now on the faculty of Princeton School of Religion. Material issued by his office says that his teaching and speaking "weave together the American traditions of the Baptist Church, transcendentalism, socialism and pragmatism." This material says his thinking was deeply influenced by what he learned as a boy of how Blacks maintained their religious faith in the most trying times of slavery and beyond. He was equally attracted, the material says, to the commitment of the Black Panthers in the 1960s.

(continued on page 4)



— photo by Dennis Bricking

School of thought

A protestor at the School of the Americas Nov. 19 reminds all of wars besides those hatched at the Ft. Benning, Ga. school.

See Cory Lockhart's story of the yearly protest on page 6.

'New Jim Crow-ism' calls us to keep Rosa Parks alive

by Gracie Lewis

On the first day of December 1955, **Rosa Parks**, an African American seamstress in Montgomery, Ala., was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. On this 50th anniversary of her arrest, she has been acclaimed worldwide.

Mrs. Parks' refusal to surrender her seat created an ever-widening ripple of change throughout the world. Her quiet exemplification of courage, dignity and determination mobilized persons of varying philosophies — including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who used nonviolence via the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted for 381 days. Today, let us pause and salute a fallen leader who always thought more of others than herself.

Mrs. Parks dedicated her time and resources to the development of the *Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute* in Detroit as

a legacy to youth. For 381 days there will be activities around the nation. Let us celebrate her legacy by mobilizing a new generation of activists to create a new future, a living legacy honoring the courageous acts of Rosa Parks.

"We will not sit in the back seat of the economic bus.

What we want is a living wage where the working poor can receive the wages needed to support their families."

We are challenged to embellish and embody the spirit of Rosa Parks by alleviating the new Jim Crow-ism — joblessness, homelessness, and lack of educational opportunities in our neighborhoods. Let us struggle to end this

war in Iraq, bringing home the resources we need to end poverty in America.

We also must stop the criminalization of a new generation of leaders. Today more than 1 million people are incarcerated in the United States. In honor of Rosa Parks,

we need to open up the doors of the prisons and enable those who are in lock-down to get a "second chance." Let us create jobs, housing and family counseling for those seeking to begin again.

Young people can mobilize and host a

Rosa Parks Arts Exhibition or a Hip Hop Celebration for Civil Rights and give the proceeds to the local NAACP, remembering that Rosa Parks joined the Montgomery NAACP in 1943. Moreover, she was the branch secretary and youth advisor.

We will not sit in the back seat of the economic bus. What we want is a living wage where the working poor can receive the wages needed to support their families.

We can show support for Rosa Parks by calling on our elected congressional representatives to support H.R. 4197, The Hurricane Katrina Recovery, Reclamation, Restoration, Reconstruction and Reunion Act of 2005. This bill will provide for emergency funding for housing until evacuees can return to their homes.

The writer is an activist with REACT, a group fighting air pollution in West Louisville.



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City-country ties boost health, family farm economy

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Community Farm Alliance president Ivor Chodkowski cited a figure during the Third Thursday Lunch Nov. 17 that underscores the need to get healthy food to city dwellers, which he and other farmers do at community-based markets during part of the year.

Chodkowski, who is a tenant farmer on 12 acres in Eastern Jefferson County, said there is a ratio of one grocery store per 6,100 people in Jefferson County, but one per 19,400 in West Louisville, a predominantly African-American area with many poor people.

“Good food’s not available in West Louisville and these (other low-income) neighborhoods,” he told the monthly FOR-organized lunch.

Chodkowski spoke with Patricia Bell, the manager of one of four markets supported by the Community Farm Alliance. The alliance arranges for small farmers to sell through the markets, they explained.

Chodkowski said no single reason explains the food gap between city and suburb.

“It’s a complicated answer,” he said in an interview after the lunch. “Part of it is that the more affluent neighborhoods attract more stores competing for higher income folks. That’s not happening in West Louisville because the income is lower.”

He added that flowers and other non-food items are a big part of supermarket sales and the grocery industry largely considers them too expensive for poor areas.

To counter that trend, Chodkowski sells his produce, which ranges from carrots and beets to herbs, at the Portland-Shawnee CFA-supported farmers market on Portland

Avenue and markets on Bardstown Road and in Jeffersontown at Taylorsville Road and Watterson Trail.

Bell manages the Smoketown-Shelby Park market, which is in an African-American neighborhood east of downtown Louisville. The market is at Meyzeek Middle School on Jackson Street.

Chodkowski credited Bell with making the Smoketown market a success, adding: “That market just wouldn’t happen without her.”

He said about three to five farmers sell at the Portland-Shawnee market each week and about five to seven do at Smoketown-Shelby Park.

Chodkowski, who also sells produce to stores, restaurants and people through subscription farming, is a founding member of the West Louisville Food Working Group, which aims to expand community-

based food distribution by assessing food needs in West Louisville and finding farmers to sell there.

Material distributed by the CFA said the working group is looking for people and organizations who would like to set up neighborhood meetings to discuss food-related issues. Call (502) 775-4041 or e-mail cassiacfa@bellsouth.net for more information.

The markets have been “a two-fold opportunity,” Chodsowski said, explaining that good food becomes available to people with limited choices and tobacco farmers can transition out of that crop.

“The future’s good,” he said of the farmers markets. “People are just getting to know about it.”

For information about the next Third Thursday Lunch, see ad on page 3.

Palestinian cultural center eyes new home, US play

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Progress on a new home for the Al-Rowwad Cultural & Theater Training Center in occupied Palestine is being made, center director AbdelFattah Abu-Srou said during a visit to Louisville in November.

Abu-Srou, who first visited the city in May 2004 on a U.S. tour to gather support for expanding the center for children and adults out its cramped building at the Aida Refugee Camp, said during a short stay in the city in November that the first floor of a new two-story building is complete.

The floor will house meeting rooms and video and audio editing facilities for public use, he said. Al-Rowwad staff are writing grants for the equipment, Abu-Srou added.

The second floor is to have a library, 25 internet computers, offices and exhibit space for paintings, he added.

Abu-Srou’s purpose in coming to the U.S. wasn’t all about bricks and mortar, however.

He said he is collaborating with Louisville writer Naomi Wallace and a woman in Iowa on a play about two Palestinian brothers who live in the U.S. and how their lives are affected by the Israeli occupation, particularly the wall built by Israel.

Naomi Wallace visited the occupied West Bank in 2002, Abu-Srou added.

The three hope to have the play accepted by the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis as part of its fellowship program, Abu-Srou said.

