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## The Occupy movement demands radical change

by Brandon Absher

Now that we are two months into it, it is perhaps time for an accounting of the Occupation movement that has swept the nation—with its own powerful and amazing version here in Louisville.

The occupation was initially called by the magazine *Adbusters* and endorsed by the activist hacker organization Anonymous. It is important to emphasize, however, that neither group has played a significant role in the organizing on the ground. Reports from those involved indicate that the initial organizing work was done by veteran activists in NYC (with a few newcomers, of course). Generally speaking, these activists are Leftist radicals of one sort or another. There are, however, many involved who do not have a well articulated politics.

To understand the nature of the protest, then, it is important to understand Left radicalism. To be on the Left is to think of social inequality as the most important political issue. The primary purpose of a social institution or organization from this perspective is to address or end social inequality.

The term “radical” is from the Latin *radix* for “root.” Being a political radical requires having a “root” cause theory and believing that nothing short of fundamental change will be enough to remedy the problems we face. A root cause theory identifies an underlying source which produces the phenomenon in question. For Left radicals, the root cause of social inequality is an underlying oppressive social system: capitalism.

Capitalism as it is understood by radicals refers neither to such personal characteristics as greed or competitiveness nor to the exchange of money for goods and services. It refers, rather, to a social system in which a very small percentage of the people own the tools, land, etc. necessary for sustaining and reproducing life and where everyone else is forced to work these tools—primarily to the benefit of the owners. Differences in health, wealth, and power are thus rooted in this system of ownership.



Brandon Absher

The Occupy Wall Street movement is intended as an opening salvo in what will hopefully be a long revolutionary struggle. Although occupiers may call for reforms, it is important to see that their ultimate demand is revolutionary. They seek to seize power from the ruling capitalist class. Occupiers tend to avoid state and party mechanisms for this struggle.

Some avoid these means on principle: as they see it, these institutions are themselves part of the problem. For others, these mechanisms have lost any claim to legitimacy since they are now fully co-opted by corporate lobbyists. In either case, the belief

is that this struggle must draw from sources outside the established political system. For all these reasons, electoral politics, petitions, and letter writing campaigns are not significant parts of the overall strategy.

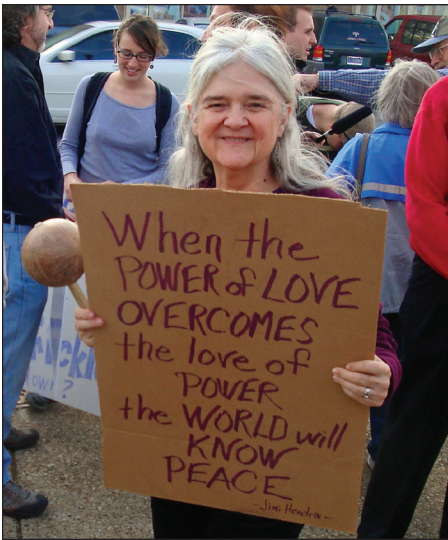
Wall Street was chosen as the focus of the movement both for its symbolic resonance (it is the hub of world finance) and for the material effects such an occupation could have (the disruption of the smooth flow of finance capital).

Significantly, the tactics and forms of organization now deployed throughout the United States have a number of historical precedents. The most obvious examples are in the revolutions of the Arab Spring and the recent encampments in Spain. From a larger perspective one might think of social struggles in Latin America over the course of the last two decades in such places as Oaxaca, Mexico. Closer to home, there’s the Anti-Globalization movement with its most famous victory in Seattle in 1999, as well as the wave of university occupations which gripped California a decade later.

Public spaces are shared and common, while Wall Street institutions represent what’s private and exclusive. Parks are situated at ground level, in horizontal, symbolic equality with people everywhere. The sky scrapers of Wall Street tower above the people, lord over them, symbolizing hierarchy, inequality, isolation and oppression.

Some have expressed frustration at the occupiers because they are leaderless and lack specific demands. One of the most important aspects of the occupation, however, is that it seeks to empower all the participants to lead and to prefigure a new form of democratic society.

It is precisely the insistence on face-to-face, direct democracy that has made it difficult for the occupiers to make specific demands. In order for any decisions to be made on behalf of the occupiers, literally everyone must agree. To some this will seem inefficient or unworkable. Of course,



Occupying Louisville

Photo credit: Peter Fosl

those of us who support such experiments in democracy will ask: “How’s that other thing working out for you?”

Many reformist commentators have argued that the occupiers will only alienate the majority of people in the US. They have pointed to the way the occupiers dress and accused them of being lazy and whiny, likening them to hippies. Ultimately, they suggest, the occupiers are idealistic countercultural fools, naïve children.

How will this movement go forward? The occupation movement will have to move toward tactical escalation and build deeper bases among the working class, people of color, and the poor. To my mind, escalation should take the form of fortifying occupied spaces and expanding the occupations into schools and workplaces.

Of course, strikes, pickets, blockades, and other forms of political struggle are also on the table and should be developed as viable tactical options. Already, occupations across the nation are considering their next steps as police repression increases and as the weather becomes an ever more important factor. In Oakland, occupiers have attempted to seize a foreclosed building—perhaps this is the future of the movement.

*Brandon Absher received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Kentucky and teaches at Indiana University Southeast and the Downtown Campus of Jefferson Community and Technical College. He lives in Louisville and is a member of the NO BORDERS collective.*

As the Occupy movement moves into winter spirits remain strong despite increasing tensions with police in Oakland, CA, and New York. Occupiers have inspired resistance to economic injustice around the world and demonstrate the growing demand for real social change.

More photos of Occupy Louisville on the FORsooth web site, [www.FORsoothnewspaper.org](http://www.FORsoothnewspaper.org).

Photo credit: Eddie Davis



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# Women’s equality in the workplace a concern for all

by Camille Britt-McManus

Recently, I read a story posted on the CNN website about the Obama administration coming to the support of the President’s senior female aides in regards to workplace fairness. Until a few years ago, I would have thought that women had made great strides in this area; little did I know women were still fighting the battle for equality in the office. Be it for promotion or pay raises, women are still working to build a bridge to those higher paying jobs.

The Institute for Women’s Policy Research ranked Kentucky 46<sup>th</sup>, followed by Mississippi, West Virginia, Louisiana and Arkansas, for the five worst state economies for women. The indicators were earnings, wage-gap, participation in the labor force, and representation in managerial and professional jobs. The top 5 states were District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Vermont.

Nationally speaking, Kentucky women are still clinging to the bottom rungs of the labor ladder. Obviously, much work lies ahead in the Bluegrass for women’s equality in the workplace. There are, however, a few hopeful indicators: the fastest growing occupations in Kentucky by percentage growth forecast are jobs that we stereotypically see as female occupations. Among the careers listed are dental hygienists, veterinarians, medical



Camille Britt-McManus

assistants and physician assistants, all of which earn over 50k per year.

These careers also require higher education. Since the early 1990’s there has been an increase in women’s enrollment in colleges across the nation. Within all nationalities, women are leading in the enrollment numbers. 54% of the 10.8 million young adults in colleges are women. So then, why are women still faced with a disregard in fairness issues?

President Obama in his March 12, 2011 weekly address pointed to the fact that this is not just a concern for women in our nation:

“At a time when folks across this country are struggling to make ends meet—and many families are just trying to get by on one paycheck after a job loss—it’s a

reminder that achieving equal pay for equal work isn’t just a women’s issue. It’s a family issue. It is something I care deeply about as the father of two daughters who wants to see his girls grow up in a world where there are no limits to what they can achieve.”

Obama hit the nail on the head: This is clearly not only a women’s issue. With the economy sluggish, gas prices sky-rocketing, and jobs scarce, the 52 million single head of household earners in our country are finding it especially tough to get by. Many of those earners are women, who are making less than their male counterparts.

But it must be true that in these hard times, women are hurting more than men. After all, women are five times more likely to live in poverty than men. 32.5% of female heads of households are living in poverty, compared to 17.8% of male heads of households. Couple this statistic with the fact that 11.6 million single parents are female, and inequality in the workplace quickly becomes a children’s issue.