“We had the reading last week.... Guthrie revised some scenes,” he said. “The feedback was great... from the Guthrie people, from the audience that was there.”

Abu-Srou echoed that feeling when describing the reaction to a U.S. performing tour in mid-2005 by children in Al-Rowwad.

“Generally the feedback and articles



— photo by Eddie Davis
AbdelFattah Abu-Srou

were positive,” he said. “We had more invitations. Some cities proposed a tour in 2006.”

While repeating themes about Palestinian self-reliance and independence he spoke of on his 2004 visit to Louisville, Abu-Srou said he does not share the goal of many activists of a two-state solution to the Mideast conflict, opting instead for a single nation for two peoples.

“I believe in a bi-national solution.... We’d better live with each other in mutual respect and not with these apartheid politics,” Abu-Srou said. “There are Palestinians and Israelis who believe in this possibility.”

For more information about the Al-Rowwad Cultural & Theater Training Center, including its blog, go to www.alrowwad.virtualactivism.net. For information about Friends of Al-Rowwad, its international support group, contact Carla Wallace at (502) 228-9566.

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90 Years on Peace Frontiers

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

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Closer look at Kentucky could have aided book

The Biblical Truth About America’s Death Penalty
by Dale S. Recinella
Boston: Northeastern University, 2004

reviewed by George R. Edwards

Dale Recinella is a lay Catholic chaplain for the Florida prison system. He earned a law degree at Notre Dame University. As a public defender, in his first encounter with a

BOOK REVIEW

client under auspices of a law firm in Benton Harbor, Michigan where the client was confined, he came to the front of the cell prepared to talk with the inmate about his case.

Suddenly the man reached through the bars and seized the young lawyer by the necktie and began to bang his body against the bars, inflicting painful bruises from his forehead to his knees.

Guards finally rushed forward to cut the tie off with a pair of scissors, releasing Recinella from this grim initiation to the bar.

His fortune has improved since those days. He recently appeared in Louisville where he spoke eloquently about his book. He was invited here by the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty to speak at Bellarmine University.

The Coalition not only welcomed him warmly but, prior to his arrival, a copy of the book was sent to every member of the state legislature in the hope that it will help the Kentucky legislature to see the futility of capital punishment. The strategy is a good one.

The book begins by showing that 90 percent of the death sentences in the U.S. are imposed in the “Bible Belt” states, a region almost completely corresponding to the states of the Confederacy: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, *Kentucky*, Mississippi, *Missouri*, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, *West Virginia* (italic were border ones in the 1861 Civil War).

Recinella’s careful study also demonstrates that a large proportion of Bible Belt persuasion for capital punishment is biblically rooted particularly among Southern Baptists. An Appendix (pp. 351-352) however contains a resolution passed by the Southern Baptist Convention in its 2000 meeting in Orlando, Florida which, if implemented, would have some mitigating impact.

Kentucky comes under frequent scrutiny in this book. It is interesting to see his comments on the Racial Justice Act that “would create a legal right to challenge a racially motivated death sentence,” (p. 261). This rule “has been passed in only one American jurisdiction, the Commonwealth of Kentucky.” Recinella (n. 43, pp. 384-385) provides a cogent summary of the law.

This state statute is also noted on p. 78 of Carl Wedekind’s book *The Second Grave: A Case for the Abolition of the Death Penalty* published by The Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty in 1999. Recinella’s discussions of Kentucky would have been helped by Wedekind’s book. The Kentucky Revised Statute 532.030 was enacted under the governorship of Paul Patton.

Connecting abolition to life without parole has apparently influenced legislators positively, but some would find life without parole only fractionally preferable. As far as racial justice in Kentucky courts is concerned, when I complained recently about an all-white jury giving a life without parole sentence to two black males (in a case in Mayfield, Kentucky where the victim was white), a very capable and experienced public defender replied, “It happens all the time in Kentucky.”

The reviewer is a Presbyterian minister, retired professor of theology and co-founder of the Louisville chapter of the FOR.

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

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

September 2005 to January 2006

January 19

Casa Latina

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

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 Jean Edwards (458-8056) *by Tuesday before the Lunch*



Sir: I had the privilege of viewing Arthur Miller’s “The Crucible” at Louisville’s Actor’s Theater recently. This play was certainly appropriate for our times and will no doubt continue to be so for generations. Its quality was consistent with the high level of Arthur Miller’s entire portfolio.

I met Mr. Miller only once but have seen many interviews of him. He was a “big boned” man who appeared to be larger and more physically imposing than he actually was. But he was a gentle and caring person who allowed people to come to their own conclusions. When asked whether the holocaust could happen again, he’d answer by describing Germany of the 1930s as perhaps the most cultured, refined and educated country of Europe at that time – allowing listeners to come to their own conclusions.

His play “Incident at Vichy” was thoroughly insightful; with his characters portraying the guilt of nearly everyone involved, including the victims who so easily permitted or submitted to the “roundup of the undesirables.”

His stance before congress in the 50s regarding testifying and naming names was very brave, especially his explanation that he declined on principles and not the Fifth Amendment. He lived by his beliefs and would not be intimidated.

There is no question he was not only one of America’s greatest playwrights but also among its greatest citizens. He is irreplaceable and we will miss him.

Sincerely,
Kenneth George
Louisville

Colombians wage peace against all odds

by Pat Geier

Deep in the mountains of northwestern Colombia, in an area abandoned by the government, fought over by the army and the guerillas and known by smugglers as the “drug corridor,” a small community of campesinos has staked their claim for peace.

The decision to be a “peace community” made by a small group of some fifteen hundred farmers has elevated San Jose de Apartado to a high profile within Colombia’s peace and justice movement. It has also provoked both of Colombia’s armed factions resulting in several massacres and the death or “disappearance” of more than 100 community members.

In 1997, the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado declared their land a community in resistance. They attempt to forbid armed groups to enter and refuse to cooperate with, pass information to or sell supplies or food to combatants. Community members do not keep any weapons. They refuse to participate in the war.

They use all means of non-violence for the mutual protection of community members. They agree to speak out publicly against violence and the many injustices that they and other communities suffer.

Beyond their pledge of non-violence, the community of San Jose is impressive for the decidedly communal lifestyle of its members. Everyone contributes one day’s labor per week to community projects — building homes, schools and health clinics; farming communal land; working in self-defense patrols.

Community members have carved out a system of governance through assemblies and councils. All members participate in electing community leaders (men and women share equally in this) and agree to fulfill the roles that the community assigns to each. Further, members agree to refrain from the use of any alcohol or drugs so as to avoid any pretext for intervention by the police or the army.