Eleanor Roosevelt was a champion of human rights, including women’s rights. Driven by a passion for human dignity, she made her lasting contribution to the world inside the Human Rights Commission. Her statement to the United Nations sums up very well what human rights mean, and why they are important:

“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to

home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighborhood he lives in; the school or college he attends; the factory, farm, or office where he works. Such are the places where every man, woman, and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

If the United States is to remain the greatest nation in the world, we must work together, as citizens, to uphold the promise of equality for all people—men and women—that makes us worthy of that place.

Camille Britt-McManus is Publisher/Editor of Natural Awakenings magazine’s Louisville Metro edition. MetroPublisher@NaturalAwakeningsMag.com, www.napublishers.com/lville.



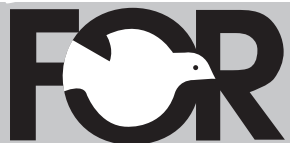
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The Fellowship of Reconciliation seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, peace and justice. We are an interfaith organization committed to active nonviolence as a transforming way of life and as a means of radical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



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#### 95 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.

Chair: Pat Geier.....609-7985



Ms. Ruth Bryant receives the Kentucky Alliance’s 2011 Carl & Anne Braden Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by UofL Dean Blaine Hudson. She and her late husband, Roscoe Bryant, were honored at this year’s Unity Dinner for their longtime community and civil rights leadership, especially in the 1960s Open Housing movement.

Photo credit: Eddie Davis



# Haiti's 2011 struggle: love in the time of cholera

by Stephen Bartlett

In 1803, the enslaved people of a small half-island colony won a 13-year war for their freedom. It was the birth of the New World's first free republic; and it was unwelcome. Centuries later, Haiti still suffers from the status of pariah nation.

Blockaded and squeezed for reparations by France for "lost revenues" for 150 years, successive interventionist U.S. governments have subsequently manipulated, invaded, occupied and extorted the Haitian people, even into modern times. The Clinton administration's meddling in the fate of Jean Bertrand Aristide is only one recent example.

Today Haiti also finds itself finds itself the victim of economic bullying by more powerful foreign countries, namely the United States. Former President Bill Clinton's 2010 apology for having forced open Haiti's doors for a free trade scheme came much too late for Haiti's rice farmers.

The trade agreement, signed in the mid 1990s and motivated by the acquisitive rice exporters of Clinton's home state of Arkansas, wiped out more than 80% of the rice growers in Haiti's Artibonite region. This dramatic example of commodity "dumping" caused the flight of at least 150,000 impoverished rice farmers to the ranks of the poor in Port-au-Prince, where they were tragically poised for the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010.

Clinton now serves as co-chair of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), the de facto governing body of Haiti "legitimized" by the thousands of UN MINUSTAH troops who occupy the nation.

Despite the maiming of Haiti's rice industry by foreign interests, and governmental neglect of its rural communities, Haitians remain essentially an agricultural people. The first days and weeks of meals eaten by the survivors of the earthquake of January 12, 2010 were supplied mostly by small farmers living near Port au Prince, or in the countryside far and wide where more than half a million people fled, seeking out relatives still clinging to the rural life.

Although a long time in coming, a consensus seemed to be emerging after the earthquake. The only economy left in Haiti was the small-scale peasant economy. The main avenue for recovery and job creation in the neo-liberal, "free" trade and



Stephen Bartlett drumming with Occupy Louisville and Louisville Peace Action Community at Baxter Ave. and Bardstown Rd. on Nov 13.

earthquake-pulverized economy would be a revitalized rural economy—a restored Haitian agriculture.

For agribiz giants like Monsanto, however, the reemergence of Haitian agriculture only meant an opportunity for new market penetration. Monsanto offered Haiti a "gift of 460 tons of hybrid seeds." This "gift" was facilitated by USAID in coordination with a small Haitian NGO run by a Haitian prominent during the Duvalier dictatorship and shipped for free by United Parcel Service.

Most of the seeds were coated in poisonous chemicals and brought into Haiti from abroad. The Haitian farmers, no fools, were aware of Monsanto's legacy as the creator of agent orange and its persecution of small farmers in the courtroom. On June 6, 2010 some 10,000 marched from Papay to Hinche and burned a symbolic quantity of Monsanto's seed in front of the shrine of a revered Catholic saint.

If Monsanto is the Wicked Witch of the West (or North, rather), then FONDAMA must be Haiti's Glenda. A coalition of Haitian agricultural organizations, including many longtime partners with Agricultural Missions, FONDAMA can lay claim to a long history of mobilization, organization and advocacy.

Agricultural Missions, in coordination with other North American partners, raised and sent

funds to the FONDAMA coalition for these purposes. Eighty tons of "Creole" (adapted local varieties) corn, beans and vegetables were distributed in the 10 departments of Haiti, in time for the rains, and well ahead of Monsanto's big pronouncements and a giant seed "gift."

These seeds replaced those that farmers had cooked to nourish the earthquake victims. Thousands of tools were bought and distributed, and 58 farmers from across Haiti were trained to build grain storage silos so that communities could collectively store their seed to save for the following crop cycle.

While Haitians may have defeated the threat of Monsanto's Trojan Horse, the outbreak of cholera was not something within their power to escape. The epidemic that to date has killed more than 4,000 and sickened tens of thousands, was linked to presence of the UN MINUSTAH "security" force, whose septic facilities beside the Artibonite River were overflowing.

The genetics of the cholera organisms tested showed themselves to be a variety endemic in Southeast Asia, an area from which some UN troops had migrated. The particular strain had never been seen before in the Americas. The cholera outbreak has reportedly not peaked yet. It is thought that it once it is under some control, it will yet remain as an endemic health threat in Haiti for years or decades to come.

While self-interested and miscalculated foreign intervention has created a swarm of catastrophes for Haiti, we have also seen the abject failures of the Haitian government, now under the presidency of Michel "Sweet Mickey" Martelly, a right wing politician/pop music star. With nowhere to go, hundreds of thousands of Haitians living under tents are now being threatened with expulsion.

But despite these grim circumstances, sweeping away the victims of the earthquake may not be so simple. Solidarity campaigns are beginning to form in support of the most impoverished of Haiti. Meanwhile peasant or family farm organizations are moving ahead with their reforestation, community seed bank, and women's home gardening and water management projects. Young Haitian farmers are learning agro-ecology and even video production. A new day is emerging from the grassroots.

What, then, does love in a time of cholera look like? It means a constant effort to educate those of us in North America who wish to live out our faith and *keep the faith* with the Haitian people. It means denouncing structural racism and exploitation, whatever guise those phenomenon take. It means upholding our belief that only with small-scale agriculture can the fragile and degraded lands of Haiti be brought again to the abundance that is the birthright of all people, including the Haitian people.

It means food and seed sovereignty! What hope is there that self-determination and true democracy can be preserved for most of us, if it cannot be restored by and for the Haitians, with our support?

Truly we are living in a new epoch not very different from that depicted in the triumphant 1985 novel by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*. As our faith assures us, by the grace of God, love is the way. Cynicism and defeatism are not an option. Love is the only option. Darkness can only be overcome by light.

Agricultural Missions, Inc., (AMI) is moving into Phase II of Haiti solidarity with our partner, a national coalition of farmers called FONDAMA. AMI will soon be screening a documentary film in Louisville about the fight for food sovereignty in Haiti since the earthquake.

To learn more and to support these efforts, contact Stephen Bartlett, Coordinator for Education and Advocacy for Agricultural Missions, Inc (AMI), sbartlett@ag-missions.org 502 896 9171. A longer version of this article is available on FORsooth's web site, www.forsoothnewspaper.org.

## January 27, 1967

"How the hell we gonna go to the moon if we can't talk between two buildings?" the frustrated Hoosier mission commander pleaded over the faltering radio.

A minute later, stress from things not going well at work mattered nothing. Oh, precious life.

--George Morrison

## Who's Listening?

by Sr. Miriam Corcoran, SCN

This world would be a happier and safer place, I suggest, if adults, in and out of government service, paid more attention to fourth graders. I say this because of an experience I had one summer evening during a peace vigil at the Douglass Loop in Louisville's Highlands. As readers of *FORsooth* know, L-PAC (the Louisville Peace Action Community) has been opposing war by various means, including vigils, since 2002. Thus, these efforts will soon "celebrate" a decade of anti-war activity.

On a memorable summer evening in about 2010, a woman and her great-nephew emerged from an adjacent confectionary holding large cups of ice cream. This friendly pair engaged me in conversation about our group, the vigil's purpose, etc. The great-nephew informed me that he was visiting Louisville from Bowling Green, KY, where he was a fourth grade student. They gladly accepted the peace signs I offered them. Soon the young visitor put down his cup of ice cream, picked up the sign, and joined me on the Bardstown Road sidewalk. When I reminded him that his ice cream would melt, this discerning nine year-old replied, "Peace is better than ice cream." I, of course, recalled that relevant verse from Isaiah, 11:6, "The calf and the lion shall browse together / With a little child to lead them."

Can you hear us, Pentagon planners?

Sr. Miriam Corcoran can often be found at the Douglass Loop Vigil, 2nd Sundays at 5pm. mcorcoran320@bellsouth.net.



At the 2011 Unity Dinner, the Kentucky Alliance against Racist and Political Repression recognized the remarkable work of teacher and former Fairness Campaign co-coordinator Aletha Fields (left, with Stephon Barbour).



# Moving Louisville and the planet to a green future

by Terrell Holder and Drew Foley

What if you threw a party but told your guests they couldn't drive to your house? Wouldn't be much of a party, would it? Yet, that's what 350 Louisville did on September 24, 2011, in its 350.org event, "Moving Planet, Moving Louisville beyond Fossil Fuels." Despite our self-imposed restrictions, we did have a great party. We also, however, broadcast a serious message: Louisville must reduce its fossil fuel use for transportation.

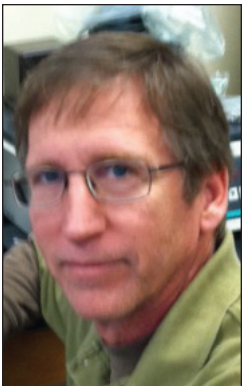
350 Louisville is the local group representing 350.org which itself is a global, grassroots, volunteer-led, climate campaign working towards science-based solutions to climate change. "350" is the safe upper limit of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, that is, 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas. We're recurrently at 392 ppm, so "350" symbolizes the need for immediate drastic action to reduce our carbon emissions.



Drew Foley

Since 2008, 350.org has been calling for an annual world-wide day of action around the issue of climate change. This year the event was "Moving Planet: A Day to Move beyond Fossil Fuels," a global rally for solutions to climate change at all levels of government. At over 2,000 events in more than 175 countries, people moved on bicycles, unicycles, kayaks, and on foot to represent their commitment to this goal. Here in Louisville we focused on reducing our city's carbon footprint from transportation. We asked Louisville's walkers, bike-riders, and TARC-riders to gather in their neighborhoods and trek downtown to a

rally at Jefferson Square using as little fossil fuel as possible. At the rally we asked local government (in the person of Barry Barker, TARC director) to support a list of actions ("Local-Motions") that would reduce our fossil fuel use from transportation, clean our air, and enhance community. "Yert" filmmakers Julie Dingman Evans and her spouse, Ben Evans, shouted out the "Local-Motions," with the musical group Appalatin providing back-up. The visual background was composed of iconic tapestries representing each "Local-Motion."



Terrell Holder

In addition to Appalatin, the musical/poetry duo kRi and Hettie also performed. Our featured speaker was Congressman John Yarmuth (D-KY, 3rd District). Also inspiring us from the stage were bicycle activist Kirk Kandle, Louisville Climate Action Network director Sarah Lynn Cunningham, and cultural creative Harry Pickens. While the "Local-Motions" were sung in slogan form, we also prepared a detailed set of proposals that were presented to Mr. Barker and sent to the mayor (from whom we expect a response). The list included calls to resurrect existing public transportation, develop new projects to reduce air pollution, diminish traffic congestion and improve traveler safety. Implementing these measures will stimulate the local economy, make our community healthier and more resilient, and provide the capacity for residents to transport themselves car-free. There are serious grounds for Louisville to respond aggressively to energy challenges. Louisville is ranked the 11<sup>th</sup> highest per

capita gas-guzzling city. A recent survey on the city-county merger revealed that more than half the population wants a better public transportation system, including light rail. U.S. cities of comparable size, including Cincinnati, have built or have shovel-ready streetcar projects. Eighty-one percent of commuters in Kentucky drive alone. The Louisville area is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in year-round particle pollution. Plans for a great public transportation system in Louisville already exist. They are imbedded in numerous reports including Cornerstone 2020, Transportation Tomorrow (T2), and Horizon 2030. Obviously, good plans have been formulated, but implementing plans of this sort always runs up against funding constraints. And when funds are limited, highway projects always seems to take priority. Sometimes funds set aside for public transit projects are even cannibalized to build roads. We need to implement a public transit funding strategy that isn't vulnerable to gasoline prices and recessionary stress. We must increase pedestrian facilities and bike lanes. We must expand bus service and build bus rapid transit capability. We must rebuild our in-street rail-based trolley system. There is ample evidence that robust public transit creates the framework for a vibrant urban culture. No one plans a community to be mired in traffic jams or wracked by ozone alert

days. These events occur because of a failure to provide balanced transportation options. In the 1930s and 1940s, Louisville had a world class system of streetcars. Neighborhoods today like Douglass Loop and Baxter Station are a legacy of that system. So in the afterglow of "Moving Planet, Moving Louisville," we challenge you to give up your car a few days per month, and ride your bicycle or, take TARC to work. If you can't do this, then join or start a car pool. One of the wonderful things about Louisville is that it is not too big. Using an alternative mode of transportation will not slow you down much and will reward you with cleaner air, lower bills and new friends. Finally, please remember the larger issue of all human-induced climate change. The science is conclusive. We must return the planet to the conditions under which it birthed us and all life. Contact Terry Holder at [thholder@bell-south.net](mailto:thholder@bell-south.net). Drew Foley is a retired naval officer who now teaches and plays a little piano but mostly advocates for a return to Earth-based consciousness; contact him at [bdrewf@yahoo.com](mailto:bdrewf@yahoo.com).



Folks gather on Sept. 24 at 350 Louisville's day of action to reduce our city's carbon footprint.

## Project Warm helps reduce energy consumption

by Frank Schwartz

Project Warm will reach its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the end of this year. The organization was conceived at a difficult juncture in the life of our country and our city of Louisville. Unemployment among the general population was high, good factory jobs were going overseas, energy costs were rising significantly, and households both among the working class and the elderly were feeling the pain. A 1990s study has shown that despite Jefferson County enjoying relatively low utility costs, low-income households in Louisville pay a disproportionate share of their income for home energy--an average of 22% of their household income going

low and fixed income households. Currently funding for weatherization and energy education is provided by the LG&E, Metro Louisville, the William E. Barth Foundation, Gheens Foundation, Kentucky Housing Corporation, The Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, Fifth Third Foundation, along with congregations, and individual donations. The "Project Warm Blitz" is an annual event where hundreds of volunteers help prepare the homes of seniors and the disabled for the winter by hanging interior plastic on windows and making other basic weatherization repairs. Energy costs and issues of affordable housing are linked tighter and tighter as time passes. Providing affordable housing for all was proposed by President Truman in 1948, under his Fair Deal initiatives. To our shame and disappointment affordable housing has still not become a priority for our nation. For that to

change, we must come to terms with the fact that home energy costs are a significant part of the housing affordability. We now have a very fragile system in place with our current housing stock. It was built at a time when energy costs were more affordable and when conservation practices were all but non-existent. Today those homes have aged, their seams are more porous, and they require excessive energy to keep them warm in winter and cool in summer. And guess what? Their current occupants are usually low-income residents without the resources or the know-how to make timely retrofits and/or practice conservation. What can we do? Support the renewable energy sector, like LGE's Green Power and Demand Conservation programs. When ready to upgrade your appliances buy Energy Star products. Support investments in the green economy. Project Warm provides year round opportunities for volunteer engagements; both hands-on at clients homes and in the office. Metro (Louisville) Housing and Community Development serves Jefferson County residents and can provide various housing related repairs from roofing to wall and attic insulation and in between. (502) 574-3107. We Care/Honeywell is a Demand Side Management program that provides three levels of weatherization service depending on annual energy usage. (502) 778-8184. Kentucky Home Performance (KHP) can explain how rebates and low-interest loans can help you make a cost-effective investment in the comfort and efficiency of your home: [www.KYHomePerformance.org](http://www.KYHomePerformance.org), toll-free: (877) 741-4306.