Peace communities are not new to Colombia; dozens of them have surfaced in recent years as Colombia’s civil war

continues making it one of the most dangerous places in the world. The statistics are staggering. Decades of war have produced a quarter of a million refugees and another 3 million internal refugees.

Colombia leads the world in murders and kidnappings. More labor leaders have been assassinated in Colombia than anywhere else. The country is saturated by violence. It should come as no surprise, then, that Colombia is the third largest recipient of U.S. military aid in the world, including \$3.5 billion for the infamous

“The people of San Jose have been more tenacious and resilient than most, but the last massacre was almost more than they could bear.”

Plan Colombia. The U.S. Army’s School of the Americas’ current enrollment boasts more students from Colombia than any other country.

Fledgling peace communities become targets for the army and insurgency as both groups use violence to grab land and control population. Massacres, assassinations, rape, kidnapping and destruction of villages are just some of the means used to terrorize communities and force campesinos from their land to become internal refugees in the big cities.

The people of San Jose have been more tenacious and resilient than most, but the last massacre was almost more than they could bear. In February 2005 eight members of the community, including the widely respected Coordinator of the Community Council Luis Eduardo, five other adults, one six year old and an eighteen month old baby were found tortured and murdered. Repeated demands by the San Jose community, Colombian and international human rights groups, and

members of the U.S. Congress have failed to produce an investigation.

The February massacre dealt a near lethal blow to the community. “It was the most difficult time we have been through,” said Renato Areiza, the newly elected leader following Eduardo’s death. “Luis Eduardo was trusted and respected by everyone and his death was a terrible loss for us.” Following the Colombian Convergence in Chicago on October 28-29, Renato came to Louisville to speak with the local Steering Committees of FOR and KITLAC. Both groups are part of a National FOR project that funds four fulltime volunteers to accompany the San Jose community. Renato’s sister was among the victims of the massacre.

At age 28, Renato is a marked man. Community leaders are prime targets of attack. He is quiet and humble and assumes an unimaginable burden of responsibility with grace and gravity. He speaks with pride about his community. “We are all poor but we share the same poverty. Everyone has a small house and some land on which to grow food. We have a school but no teachers. We teach the children what we know. There are no doctors or healthcare workers. The indigenous people help us by teaching us about medicinal herbs. From childhood on we instruct ourselves in the ways of community life. We have to depend on each other because the government has not provided anything for us. We choose to be a peace community because we want no part of the violence. We want to be left alone to live on our land. No matter what they do to us we will never leave our land.”

I leave my conversation with Renato, awed by his courage and fearful for his life. I wonder how it is that peace has become so costly. Will these intrepid, fiercely independent people survive the onslaught of violence that is sure to continue coming their way? Or will they be among the next victims of U.S.-supported violence in a land that has our blood money all over it?

The writer is a co-chairperson of the steering committee of the Louisville FOR.

Price of Peace

Is it possible to buy Peace
with the currency of
War?

War is no paper currency
nor precious metal

War is precious blood
pouring out of those
to whom it should
give life

Maybe Peace requires of us
a different way
of Living
Rather than a different
way of dying

Margaret Stewart
Feb. 9, 2003

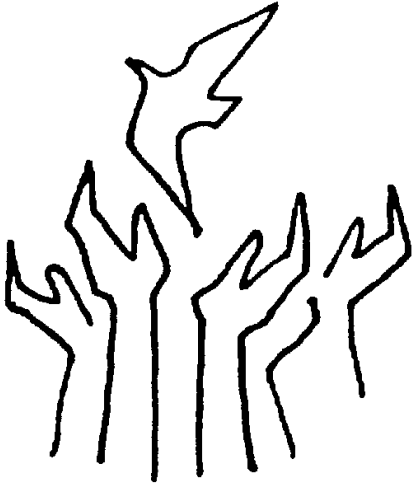
CIRCLE of PEACE

In Her Peace
In His Peace
In Me, in friends, in relation

Inner Peace
Enter Please
Into the heart of our Nation

Outward Go
Overflow
Into all Creation

Margaret Stewart
Feb. 12, 2003



Beatitudes for a new American century

by Mark Chmiel

Blessed are the theoreticians of “Shock and Awe” and the architects of the war who were ready to cleanse the Middle East of evil-doers — for they will call each other the sons of God.

Blessed are the cheerful, congenial, and judiciously flattering journalists at the height of their careers — for they shall be called upon repeatedly at the informative White House press conferences.

Blessed are the Halliburtons, Boeings and ESSI — for they shall inherit what is due them as the conscientious war-profiteers they enthusiastically are.

Blessed are the ingenious corporate leaders who oversee the global exporting of our values and culture — for theirs is the Kingdom of Profit, Power, and Prestige.

Blessed are the Administration officials who play hardball, break the law, but still somehow achieve their strategic objectives — for they shall obtain mercy, pardon, and invitations to offer commentary on CNN.

Blessed are those elite Americans who hunger and thirst for luxury and the ever-increasing freedom to do whatever the hell they want — for they shall be filled even more than they can possibly imagine.

Blessed are the members of the patriotic Congress and Senate — for, even though their children will never know the glory of dying for their country on the battlefields of the Sunni Triangle, those same sons and daughters will still know the grandeur of graduating from Harvard, Yale, or Stanford.

Blessed are the pure in ideology — for they shall see our enemies (Arab-looking, Muslim, conniving and plotting) on every street corner and do whatever they can to destroy them.

Blessed are the visionaries of the oil companies — for they shall be supremely comforted by the annual profit report.

Blessed are those media pundits, perspicuous intellectuals, and ecclesiastical moderates who sing the praises of the nation’s leaders — for they shall be invited to all the best Washington parties.

Blessed are the astute proponents of the emerging just-torture theory — for they are defending the uniquely divine rights of America.

Blessed are the rich, who experience rapture with each glance at their portfolios – for this new American century is all for their happiness.

And so blessed are you, Mr. President, and Mr. Vice-President, and Mr. Secretary, and Mr. And Ms. Everybody Else Who is Along for this Noble Ride of Plunder, blessed are you when your soldiers’ mothers say all manner of truth about you, and when more and more of the citizens gather to oppose you, Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward tonight on FOX News.

The writer is author, most recently, of The Book of Mev. He works with the Center for Theology and Social Analysis (www.ctsastl.org) in Saint Louis, Missouri.

2006 Tax & Budget Workshop

presented by

The Kentucky Economic Justice Alliance

Tuesday, January 10th
7:00 PM

James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church
1741 Frankfort Avenue

Through this interactive workshop learn about Kentucky’s budget and the chronic under-funding of Kentucky’s schools and public services. We will also explore possible policy solutions and ways to take action on this issue. Admission to this workshop is free. For more info, call Kentuckians for the Commonwealth at 502-589-3188.

Jan. 21

(continued from page 1)

(Carmichael’s Bookstore will provide copies of Race Matters and Democracy Matters for Dr. West to sign at the January 21 dinner.)

The Honorees

The Unity Dinner Honoree Award is given each year to one person of color and one white person who have provided a lifetime of selfless service to the local struggle for racial justice. This year’s honoree Henry Wallace is now 90 years old and has been on the front lines of this struggle since the 1950s — including all-night rides twice in his wheelchair for the September 2005 mobilization against the war in Iraq in Washington.

Eboni Neal Cochran, being young, has had fewer years to be active, but she has already emerged as a leading grassroots door-to-door organizer in the West End. She first became active in organizing Rubbertown Emergency Action (REACT) and has now become a multi-issue organizer on such issues as police brutality and livable wage legislation. She comes from a family of committed people. She is the granddaughter of Sterling Neal, Sr., a leading union organizer in Louisville in the 1940s (and recipient of a special Unity Dinner Award three years ago). She is the daughter of grassroots activist Sterling Neal, Jr., and the niece of 60s student activist and now State Sen. Gerald Neal.

The writer is an acclaimed worker for racial equality and social justice whose work has been based in Louisville since the 1950s.

Growers, authors unite for health, prosperity on farms

by Ike M. Thacker IV
and Eustace Durrett

There is no such thing as cheap food. Somebody pays. The individual farmer and the local economy lose money; the industrial-farm worker and the consumer sacrifice their health; the environment is devastated by factory farms.

This was the message of the sixth yearly Healthy Food, Local Farms Conference held October 1 at Bellarmine University in Louisville, sponsored by the college, Earthsave Louisville, the Community Farm Alliance and several businesses and other groups.

It was stressed that “Healthy Food, Local Farms” means home-grown prosperity and healthier food for all. Wendell Berry, acclaimed author of many significant works of poetry, novels and essays, and Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation*, headlined the conference’s list of presenters.

One of the early speakers at the conference was Carole Morison, Executive Director of the Delmarva Poultry Justice Alliance and member of the steering committee of the National Poultry Justice Alliance. The basic battle Morison specifically addressed was that pitting justice and fairness against the big poultry companies such as Tyson and Perdue. The National Poultry Justice Alliance, she said, is broadly based: many usually-warring groups are on board. She said that there is no scripted plan — at the alliance they “fly by the seat of their pants,” including many groups other than poultry farmers.

Morison went on to note, as part of her examples of how the Alliance stands up for morality and discriminated-against farmers and their communities, that the Alliance had even supported the “chicken catchers,” those people, often treated as the scum of the earth, who catch the chickens before they are slaughtered. In this struggle, the chicken catchers handed Perdue its very first loss in voting for a union and won the right to be treated as employees of the company rather than independent contractors. No such victories have yet aided the immigrant workers whom Morison says are still being exploited very badly by “big agriculture.”

There were six breakout session choices at the conference; attendees chose one for the morning session and (presumably) a different one for the afternoon breakout. In the morning we attended the one called “Cheap Is Not Cheap.”

Presenters included investigative journalist Christopher Cook, author of *Diet for a Dead Planet*, who noted among other things that agricultural workers are discriminated against severely in all parts of the industry, while one-third of the nation is obese.

Cook also spoke of the pollution generated by sending food an average of some 1,800 miles from source to destination, and noted that some 17,000 farms are lost each year, or about one every thirty minutes. After arguing that we should subsidize organic farming, Cook closed by noting that the percentage of the market controlled by the “Big Five” industrial-agriculture companies had risen from 24 percent as recently as 1997 to 46 percent (!) this year.

Following Cook’s presentation was a personal account of the environmental havoc that big chicken farms wreak by a neighbor to 98 of those farms.

The session’s moderator pointed out that this is *the* “human rights” issue for those affected by it.

Paul Whiteley, an organizer for the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) union, came next. He noted the nearly incredible fact that profits in the poultry industry have increased by more than 300 percent since 1987, and that big companies continue to gobble up small farmers at a truly alarming rate: *many* people are paying a terrible and increasing price for our 99-cent chicken sandwiches!

Whiteley went on to give examples of how the spirit of Frederick Taylor is alive and well in the agriculture indutry: “time-and-motion” studies abound. This has resulted in lots of injuries and illness among workers: the rate is about 1.5 times that of other industries, he said. The agricultural compa-

nies continue to try to hide this by avoiding reported injuries and illnesses in various sneaky ways — including paying people just for sitting and doing nothing, Whiteley added.

Add line speed-ups and low wages to all this, and it is no wonder that turnover is high in industrial agriculture, he explained.

Donald Stull, an anthropologist at the University of Kansas, rounded out the presenters to the morning breakout session, speaking specifically of genetically-engineered foods that are in supermarkets even now and the patenting (!) of food — “a contradiction to all that is good” since we should consider ourselves “a part of the earth, not apart from it,” he said.

Following the first breakout session came an extended lunchtime at which Schlosser gave the Conference’s keynote speech. His book argues that the fast-food industry has done a variety of very bad things to us, including harming our agriculture, health, and landscape.

Echoing the writings of Wendell Berry, whom Schlosser said had anticipated many of his ideas many years before 2001 and is a “great American writer,” Schlosser said that the agriculture industry and its mass

raising of (especially) animals in stark conditions hearkens back to the days of Robber Barons and Trusts at the beginning of the 20th Century.

One root of the problem stressed by Schlosser was the connection, mostly through campaign contributions, of Big Agriculture to Big Government, which was already evident in President Clinton’s ties with Tyson and has, if anything, gotten even worse under the Bush administration.

After lunch came another breakout session opportunity, which we took advantage of by attending a session chaired by Wendell Berry called “Beyond Industrial Agriculture — a discussion of solutions.” Following a discussion format, this session raised many interesting points and came up with the tentative idea of healthy food from local farms as being part of a desperately needed solution to the varied ills noted above.