Project Warm's "Energy Auditing Equipment Loan library." Through the support of the Kentucky Housing Corporation to increase the number of KY-Home Performance audits around the state, Project Warm will shortly have a full set of auditing equipment to loan out to certified professionals. Finally, Metropolitan Housing Coalition is our pre-eminent organization in Jefferson County advocating on behalf of affordable housing. Check them out! They need our involvement and support to make our community a better place to live: [www.MetropolitanHousing.org](http://www.MetropolitanHousing.org), (502) 584-6858.

Contact Project Warm at [www.projectwarm.org](http://www.projectwarm.org), [info@projectwarm.org](mailto:info@projectwarm.org), [facebook.com/projectwarm](https://www.facebook.com/projectwarm), 1252 South Shelby Street, Louisville, KY, 40203, (502) 636-WARM.



for gas and electricity. This compares to a national average of around 10% for low-income families and 3% for middle-income families. As the housing stock for many low-income families continues to degrade, the problem worsens. The good news is that in many cases this problem can be remedied with weatherization and energy education--a community investment that continues to pay for itself over and over again through the years. Weatherization measures include sealing air leaks, weather-stripping, caulking, making minor repairs to doors and windows, etc. Project Warm helps by holding workshops during the fall and winter season, throughout the community at schools and community centers. The workshops help participants learn about effective home energy management and provide free weatherization materials for

change, we must come to terms with the fact that home energy costs are a significant part of the housing affordability. We now have a very fragile system in place with our current housing stock. It was built at a time when energy costs were more affordable and when conservation practices were all but non-existent. Today those homes have aged, their seams are more porous, and they require excessive energy to keep them warm in winter and cool in summer. And guess what? Their current occupants are usually low-income residents without the resources or the know-how to make timely retrofits and/or practice conservation. What can we do? Support the renewable energy sector, like LGE's Green Power and Demand Conservation programs. When ready to upgrade your appliances buy Energy Star products. Support investments in the green economy. Project Warm



Howard Owens (right) received from Bob Cunningham the Kentucky Alliance against Racist and Political Repression's award for his longtime commitment to social justice. Photo Credit: Eddie Davis



# Justice requires homes for the mentally ill

by Katharine R. Dobbins

Everyone needs a home. Having a place to stow our stuff and call our own is fundamental; and it’s something most of us take for granted. But for many among us who live with mental illness, having a place to call home doesn’t come so easily.

Mental illness has long been a factor in homelessness. For three quarters of a century, Central State Hospital served as the largest housing provider for persons with mental illness in our region of Kentucky. In 1873, what was then called the Central Kentucky Lunatic Asylum began admitting persons with mental disorders. Originally built to house 1600 patients, by 1940, the hospital was tearing at the seams, crammed with nearly 2500 people.

The asylum’s population began to ebb in the 1950s when medications were found to be effective in treating mental illness. The hospital’s decline in mental patient population was spurred along when Congress passed the Community Mental Health Act of 1963, mandating the creation of publicly funded mental health centers.

It has been nearly fifty years since the passage of that historic act. Today, people with mental illness rarely live in hospitals. There is increasing recognition that recovery is possible. And yet, despite these strides, we have been relatively slow to understand mental illness, or address the inequities that result for those who are diagnosed with these brain disorders.

This is surprising, considering the pervasiveness of mental illness. The National Institute of Mental Health reports that one in four American adults will experience a mental health disorder over the course of a year, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness reports that about 6% of the population (1 in 17) has a severe mental illness. Our societal reluctance to confront the inequalities that people with these disorders face must therefore suggest that stigma continues to be a barrier to full community inclusion. For that reason, those 6% of Americans with severe psychological conditions face discrimination alongside huge challenges they already have in cobbling together the parts of their lives.

Most people with severe mental illness can—and do—live successfully in our community. Affordable housing, however, is limited, and so are accompanying supportive services. Finding suitable housing is next to impossible for those living on SSI (Supplemental Security Income) due to disability—the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Louisville eats up nearly 90% of their income. Too many people live in substandard housing as a result of being disabled; and when living on such a tight margin, the threat of homelessness is always present.

Last January, the Louisville Coalition for the Homeless identified just over 400 adults with severe mental illness in their street-count. This number represents about one third of the total street-bound population. But the actual number of homeless mentally ill adults is likely significantly higher because mental illness is often underreported for a variety of reasons.

Studies show that the net public cost of providing permanent supportive housing for homeless adults with mental illness is about the same or less than the cost of allowing them to remain on the streets. This is due, in large part, to the associated costs for physical and mental health care (often emergent).

Waiting lists for subsidized housing are daunting and often years long. Of those fortunate enough not to be homeless, some (too many) with mental illness are “placed” in personal care homes. These places are often merely mini-institutions that sever their residents from the essential joys that all people want: a place to call our own, where we can invite our friends and families to visit, and membership in the communities of our choice.

Why should having a biologically based disorder like mental illness prevent many hundreds of people in our city, and thousands of people in our state from having a “real” home? Like yours or mine? Where is the justice in that?

*Katharine Dobbins is Executive Director of Wellspring [www.wellspringky.org](http://www.wellspringky.org). [Katharine.Dobbins@wellspringky.org](mailto:Katharine.Dobbins@wellspringky.org).*

# Empathy and Ethos

by Tom Louderback

For so the children come  
And so they have been coming.

Always in the same way they come  
Born of the seed of man and woman.

No angels herald their beginnings.  
No prophets predict their future courses.

No wise men see a star to show  
Where to find the babe that  
Will save humankind.

Yet each night a child is born is a holy night.

Fathers and mothers,  
Sitting beside their children’s cribs  
Feel the glory of a new life beginning.

They ask, “Where and how will  
This new life end?  
Will it ever end?”

Each night a child is born is holy night:  
A time for singing.  
A time for wondering.  
A time for worshipping.

Sophia Lyon Fahs penned this poem in 1951 for a children’s curriculum she had written for Unitarian congregations (now Unitarian Universalist). By that time, she had already authored a dozen or so books on the religious education and would write five more.

In writing this poem, Fahs wanted to identify a theme in the traditional Christmas celebration that might inspire people of different persuasions and beliefs. I think of it as an interfaith Christmas poem, although there is no indication that Fahs herself ever described it that way. Since first discovering it about twenty years ago, I’ve showed to dozens of my friends this time year. Everyone likes it.

Fahs vision of children’s religious education was considered too radical by most congregations sixty to seventy years ago. Traditionally, children’s religious education in Protestant Christian congregations concentrated on materials about the Bible. Fah’s insight was to postpone Bible study until the children could begin to understand

the differences between ancient culture and contemporary culture.

In the meantime, she wanted to encourage the child’s “natural sense of wonder” and awareness of others. Her numerous books and curricula told stories about everyday experiences, animal life, religious traditions, ancient civilizations, and other cultures—all of which are reflected in the titles of her most popular children’s books: *A Brand New Baby*, *Animal Babies*, *Miracles Abound*, *Jesus: The Carpenter’s Son.*, *Beginnings of Earth and Sky*, *Beginnings of Life and Death*, *The Church Across the Street and From Long Ago Many Lands*.

For Fahs, “The religious way is the deep way, the way that sees what physical eyes alone fail to see, the intangibles of the heart of every phenomenon. The religious way is the way that touches universal relationships; that goes high, wide and deep, that expands the feelings of kinship.” We see this view of religion in the following verse from a children’s curriculum she wrote in 1952, “It Matters What We Believe.”