But perhaps the most interesting (if not the most convincing) presentation of the entire day was by Joel Salatin at the final plenary session. In his speech, called “Holy Cows and Hog Heaven,” Salatin began his attack on the so-called “experts” by noting some of the many foolish things

“experts” have said (e.g. that man will never fly) through the years. He then discussed the fundamental difference that exists between the Eastern and Western world views — basically discrete materialism and control over nature versus holicism and a belief in inter-connectedness, or hippies and Indians versus conquistadors. He contended that alternative, local farming requires a basically Eastern mindset in a Western setting, the achievement of which is no mean feat.

There are many things, said Salatin, that Western Technology gives us the ability to do. But, “Just because we can, should we?” Salatin claimed that, “Nature is speaking,” probably telling us to slow down, “but we’re not listening.”

Salatin added that we, a groundswell movement for healthy food from local farms, can be the force that makes obsolete the “feudalism” of Western agriculture.

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



Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner?

Save The Date!!

ANNUAL UNITY DINNER



Our Keynote Speaker.....Dr. Cornell West

When: January 21, 2006

Where: Louisville Gardens

Time: 5:30 meet and greet session

Dinner @ 6:30pm

Tickets Cost: \$40

Presented by The Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression

3208 West Broadway Louisville, Kentucky 502-778-8130/ kyall@bellsouth.net

All Are Welcome

Largest crowd yet at SOA – is next year a celebration?

by Cory Lockhart

Early on the morning of November 19, 80 men, women, and children from Louisville boarded two coach buses. They were headed to Ft. Benning, Ga. for the annual vigil, memorial service and protest to close the U.S. taxpayer-funded School of the Americas (SOA), now officially known as WHINSEC, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. While the school’s name changed several years ago, its legacy continues. People throughout Central and South America are still victims of the graduates of this training school.

Graduates of the SOA have been linked to such killings as that of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero, the four church women in El Salvador twenty five years ago and the six Jesuits and two women at the University of Central America in El Salvador in 1989. It was after the death of the eight Salvadorans that Fr. Roy Bourgeois founded the School of the Americas Watch and began protesting at Ft. Benning.

Since then, people have gathered at the gates of Ft. Benning each year on the weekend of the anniversary of their death to demand that the SOA be shut down. Over the years the movement has grown exponentially.

This year’s protest drew the largest crowd yet, with organizers of the vigil

estimating 20,000, though police estimated there were 16,000. Peace activists from all over the country and the world gathered at Ft. Benning to remember the many Latin Americans who were killed, tortured, and disappeared by the graduates of the SOA.

Though events went on throughout the week leading up to the protest, the main action happened on Sunday. Names of the hundreds of people whose deaths have been linked to SOA graduates were sung.

As each name was sung, the those who were gathered responded by singing “Presente,” calling forth the memory and spirit of the dead. While this litany was sung, protesters formed lines and processed past the gates of the school. In the early years of the protest, demonstrators were able to “cross the line” onto the base.

However, since 9/11, fences have been put up at the entrance of the school for the weekend of the protest. Fortunately for protesters, while the fences do create a barrier, they also create a place for demonstrators to place crosses, posters, and banners in memory of SOA victims.

While many people came to participate

in the procession, this year 40 people chose to cross under the fences, an action punishable by fines and up to 6 months of prison time. Last year Louisvillian Sr. Lil Mattingly “crossed the line” and spent six months in prison for doing so. She was released in October and was at Ft. Benning again this year.

All of these actions were done and are done every year with the hope that a bill in Congress will be passed to close the school down once and for all.

In March, H.R. 1217, “The Latin America Military Training Review Act of 2005” was reintroduced to Congress with 122 bipartisan sponsors. Several years ago the U.S. House of Representatives came within six votes of closing the school.

As the movement grows, so does the hope that next year, people will gather at the gates of Ft. Benning not to demand the closing of the school but to celebrate its closure and the hope of a more peaceful world.

The writer is a Spanish teacher at Trinity High School in Louisville. This was her ninth year at the gates of Ft. Benning.



— photo courtesy of Cory Lockhart



— photo by Dennis Bricking

The author, top photo at left, speaks for closing the School of the Americas Nov. 20 at the yearly protest at the Ft. Benning, Ga. school. The largest group of protestors yet, bottom photo, marched.

VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS becomes VOICES FOR CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE

Kathy Kelly has visited Louisville more than once since 1996 when *Voices in the Wilderness* (VITW) was formed as a concerted campaign to challenge the murderous US and UN economic sanctions against Iraq. Many of us here and across the nation were deeply moved by her eyewitness reports with vivid descriptions of the suffering and hunger in Iraq because of the sanctions. Responding to that crisis, VITW made numerous trips to Iraq delivering badly needed medical supplies.

In 2002, VITW organized the Iraq Peace Team which mobilized international activists to accompany and live in solidarity with ordinary Iraqis in the days before, during and after the US invasion.

However, days after VITW announced the creation of the Iraq Peace Team, the US government imposed a \$20,000 fine against VITW for taking medicine to Iraqi citizens in violation of the sanctions. Those charged, in addition to Kathy include Laurie Hasbrook, Scott Blackburn, Dan Pearson, Bob Abplanalp, Joel Gullledge and Sean Reynolds. They have said from the start that they would not pay the fine, and even after a short legal battle, they still refuse.

In August, 2005, Federal Judge John Bates ordered VITW to pay this fine. Voices will not pay any fine. Any fine represents blood money — the blood of Iraqis spilt over these past 15 years of economic and military warfare, waged by the US as economic sanctions, bombings, invasion and occupation. This court order renders several aspects of the group’s work legally unfeasible. For example, their bank account can no longer accept contributions.

The painful decision was made to close the office. Much discussion and deliberation followed about embarking upon a new effort. An ambitious six-month plan will start in January under their new title “Voices for Creative Nonviolence” striving for new ways to act for peace and justice, to help inspire and sustain resistance to US militarism. Their first priority will be ending the US occupation of Iraq and securing full reparations.

A small team (5-7) will go to Jordan to study Arabic and to visit Syria to explore a possible Voices presence especially if the US intensifies its threats of attack against Syria. Intense planning is underway for a special project (February 15 to March 19) known as “**THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT.**” They are calling ordinary citizens to come to DC with a commitment to demand and achieve an end to US military and economic warfare against Iraq with full payment of US war reparations. The days in Washington will include FASTING, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, LOBBYING and ORGANIZING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Contributions are needed and may be sent to: **Voices for Creative Nonviolence, 1249 W. Argyle Street #2, Chicago, IL 60640**

Meanwhile Kathy’s newest book is ready, *Other Lands Have Dreams: From Baghdad to Pekin Prison*. Mail check or money order payable to **CounterPunch, PO Box 228, Petrolia, CA 95558. Telephone 1-800-840-3683. \$17.99.**

To become involved with the Winter of Our Discontent campaign, contact “Voices for Creative Nonviolence,” 1249 W. Argyle St #2, Chicago, IL 60640. Phone: 773-878-3815 info@vcnv.org www.vcnv.org

MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL

“It is mind-boggling that the whole nation is talking about Alaska being drilled for oil, yet no one cares that Appalachia has been systematically scalped for the last 28 years,” said Silas House (C-J 11/9/05).

“Mining is turning Eastern Kentucky into a despicable latrine,” said Barry Bingham, Jr. (C-J 11/9/05). Barry reflected on his experience in watching this tragedy take place. He recalled that in the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s, The Courier-Journal won a Pulitzer Prize for public service for the publication of a special Sunday Magazine entitled “The Ravaged Land.” “It was wholly devoted to the problems caused by strip mining in the Eastern Kentucky mountains.”



Barry mentioned that laws were passed during those early years to control the devastation of strip mining for coal. However, when he accompanied a delegation of Kentucky authors who toured the area recently he discovered that these laws have not been effective in controlling an industry that has gone mad. He listed other grievances. “Rotting vegetation, mud and rocks clog the streams and rivers. Wells and streams that once ran pure are too polluted for human use and are dead to aquatic life.”

He tells more. “The destruction of tranquility that accompanies their enterprise destroys communities and the people who live near the areas that are being mined and have been mined. People’s homes are wrecked by “fly rock” from the blasting at the mines and can also be destroyed by mudslides resulting from the “valley fill” technique of pushing earth and rock from mountaintops into surrounding coves and ravines.”

Wendell Berry, famed Kentucky writer, spoke of his gratitude “for seeing our community of writers step forth in opposition to what I can only describe as a great crime.” He has lent his support to efforts to involve writers in increasing public awareness and active opposition to the assault on the land and people of the coalfields.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth arranged for two of these Kentucky Authors Mountaintop Removal Tours and the resulting articles and pictures have been masterpieces. Disturbed and motivated by what they heard and saw, the writers have compiled an anthology of essays, poetry and fiction about mountaintop removal. The result is the publication of *Missing Mountains* now available on line for \$16 from KFTC at www.kftc.org Send order and payment to KFTC, P.O. Box 1450, London, KY 40743.

PEACE TAX FUND LEGISLATION BADLY NEEDED

When three conscientious objectors/war tax resisters in New Jersey were given prison sentences, we were challenged to push harder for legislation which would allow them to pay their tax liability into a separate fund that would not be used for the military. H.R. 2631, the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act would accomplish that goal. During 2005, there were 39 members of Congress who added their names to H.R. 2631. Representative John Lewis (D-GA) introduced it. You can ask your representative to sign on by going to: www.peacetaxfund.org

More good news comes from Providence, RI, where the first-ever city council resolution in favor of H.R. 2631 was passed. Skillful organizing and hard work brought this about.

And now the spotlight moves to Rhode Island. Natalie Baker Merrill has been hired as a field organizer to raise awareness there about conscientious objection to military taxation. Natalie will collaborate with local peace, religious, and educational organizations on city council resolutions and similar efforts.

For those of us who have been doing our bit to support such legislation since 1975, we know that small victories are extremely rare. We congratulate Marian Franz and Timothy Godshall for the fine work they are doing. In 2005, over 1,000 people joined the activist network. You can learn more about it by taking a look at the re-designed activist-friendly website (www.peacetaxfund.org).

You can also send a check to help Natalie with the **Rhode Island Initiative**. Send it to the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, 2121 Decatur Place NW, Washington, DC 20008. 1/888.PEACETAX (toll free). 1/202-483-3751. info@peacetaxfund.org

SAD NEWS FROM OUR PARTNER COMMUNITY

(Short summary in translation)

The Colombian army has assassinated another leader of the San Jose de Apartado community. At 10:30 in the morning on November 17, Arlen Salas David was fatally wounded by a grenade while working in the fields with six other members of the community. Herman Goez was also wounded during the attack.

Zapata Uribe Luis Alfonso, the General who commands the 17th Brigade of the Colombian Army was trained in counter-insurgency at the School of the Americas. He attended the “Small-Unit Infantry Tactics C-7” course to become “familiar with small-unit operational concepts and principles at the squad and platoon level, .[to] receive training in planning and conducting small-unit tactical operations.”

(For more information about our partner community, San Jose de Apartado, turn to the article by Pat Geier in this issue of FORsooth)

Janitors get a measure of justice; cuts loom elsewhere

There is bad news and wonderful news to usher in the New Year.

First, the bad news. As this column is being put to bed, the world’s third largest drug manufacturer, Merck, is preparing a restructuring of its operations, to include massive layoffs.

Now to the good news. The SEIU, Service Employees International Union, appears on the verge of organizing 5,000 janitors in Houston.

Right to Work laws exist in every state in the South except our own Kentucky, and that was part of a bygone era when the UMW (United Mine Workers) was a powerhouse hereabouts.

The SEIU, thru its Justice for Janitors campaign, has collected union authorization cards in Houston from well over 60 percent of janitors, mostly part-time immigrant workers earning \$5.25 per hour.

Stephen Greenhouse of the New York Times wrote Nov. 28: “An agreement signed in August calls for the American Arbitration Association to inspect the cards and certify when the union has received majority support. The janitorial companies have promised to recognize the union once that happens.

“This union tactic is juxtaposed against the card checkoff as authorized by the 1930’s-era National Labor Relations Board. This latter board was a victory for organized labor under Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal, but over the last few decades has been used by corporate predators as a way to stall and defeat unionizing attempts.

SEIU, one of six unions that left the AFL-CIO to form Change to Win six months ago, has spent more than one million dollars on this drive, which was headquartered out of its Chicago operation. The union, and the Justice for Janitors campaign, has successfully linked the exploitation of immigrant workers with that of low-wage earners, and has gotten support from churches (Catholic Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza of Houston), and even the mayor of Houston. The union used its pension fund investments to apply pressure as well, and there were sympathy strikes in several states.

Greenhouse observes: “Even if the union is recognized, it still faces a big obstacle in negotiating a contract that delivers some of the hoped-for improvements in wages and benefits.”

The union hopes to parlay this impending victory into further organizing



drives in Atlanta and Phoenix. And this has been the impetus, it seems, for other drives, such as United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Justice for Smithfield Workers, set to begin in January.