Some beliefs are like walled gardens.  
They encourage exclusiveness, and the feeling of being especially privileged.

Other beliefs are expansive and lead the way into wider and deeper sympathies.

Some beliefs are divisive, separating the saved from the unsaved, friends from enemies.

Other beliefs are bonds in a world community, where sincere differences beautify the pattern.

Some beliefs are rigid, like the body of death, impotent in a changing world.

Other beliefs are pliable, like the young sapling, ever growing with the upward thrust of life.

## Barry Norris in memoriam

Barry Norris passed away on November 14, 2011. This fact was mentioned in the Courier-Journal though nothing else was said. I don’t live in Louisville now, and I had been out of touch with Barry so at this time I can’t say for sure what was the cause of his death but he was featured in the Courier-Journal discussing his frustration with the nationwide shortage of some important medications.

Barry was an important presence in Louisville. He had spent time lobbying for HIV-positive people and the legal and medical needs of HIV-positive individuals. For a decade he was the head of Louisville’s ACT UP and the local delegate for the IWW [International Workers of the World, aka the Wobblies], and he devoted much effort to the Fairness Campaign in Louisville as well as in neighboring cities. Barry was also closely involved at one time with the Braden Center and was a strong voice in the local civil rights community. In the late nineteen-nineties Barry had been of great assistance to those attempting to organize Jeff Boat shipyard and his efforts led to the longest wildcat strike in US history, the Jeff Boat strike of 2001. A decade ago Barry Norris was involved with the protests against the IMF in Washington and against the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia, during which time he was imprisoned and denied access to HIV medication. Perhaps most importantly, he was instrumental in introducing people from the civil rights, labor, environmental and arts communities to one another, and by so doing he helped create the massive upsurge of radicalism in Louisville at that time.

He was a friend to many and to me, a fellow worker and a loud-mouthed asshole about how things could be better. He’s missed.

Terry Tapp, Brooklyn, NY

# Third Thursday Lunches

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# Civil disobedience calls us to oppose nuclear threat

by Phil Ardery Jr.

During the night of the Feast of All Souls, November 2, 2009, three women and two men, ranging in age from 59 to 82, cut through the chain link fence surrounding the Kitsap-Bangor Naval Base outside Bremerton, Washington. They then walked undetected nearly four miles inside the base to the Strategic Weapons Facility, where hundreds of U.S. nuclear missiles are stored in bunkers. There they cut through two more barbed wire fences and went inside.

The intruders hung two large banners, identifying themselves as part of the Plowshares Movement (<http://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com>). They scattered sunflower seeds and prayed until they were arrested at dawn. Once arrested, the five were cuffed and hooded with sand bags because, in the words of the marine in charge, “When we secure prisoners anywhere in Iraq or Afghanistan we hood them ... so we did it to them.”

In December 2010, the five were tried for trespass, felony damage to federal property, felony injury to property and felony conspiracy to damage property. Convicted by a jury, all five were sentenced in early 2011 and three remain in federal prison today—one in solitary confinement for “non-cooperation.”

If the courage of the five Plowshares activists is replicated by a few thousand imitators, all of us defying the governments of our respective nuclear-armed nations, might human production of deadly radiation diminish and soon disappear? What’s at stake is more than humanity.

All life on Earth shares a biological design that cannot tolerate high doses of the electromagnetic energy that necessarily results from atomic fission. Our sun through the fusion of hydrogen atoms into helium emits sunlight and many other forms of radiation, the most dangerous spectra of

which are fortunately trapped or deflected by Earth’s atmosphere.

The several hundred nuclear reactors operating on our planet today--103 of those in the United States--originated with the perceived need in the U.S. to build an industry that would continue research by the scientists and technicians who had developed bombs in the successful Manhattan Project during World War II.

Boiling water to produce electricity was the civilian application that the federal government and its industrial partners selected to sustain and expand expertise in nuclear technologies. The byproducts of those technologies--in their peaceful manifestations no less than in weaponry--are absolutely lethal.

The March 2011 core meltdowns at three of the six Fukushima nuclear reactors have produced the inevitable assaults on life predicted for decades by informed people across the spectrum of politics and ideology. The “father” of the United States nuclear navy, Admiral Hyman Rickover, told a joint committee of Congress in 1982, “I do not believe that nuclear power is worth it if it creates radiation.” All of today’s nuclear power plants, whatever their design, produce radiation similar to the radioactive poisons that continue to spew from Fukushima.

In May 2011, following weeks of denial, the Tokyo Electric Power Company confirmed that in at least one of the Fukushima reactors, the fuel melted through part of the inner containment system, with molten radioactive metal melting through to the reactor floor. Radioactive materials with



Phil Ardery, Jr.

long half-lives breached all containment and escaped. TEPCO’s remedy in that emergency has been to flush the escaped radioactive materials into the ocean.

In the United States, opposing their government’s deployment of nuclear weapons, the Plowshares activists argued at trial that those weapons are both illegal and immoral; and that all citizens have the right and duty to try to stop international war crimes from being committed. But as Fukushima has demonstrated, crimes against humanity are only part of what’s wrong with the propagation of human-made nuclear fission.

In 1970, British psychologist and philosopher Richard Ryder coined the term *speciesism* “to describe the widespread discrimination that is practiced by man against other species.... Speciesism is discrimination, and like all discrimination it overlooks or underestimates the similarities between the discriminator and those discriminated against.”

It is all Earth life, not just human life, that has been able to arise, fed by a sunlight. That history of Earth life extends for at least two billion years. Now, in the last 70 years, humans, organized under the direction of national governments and their industrial partners, are producing in massive amounts the precise electromagnetic radiations that Earth life cannot tolerate. In 2011, by inflicting our human-made weapons of mass destruction indiscriminately on marine life, TEPCO and the Japanese government have exemplified speciesism at its ugliest extreme.

*FORsooth* readers may not particularly

admire Richard Dawkins, given his outspoken atheism, but it was Dawkins, wearing his biologist’s hat, who wrote in 1976 that “whether the ethic of ‘speciesism,’ to use Richard Ryder’s term, can be put on a logical footing any more sound than that of ‘racism,’ I do not know.”

Government and industry would have us write off the Fukushima meltdowns, coming after a combined earthquake-tsunami event, as a freak occurrence, not likely to be repeated. Not so. Charles Perrow has written persuasively in *Normal Accidents: Living with High Risk Technologies* (1984, 1999) that complex systems like nuclear power plants inevitably fail. Fukushima is more life-destructive than was Chernobyl, and, if these plants continue to operate, future accidents will be worse than Fukushima.

The surest way to prevent the future dousing of living species with lethal radiation may be to find courage equal to that of the Plowshares activists and show that we care.

*Philip P. Adrey, Jr., the son of a WWII bomber pilot, has written for the Harvard Crimson, the National Review, and Green Politics. He sits on the board of directors of the New York Society for General Semantics. Contact him at [ard@thepoint.net](mailto:ard@thepoint.net).*



## Weiss and Taylor speak of peace and post cards at TTL

by Ike Thacker

Fresh off being named a “Man of Distinction” by the Center for Women and Families the night before, Terry Taylor, Executive Director of Interfaith Paths to Peace, along with semi-retired Louisville attorney Allan Weiss (the main creator of the project, now working professionally in conflict resolution), presented a fascinating talk on their August 2011 trip to Hiroshima, called “Visions of Peace from Around the World: The Peace Postcards Project Visits Hiroshima,” at the October 20 Third Thursday Lunch (TTL).

Taylor, whose impressive resumé includes stints as director of the Thomas Merton Foundation and the Cathedral Heritage Foundation, and who Jean Edwards said in her introduction studied English and philosophy at Indianapolis before getting a Master’s degree at Ball State University in journalism (not to mention a Master of Fine Arts). Taylor has also served on the Louisville FOR Steering Committee.

Ginger Edwards, Jean Edwards’ daughter visiting from Germany, started the deservedly-long celebration of Jean’s November 13 ninetieth birthday early.

Weiss related the fall 2008 genesis of the project, beginning with its original conception by Tom Williams, past President of the Louisville Bar Association and September’s TTL presenter, and later cultivated by a desire to capitalize on Louisville’s prominent place in the peace movement as the “home” of Thomas Merton and Muhammad Ali (and their Centers).

Weiss talked about Merton Square at what is now Fourth St. and Muhammad Ali Boulevard—where on March 18, 1958, Merton had his “shining like the sun” epiphany. Muhammad Ali Blvd. was Walnut Street back then, but the new name, as Weiss observed, combines the legacies of two great Louisville peacemakers.

Weiss talked about how the transition to collecting peace postcards from around the world was easy for him, since he had



Terry Taylor

been collecting folk art for several years. He talked about the approximately 2,000 peace postcards from children in scores of countries around the world that are on the project’s website at [www.peacepostcards.org](http://www.peacepostcards.org), and the 8,000 or so that now exist in total. Estimating that 12-14 people, on average, have seen each one, Weiss said that 95,000 viewings have now occurred.

Some of the individual countries whose children have contributed postcards include Afghanistan, Rwanda, New Caledonia, Israel, Morocco, Iran, and Columbia. The varied art forms have included stick figures, ceramics, pewter, and paintings, along with poems and drawings. As Weiss pointed out, if you “do” art on something, you have to *think* a bit about it; and he wanted people to think about peace: “It will rub off,” he said.

Weiss pointed out the hopeful facts that in 1984 Mayors for Peace had been formed and that it now boasts some 4,700 members. In 1986 Louisville had become the thirteenth city to declare itself a nuclear-free zone.

Peace, said, Weiss, means different things to different people. For example, he said, at the Atkinson School in West Louisville, it meant things from peace in the neighborhood to avoiding a repeat of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, “and everything

in between,” from world peace to peace in the family to peace in the street.

Weiss also noted that the Peace Postcards Project had had a prominent display at Ekstrom library during the September 21 kickoff of the new Peace Studies Program at U of L. One only wishes that he and Taylor had shown their TTL audience even more of the postcards themselves—what we did see was so very inspiring.

Taylor’s part of the presentation was a brilliant, contextualizing embellishment on that of Weiss. Noting that the Project officially began in December 2008 and that Steve Leeper, Director of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Center, had been the pair’s “Japan connection,” facilitating his and Weiss’ August trip to Hiroshima to help commemorate the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fateful August 1945 day when “the bomb” was dropped, Taylor spoke passionately of the 300,000 total victims of that single blast, of the Peace Cenotaph in Hiroshima, of the “A-Bomb Dome,” and of the big reception—even being on TV news—that the Peace Postcards got in Japan. The postcards are likely, he said, to go to Iran next year.

Taylor also spoke movingly of the *hibakusha*, the survivors of the atomic bomb, at least three of whom live here in Louisville. The resilient human spirit of the Japanese people, he said, was symbolized by the fact that at least one tram car was up and running in Hiroshima (though only for three blocks) just three days after the atomic bomb was dropped on humans for the very first time. He then closed by quoting one of the most prominent commemorative Hiroshima memorials:

“FOR WE SHALL NOT REPEAT THE EVIL.”

Or, as Kathe Kollwitz, the great German socialist artist, said: “Nie wieder Krieg” (never again war).

*Ike Thacker is an advocate for political, social, and economic democracy. He focuses especially on housing issues and may be contacted at [ike.thacker@gmail.com](mailto:ike.thacker@gmail.com).*

### A few more words on the Judy Green affair

To the editor:

Local media coverage of the rallies for former Metro Council Member Judy Green last August and September depicted angry mobs of African Americans hurling irate and reckless charges of racism. At one rally, it was reported that Green’s supporters verbally attacked the newspaper reporters who’d covered the Green case. It was very ugly picture by all media accounts.

In stark contrast, some media reports included this calm and collected observation from Louisville NAACP President Raoul Cunningham. “But I would point out that the ethics commission was made up of seven individuals, three of them being African Americans. And their vote was unanimous.” An very important point, indeed. Many of us might like to add that the ethics commission was also courageous. Maybe some of the commissioners ought to run for the Metro Council.

Still, our skeptical side cannot help but wonder whether the local media had rushed to stereotype Green’s supporters. We wonder whether these folks had been tuned out because they aren’t cool. The media never tried to sift through their intemperate words. It seems fair to say that the media were not listening. Is it possible they missed an important underlying message?

We know from history that legislators at all levels of government are reluctant to discipline their colleagues.

So, each time one of them is disciplined we wonder about the ones who got away. If you happen to like the one that got punished, you might reasonably suspect that enforcement is not consistent or not fair. This part of the story was not told by any of the reporters.

— A FORsooth reader



# Social Security and Medicare benefits should be increased

by K. A. Owens

Social Security and Medicare must be strengthened not weakened. Social Security is already the primary retirement income for many Americans and will be for more as American companies refuse to offer defined benefit retirement plans. 401k plans just don't work as far providing an adequate retirement. The stock market is not designed to provide a safe retirement for ordinary people; it's designed for speculation. It's impossible for ordinary people to get adequate information to make sound decisions in the stock market.

Many Americans are simply not able under the current version of our economic system to earn enough money to have a decent retirement and pay for the rapidly increasing costs of health care. Because wages have not risen along with productivity for so many years, many Americans are earning much less than they should.

We must lower the retirement age because the last thing we want as a nation

would be to force people to work until they die. We want there to be a certain amount of job turnover for all occupations because we have young people graduating from high school and college every year who need jobs.

The United States of America is not out of wealth. We have plenty of wealth. Still, how do we pay for strengthened Social Security and Medicare? Social Security and Medicare both have trust funds. Social Security has \$2.6 trillion in the trust fund now. The origin of the money in the trust funds is a deduction from your paychecks. The money that comes into the trust fund is used to pay current benefits of



K. A. Owens of the Kentucky Alliance against Racist and Political Repression.

those drawing Social Security.

The math to increase Social Security benefits is not difficult. The Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) deduction of 6.2 percent for Social Security and 1.45 for Medicare is only on the first \$106,800 of income (the deduction was temporarily reduced for 2011 in a mistaken attempt to stimulate the economy). The deduction could go up to the first \$200,000 of income or be applied to all income if we want to continue to use the surplus to pay for things beside Social Security.

One of the ways to strengthen Social Security is to create more jobs. The more jobs, the more people paying in to Social Security and Medicare. Under the current version of capitalism where unearned income (capital gains, dividends, and interest) is taxed at only 15%, the big corporations have little interest in creating good paying jobs with good benefits (pensions and health insurance) for ordinary people when they can take their assets and make more money through speculation on government subsidized Wall Street. Increased taxes on corporations would inspire them to invest in job creation, not speculation. If the Federal government had created substantially more two-year jobs in every congressional district at double the minimum wage plus benefits early in 2009, many, many, ordinary people would be a lot better off than they are now, and all of them would have been paying in to Social Security and Medicare.

We must not let a group of wealthy inside-the-beltway punditry and wealthy politicians sacrifice the standard of living of ordinary people to create a national balance sheet that appeals to a government-subsidized corporate elite. We know what we have to do. We must strengthen Social Security and Medicare because we know it is the right way to use the wealth of our country.

*K.A. Owens is a longtime activist in Louisville, he sits on the boards of directors of the Kentucky Alliance against Racist and Political Repression. ka.owens@louisville.edu.*

## The Occupy movement has re-energized progressives



The Occupy movement has energized people across the world, Louisville included. With its taking to the commons, its marches, teach-ins, horizontal organization, direct action, mutual aid, and spontaneity, the 99%-ers have challenged the powerful and reminded us that politics is more than the electoral party system. Most importantly, they've restored our hope in a better future.