On another front, Rosa Parks passed on October 25. Her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala. city bus to a white man landed her in jail, on December 1, 1955, and ignited a flame that was later to be called the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Sister Parks, actually, had had trouble before — in 1943, when she refused to enter a bus from the rear door. It was her activism in the NAACP, her working class bent (she was a seamstress and her husband a barber), and her association with leadership of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters — all of this steeled her for her battles ahead.

I remember, in the 1960s, seeing huge racist billboards in several Southern states showing Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. at what segregationists termed a “communist training school,” Tennessee’s Highlander Center. Mrs. Parks also attended sessions at this wonderful (then and now) gathering place.

She withstood the redbaiting then, and later on, as well. Norman (Otis) Richmond wrote in Black Commentator Nov. 17: “.While the corporate media has highlighted Parks’ role in the civil rights movement, they are unable or unwilling to discuss the fact that she also supported the more radical wing of the African American liberation struggle.

“Parks actually spoke at the funeral of Robert F. Williams, the black revolutionary from Monroe, N.C. who was forced to flee to Cuba and China after being falsely accused of kidnapping a Euro-American couple during a confrontation with a racist mob. At Williams’ funeral on October 22, 1996, Parks told the congregation at a Monroe church that she and those who walked alongside

Martin Luther King Jr. in Alabama had ‘always admired Robert Williams for his courage and his commitment to freedom. The work that he did should go down in history and never be forgotten.’ “

Others preceded Mrs. Parks in trying to integrate the buses (Claudette Colvin was one). And many more soldiers in this freedom army were involved in the struggle to end legal segregation over so many decades. Yet it was Rosa Parks’ total faith in the triumph of a decent world that set off a 381-day bus boycott, and this freedom shot was heard ‘round the world.

Bless you, Sister Rosa.

About 25 years ago, C.P. Ellis spoke in Louisville. A former leader of theDurham, North Carolina Ku Klux Klan, he had become a civil rights activist and a union organizer. The audience was riveted to every word Brother Ellis spoke. His friendship with an African American woman (they despised each other at the outset), was the subject of a book and a documentary. There were also two narratives by Studs Terkel.

Ellis died November 8.

The fight for justice is worldwide. Over 300 delegates, from all over Europe, plus many observers the world over, convened for the First Congress of the European Left in Athens, Greece, Oct. 29 and 30. Your humble scribe was privileged to be among the observers. The slogan for the congress: “Yes, we can change Europe!”

The tenor of the gathering was set in the opening speech by an Italian delegate, Fausto Bertinotti, who would be elected chairperson at the end of the congress: “The Party of the European Left was set up a year ago.

“Only one year has passed, sadly another year full of war. War continues to mark the world and life within it. It is a special form of war: the pre-emptive war of the Bush administration, and it is one of the worst kinds of war we have ever known.”

There are efforts to build a better world in South America as well.

Venezuelanalysis.com reported from Caracas on Nov. 18: “The Venezuelan-owned and U.S.-based fuel refiner and distributor Citgo will begin distributing discounted heating oil to poor U.S. communities next week.

Turning to Iraq, Black Commentator Co-Publishers Glen Ford and Peter Gamble wrote Nov. 24: “Only three Democrats voted on the issue of the Iraq war, last Friday. The rest followed Minority Leader

Nancy Pelosi’s directives, a continuation of her ‘strategy’ of insulating the pro-war wing of the party, centered in the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), from the wrath of the party’s base, which is now overwhelmingly anti-war. For the DLC’s sake, Pelosi smothers the party’s progressive wing — of which she was once a proud member.

“Of the 42 (Congressional) Black Caucus members in the House, only one dared buck Pelosi’s discipline: Cynthia McKinney (GA), joined by New York’s Jose Serrano and Florida’s Robert Wexler.

“The three faced the choice of defying Pelosi (and, in McKinney’s case, the CBC leadership’s similar attempts to put forward a face of unity without purpose) or to take advantage of the only chance available since October, 2002 to express an unqualified NO to the Iraq war.

“After the 403-to-three vote, McKinney said: “I will not vote to give one more soldier to the George W. Bush/Dick Cheney war machine. I urge that we pursue an orderly withdrawal (and) a diplomatic solution.”

In fairness, Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid and other Democrats are at long last calling for a timetable for us to withdraw. But it is the trio of McKinney, Serrano and Wexler who stand out, just as Wayne Morse and George McGovern did during the U.S. war against the Vietnamese people many decades ago.

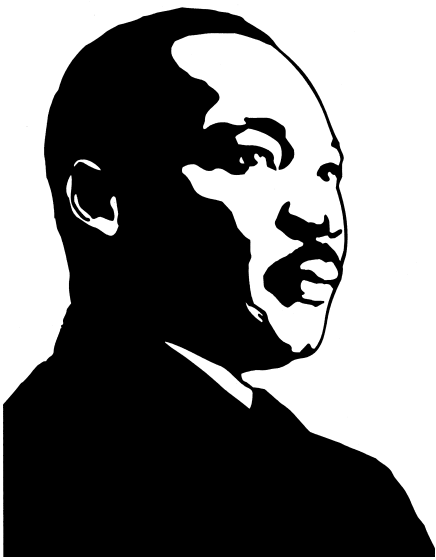
Your columnist, whose parents came from Orthodox Jewish stock, has been tormented, since the 1960s by the Israeli-Palestinian impasse, and the continuing occupation by a conquering Israeli army of Palestinian land.

One saintly act was recently performed by Abba and Ismail Khatib. Their 12-year-old son, Ahmed, was shot to death by Israeli troops who raided the Jenin Palestinian refugee camp. Ahmed was waving a toy gun, which looked real, and this cost him his life.

Ahmed’s parents donated his organs. They now reside in the bodies of four Israeli Jews, one Bedouin Arab and one Palestinian. Let us hope that this act of love and humanity will be recognized as a call to the best that exists in the family of humankind, and may this holiday season, sacred to three religions, see the beginning of a New Year of peace and justice.

Saalam. Shalom.

Contact Ira Grupper at Irag@iglou.com.



*Help make
the dream
of justice
and peace
a reality.*

Join the Fellowship of Reconciliation

LOCAL CONTACT:

Fellowship of Reconciliation / Louisville Chapter
2236 Kaelin Avenue / Louisville, Kentucky 40205
E-mail: EdwardsFOR@bellsouth.net
502-458-8056

FINANCIAL REPORT November 2005

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$5,382.71
30/90 Anniversary Event	875.00
Contributions	<u>1,002.00</u>
TOTAL	\$7,259.71

EXPENDITURES:

FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
FORsooth Layout	100.00
FORsooth Mailing	212.00
FOR National Dues	75.00
1/2 Loudspeaker System ...	202.38
Women Confr. Global	50.00
Checks	33.98
Banking Fee	3.00
Office Expenses	<u>247.11</u>
	\$1,073.47 <u>\$1,073.47</u>

ENDING BALANCE	\$6,186.24
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Please make your check payable to the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Your gift is tax deductible.