## Calendar (continued from back page)

- Jan 14 (Sat) **“REMEMBERING THE FREEDOM RIDES, 1961 and 2011”** – MLK Birthday Celebration, joint session of the Healing History Academy and UofL’s Saturday Academy. 12:45 - 2:00. pm, at the DuValle Education Center, 3610 Bohne Ave, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.
- Jan 19 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 11:30 AM. Dean Bucalos, “Releasing Ex-Offenders into our Communities — A Faith-Based Response” For more information, contact Jean Edwards at 458-8056 or edwardsfor@bellsouth.net or Cathy Ford at 458-1223 or fordhoff@bellsouth.net.
- Jan 24 (Tues) **LOUISVILLE GREEN DRINKS.** Every 4th Tuesdays at 6:30PM. Conversation and networking for local ecology-minded businesses and individuals. Visit [www.greenlistlouisville.com](http://www.greenlistlouisville.com)
- Jan 26 (Thurs) **NETWORK LUNCHEON,** University Club, UofL, Noon. Every Fourth Thursday. Spirited and constructive dialogue on race relations in Louisville in a safe and inclusive environment. For reservations call, the UofL Office of Diversity at 852-5719.
- Jan 26 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING.** Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 10. 6:30 PM. Every fourth Thursday. We need volunteers! Many hands make light work, and the opposite is also true! So please join us if you can. Call 458-8056 for more information!
- Jan 27 (Fri) **SCHOLAR OF AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION,** 3PM. Dr. Dismas A. Masolo, PhD. on topics related to his research. Faculty Research Forum, UofL. Visit <http://louisville.edu/cchs/>
- Feb 1 (Wed) **AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CULTURAL EVENTS CALENDAR.** This free 40-plus page book describing films, lectures, exhibits, plays, commemorative events, concerts, seminars, and happenings is distributed at public libraries and other locations. 90-some events altogether. Compiled by local historian and community activist Walter Hutchins for over 20 years.
- Feb 2 (Thu) **“BLUES for an ALABAMA SKY”** a play by Pearl Cleage directed by Nefertiti Burton, sponsored by the UofL Department of Theatre Arts. The performance of Cleage’s poignant, Depression-era drama set in Harlem will take place at 8:00pm in the Thrust Theatre, followed by a talkback and a reception sponsored by the Anne Braden Institute. Call 502-852-6142
- Feb 7 (Tues) **COLUMNIST EUGENE ROBINSON,** 5:30PM to 8PM. Pulitzer Prize winning national columnist to speak on emerging trends in national politics. Phi Beta Kappa Lecture Series, UofL. Visit <http://louisville.edu/cchs/>
- Feb 17 (Fri) **REPORTBACKS** on Anne Braden Institute-funded Social Justice Research – A faculty Research Forum featuring Professors Jennie Burnet (Anthropology), Glenn Crothers (History), and Nicole Seymour (English). Sponsored by UofL’s Commonwealth Humanities Center with the Anne Braden Institute. Refreshments served. Come to Room 300, Bingham Humanities Bldg at UofL 3:30 pm



## OUT OF TOWN

- Dec 4 to 7 **COGEL ANNUAL CONFERENCE.** The Council on Government Ethics Laws in Nashville, TN this year. Best practices in ethics, campaign finance, elections, lobbying regulation, and freedom of information. Updates on legislation and court decisions. Visit [www.cogel.org](http://www.cogel.org)
- Dec 5 to 9 **CONFLICT PREVENTION.** U.S. Institute of Peace. Learn to recognize opportunities for third parties to prevent or mitigate violence. Other courses in December & January about negotiations, rule of law, economic needs, mentoring, and cultural adaptability. Visit [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org)



# Calendar for peacemakers

Dec 1 (Thurs) **SACRED AIR, BREATH OF LIFE: NATIVE-AMERICAN ARTIFACTS.** Speed Museum with the Festival of Faiths until February 19th. Ceremonial artifacts, pottery, and photographs. Visit [www.speedmuseum.org](http://www.speedmuseum.org)

Dec 1 (Thurs) **MAKE A DIFFERENCE.** Hand in Hand Ministries, 6:30PM. Informal one-hour introduction to our immersion trips and volunteer opportunities. Visit [www.hhministries.com](http://www.hhministries.com)

Dec 2 (Fri) **FAIR TRADE NIGHT.** Just Creations Fair Trade Store at 6PM. Food, crafts, and arts created by artisans throughout the developing world. For more information, call 897-7319.

Dec 3 (Sat) **WORLD PEACE COFFEEHOUSE.** Interfaith Paths To Peace, 7PM to 9PM. St. Agnes Catholic Church. Hear singer-songwriter Michael Kessler. Coffee, tea & refreshments. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Dec 3 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Every Saturday. African American history, culture, and current issues. Free. Call the UofL College of Arts and Sciences at 852-2658 for more information.

Dec 3 (Sat) **OLMSTED PARK VOLUNTEERS.** Cherokee Park, 9AM to Noon. Also, Saturday, Dec 17th. Root out invasive plants, rebuild trails, renew structures and remove litter. Visit [www.olmstedparks.org](http://www.olmstedparks.org)

Dec 3 (Sat) **ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB.** Every Saturday at the Newburg Branch & Iroquois Branch Public Libraries, 3PM. Also Main Library on Thursdays at 7PM. Practice conversational English with neighbors and friends from many parts of the world. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Dec 3 (Sat) **SACK LUNCHESES FOR HOMELESS.** Every Saturday, 12pm to 2PM, Bates Community Development Corporation (original Bates Memorial Baptist Church) Visit [www.batescdc.com](http://www.batescdc.com)

Dec 3 (Sat) **LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE.** Every Saturday morning next Spring, Summer and Fall. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown)

Dec 3 (Sat) **LAND STEWARD PROJECT.** Jefferson Memorial Forest. Every first Saturday, 9AM to Noon. Also, Wednesdays. Help improve landscape and protect native flora. Gloves, tools, water and on-the-job training provided. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/)

Dec 4 & Jan 4 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every first Sunday at 7 PM, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the FOR office. Discuss conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for high school students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters. Call Jim Johnson, 262-0148.

Dec 5 (Mon) **AFTERSCHOOL TUTORS.** Every Monday through Thursday between 3:30PM & 7PM. Brooklawn Child & Family Services. Tutoring helps our kids improve classroom performance and build self-esteem. Visit [www.brooklawn.net](http://www.brooklawn.net)

Dec 5 (Mon) **ZUMBA LATIN DANCE.** Originated by Columbian native Albert Perez, choreographer and trainer. YMCA, Berrytown, Every Monday & Wednesday, 6:30PM, Downtown, Every Thursday, 6PM, and Chestnut Street, Every Friday at 12PM. Visit [www.ymcalouisville.org](http://www.ymcalouisville.org)

Dec 6 (Tues) **SPANISH CONVERSATION CLUB.** Every Tuesday at the Main Library, 7PM. Immerse yourself in Spanish language with native speakers from all around the world. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Dec 6 (Tues) **ADVOCATES FOR ABUSED & NEGLECTED CHILDREN.** Court Appointed Special Advocates. 5:30PM to 8PM. Also, December 8th. Volunteer training for children’s advocates. Challenging and personally rewarding. Visit [www.casarr.org](http://www.casarr.org)

Dec 6 (Tues) **COMMUNITY POLICING.** Citizens Police Academy. Every Tuesday from 7PM to 9:30PM. Learn more about criminal law, police procedures and community engagement. Call 574-7423 for class schedule. Ask also about The Latino Citizens Police Academy and The Youth Academy.

Dec 6 (Tues) **KOREAN FOLK PAINTINGS OF HYE-YOUNG GO.** Crane House Gallery, 11AM to 4PM, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday until January 6. Paintings in the Minhwa perspective and tradition. Visit [www.cranehouse.org](http://www.cranehouse.org)

Dec 7 & Jan 4 (Wed) **THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM.** Every first Wednesday. Sustainability and relationships that create a community for change. Bring your lunch. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

Dec 7 (Wed) **NOONTIME INTERFAITH MEDITATIONS.** Every Wednesday from 12:30 to 12:50 at Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown. Weekly rotation includes Zen Buddhist silence, Lecto Divina, Vipassana Buddhist practices, and Creative Visualization. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Dec 7 (Wed) **VOLUNTEER HOME BUILDERS.** Habitat for Humanity home construction sites are open Wednesday to Saturday, 8:30AM to 3:30PM this month. For effective planning, we ask for a full day commitment. No skills required. Ask about other volunteer opportunities. Visit [www.hfhloouisville.org](http://www.hfhloouisville.org)

Dec 7 (Wed) **NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS.** Blackacre State Nature Preserve and Historic Homestead. Every Wednesday, 9AM to Noon. Help care for gardens, trails, and farmland. Visit [www.blackacreconservancy.org](http://www.blackacreconservancy.org)

Dec 7 (Wed) **RESETTLEMENT VOLUNTEER TRAINING.** Kentucky Refugee Ministries at 5:30PM. Learn how to be a family advocate or ESL tutor. For more info, call 574-9180 ext. 36.

Dec 8 & Jan 12 (Thurs) **THE FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB.** Every second Thursday of the month, for those interested in learning more about economic theories and public policy. 6:30 PM, 1838 Frankfort Ave. For more information, contact John Miller at [papajohn15@bellsouth.net](mailto:papajohn15@bellsouth.net).

Dec 8 & Jan 12 (Thurs) **AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM (APPAPF).** Every second Thursday. A documentary film exploring the situation in Middle East will be presented. 7 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 119. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Dec 9 & Jan 13 (Fri) **ANDALUCIA STYLE SPANISH DANCE.** Flamenco Louisville at BLU Italian Grille, Downtown, 7–9PM. Every second Friday. Authentic flamenco music and dance. Spanish cuisine. Visit [www.flamencolouisivlle.org](http://www.flamencolouisivlle.org)

Dec 9 & Jan 13 (Fri) **URBAN ASTRONOMY.** The Louisville Astronomical Society, at dusk in Tom Sawyer Park. Every 2nd Friday. Look through telescopes at planets, our moon, stars, double stars, the Orion nebula and other wonders. Visit [www.louisville-astro.org](http://www.louisville-astro.org)

Dec 10 & Jan 14 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, Main Library, 4th & York, Mezzanine, Boardroom. 9 AM. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Dec 11 & Jan 8 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Every second Sunday. A remembrance of all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. 5-6 PM, Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community). For more information, call Harold Trainer at 387-9490.

Dec 12 & Jan 9 (Mon) **URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.** Louisville Urban League, Every 2nd Monday, 6PM. Networking opportunities for emerging leaders ages 21 to 40 of all minority backgrounds. Call the Urban League office for more info: 561-6830.

Dec 13 (Tues) **REAL JOURNEY.** Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter, 11:30Am to 12:30PM. One-hour interactive tour demonstrates how we help real people facing real challenges to find real and lasting solutions. RSVP to 636-4636

Dec 13 & Jan 13 (Tues) **GREEN CONVENE.** Every second Tuesday at The Clifton Center, 6:30PM. Join residents and policymakers in examining ways to connect the health of our community with our environment. Visit [www.greenconvene.org](http://www.greenconvene.org)

Dec 13 & Jan 10 (Tue) **FREE ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME SEMINAR.** Energy Pros Sustainable Home Education Group, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Learn the basics. Visit [www.theenergypros.net](http://www.theenergypros.net)

Dec 14 & Jan 11 (Wed) **KENTUCKY INTERFAITH TASK FORCE ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (KITLAC).** Every second Wednesday at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Winn Center. 7:30 PM. For more information, call David Horvath at 479-9262 or Pat Geier at 456-6586.

Dec 14 (Tues) **BETTER BOARD MEETINGS.** The Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 9AM to 12PM. Learn efficient and fair means To address topic of discussion and decisions. Visit [www.cnpe.org](http://www.cnpe.org)

Dec 15 & Jan 19 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Every third Thursday, 5:30 PM. First Unitarian Church, 809 South Fourth Street. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Dec 15 (Thurs) & Jan 15 (Sun) **GROWING FOOD AND COMMUNITY.** 15 Thousand Farmers, at Dismas St. Ann’s on Algonquin Pkwy, the 15th day each month. Share ideas and experiences about growing your own food. Taste samples. Visit [www.15thousandfarmers.com](http://www.15thousandfarmers.com)

Dec 16 (Fri) **MULTICULTURAL HOLIDAY PARTY.** Americana Community Center, 4:30pm to 6:30PM. Take a tour of the many cultural celebrations of the season. Meet Louisville immigrant families. Visit [www.americanccc.org](http://www.americanccc.org)

Dec 17 (Sat) **NATURE HIKE IN JEFFERSON FOREST.** 9AM, about 3 hours. Free. Observations of the natural word. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/)

Dec 19 & Jan 16 (Mon) **SOCIAL CHANGE BOOK CLUB.** Every third Monday, Heine Bros., 119 Chenoweth, 6PM. For book list, visit [www.greenlistlouisville.com](http://www.greenlistlouisville.com)

Dec 21 & Jan 18 (Wed) **READ YOUR WAY AROUND THE WORLD.** The Mayor’s Book Club, Main Public Library, Every third Wednesday, Noon to 1PM. See list of 50 titles at [www.wfpl.org](http://www.wfpl.org). To find out what we are reading, call 574-1611

Jan 3 (Tues) **ROSA PARKS THANK YOU CARD.** Bon Air Public Library entire month of January. Add your thoughts to a card thanking Rosa Parks for her courageous act that led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org)

Jan 9 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF FORTH.** Every second Monday. Contact Peter Fosl, editor, at 291-2506 or [fpsol@me.com](mailto:fpsol@me.com). Please email new or updated calendar listings to [calendar.peace@gmail.com](mailto:calendar.peace@gmail.com).

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## Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)  
ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (485-1248)  
AIDS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (AIM) OF KENTUCKIANA, INC. – 1st Tuesday (574-6085 or 574-6086)  
AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)  
AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – 3rd Thursday, every other month at noon (608-7517)  
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)  
APPAPF [AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM] – 2nd Thursday (895-8155)  
BLUEGRASS SOCIALIST PARTY, Frankfort – 2nd Sunday (916-768-8079)  
BREAD FOR THE WORLD – Last Monday (239-4317)  
CAPA [CITIZENS AGAINST POLICE ABUSE] – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)  
CART [COALITION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION] – 3rd Wednesday, Union Station, TARC Board Room (893-5172)  
CLOUT [CITIZENS OF LOUISVILLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING TOGETHER] – (583-1267)  
COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)  
COMMON CAUSE – Ad hoc discussions. Continuous engagement. (454-7797)  
COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (775-4041)  
CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (560-0085)  
COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – Second Sunday (893-2334)  
EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Saturday (299-9520) [www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org](http://www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org)  
FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)  
FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB – 1st Thursday, [papajohn15@bellsouth.net](mailto:papajohn15@bellsouth.net)  
FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (609-7985 or 291-2506)  
FRIENDS FOR HOPE (Support Group for Adult Cancer Survivors) – 1st Thursday (451-9600)  
FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)  
GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday, 7pm. (502-644-0659)  
INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Tuesday (214-7322)  
IRFI [ISLAMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.] – Sundays at 6:00 PM (502-423-1988)  
JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)  
JURISDICTIONARY CLUB OF LOUISVILLE – Know the law and how to use it (500-8161)  
JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – (345-5386)  
KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)  
KITOD [KENTUCKIANA INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON DARFUR] – (553-6172)  
KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)  
KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – (541-9998)  
KITLAC [KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN] – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (502-895-5218), [www.louisville-orglwv](http://www.louisville-orglwv)  
LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)  
LOUISVILLE PEAK OIL GROUP – 2nd Saturday (425-6645)  
LPAC [LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY] – (456-6914)  
LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation every Sunday (473-8435)  
LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (893-0788), [www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org](http://www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org)  
LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (LIFE) – 4th Sunday (384-3875)  
METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)  
METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)  
MIGHTY KINDNESS – [mightykindness@gmail.com](mailto:mightykindness@gmail.com) (235-0711)  
MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)  
NAACP [NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE] – 3rd Monday (776-7608)  
NAMI [NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL] – 2nd Monday (245-5287)  
PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)  
PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, [brozier@bellsouth.net](mailto:brozier@bellsouth.net))  
RCRC [RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE] – (866-606-0988)  
RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)  
SIERRA CLUB INNER CITY OUTINGS – 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM (558-0073)  
WOMEN IN TRANSITION (WIT) – every Wednesday, 6-8 PM (636-0160)

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