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Tim Scheldorf, Treasurer
Fellowship of Reconciliation
2917 Beaumont Road
Louisville, KY 40205



Calendar for peacemakers

Jan 1 (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. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

Jan 6 (Fri) **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, General Meeting.** Come and be a part of this ecumenical gathering, working for a just, peaceful and caring society. First Lutheran Church, 417 E. Broadway. 9:45 am. Call 491-7764.

Jan 6 (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.

Jan 8 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 6:00 pm, 2263 Frankfort Ave. Call Mike Slaton, 636-5848, cheslaton@hotmail.com This group would welcome invitations to speak about conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for highschool students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters.

Jan 9 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall #10, 7:30pm. Visitors welcome. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586 or Mary Horvath, 479-9262. (Note that the meeting this time falls on the **second Monday** to accommodate the holiday schedule.

Jan 9 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 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

Jan 10 (Tue) **TAX & BUDGET WORKSHOP**, James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave, 7-9pm. Sponsored by **Kentuckians for the Commonwealth** and **Kentucky Economic Justice Alliance**. Learn about the chronic under-funding of Kentucky’s schools and public services. Explore policy solutions and ways to take action. Free. Everyone welcome. Call Kat Goodman, 812/457-5450 or 589-3188, or call the Rev. Phil Lloyd-Sidle, 896-0172.

Jan 11 (Wed) **TENTH ANNUAL RACE RELATIONS CONFERENCE** featuring **CHARLES J. OGLETREE, JR**, Professor of Law, Harvard Law School and Vice Dean for the Clinical Programs. He is a prominent legal theorist who has made an international reputation by taking a hard look at complex issues of law and by working to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution for everyone equally under the law. The Muhammad Ali Center, One Riverfront Plaza, 8:00 - 2:00. For details, Contact the Metro Human Relations Commission, 410 W. Chestnut St, Suite 300A, Louisville, KY 40202. 502/574-3631. Fax 502/574-1216.

Jan 12 (Thu) **FAIRNESS TOWN HALL MEETING to discuss the 2006 legislative session**, “where we’re at and where we’re going with the work to defend our civil rights.” 6:30pm at the Fairness office. Call 893-0788.

Jan 15 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** (Every Third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York. 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Jan 16 (Mon) MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY, National Holiday.

Jan 19 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, featuring **CASA LATINA. Sue Scharfenburger, OSU**, will discuss her work at Casa Latina, a Catholic Worker house for Latina women located in Old Louisville. She lives in the house, working with Latin American people in Louisville, and also keeping in touch with Latina women in Peru with whom she has worked for many years. Sue represents a community of Latina women who care about other Latina women. Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W Oak St., 11:30am Buffet, \$6. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Polly Johnson, 473-8435, or Jean Edwards, 458-8056, by Tuesday beforehand.

Jan 19 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Monthly meeting, every third Thursday, 5:30 pm. The meeting place has been changed to the downtown Free Public Library, 4th and York Sts., Room A downstairs. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Jan 19 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley’s house, 6:30 pm. You are needed to put your fingers to work to keep this important news flowing. Please come and help for one hour.** Call Beverley at 451-5658.

Jan 19 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Monthly meeting every Third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914; Ellen Schagene, 451-6392; or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. www.louisvillepeace.org

Jan 21 (Sat) **NINTH ANNUAL UNITY DINNER, “Fighting Racism and Creating Democracy — The Challenge of 2006,”** sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression. Keynote speaker **DR. CORNEL WEST, activist/scholar/theologian/organizer.** **Honorees** will be **Eboni Neal Cochran**, organizer against environmental racism in Louisville’s West End, and **Henry Wallace**, activist against racism and a regular presence at all demonstrations for social justice for the last fifty years. Louisville Gardens, 525 W Muhammad Ali Blvd. 5:30pm “meet and greet” and book signing. 6:30pm dinner. Tickets \$40, Table of eight \$320. (Deadline Jan 14). For details call 778-8130. kyall@bellsouth.net

Jan 30 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30pm. Visitors welcome. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 479-9262. (Please note that the meeting this time is on the **5th Monday.**)

Jan 31 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Road, 6:30pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885 or Mark Meade, 541-9998. kcadp@earthlink.net

Feb 1 (Wed) **WORKSHOP: “Empowering the Angry Child for Positive Leadership.”** Strategies provided for working with youth whose angry disruptive behavior is getting them kicked out of the schools and community centers. Sponsored by the Peace Education Program, corner of 4th and Kentucky, 8:30-3:00. Continental breakfast and box lunch provided. Call 502/589-6583.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Jan 3-10 **PEACEMAKER TRAINING INSTITUTE** in Bangor, PA. Join other young people (ages 17-25) committed to learning and teaching active nonviolence, anti-racist organizing and conflict transformation. Apply online at: www.youth.forusa.org. Contact Maryrose, 651/647-4465. Or contact Danae at 651-647-4465 or: danae@forusa.org, or www.forusa.org/programs/pti/programs.html

Feb 12-25 **FOR DELEGATION TO COLOMBIA.** Stand with the people of Latin America, share briefly in their lives, and gain an understanding of their reality through meetings with a wide range of contacts. Call 415/495-6334. www.forusa.org

Feb 15-Mar 19 **JOIN THE WINTER OF OUR DISCONTENT CAMPAIGN! ACT TO END THE US WAR AGAINST IRAQIS. COME TO DC.** 33day fast and vigil with nonviolent civil disobedience/resistance and lobbying, sponsored by Voices for Creative Nonviolence, 1249 W Argyle St, #2, Chicago, IL 60640 info@vcnv.org Tel: 773-878-3815. Demand an end to this never ending war.

Mid-April **F.O.R DELEGATION TO IRAN**, a Fact-Finding & Friendship Delegation reflecting all segments of the United States in its ethnic, religious, and social diversity. \$3,300 covers round-trip air fare from NY to Teheran, room & board, and all other costs and fees. Call 845/358-4601, ext.27. e-mail: Iran@forusa.org www.forusa.org/programs/iran



Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

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

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