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Louisville airwaves move forward – now the people’s help needed

By Jared Zarantonello

The other day, a friend related an adage to me which cleverly stated that ‘Freedom of the press... is for those who own one’. This could easily be applied across our contemporary constellation of media sources, whether it be print, broadcast, or online. Indeed, the state of media today is quite dismal, with stories and information carefully contoured to create fear, induce consumerism, or promulgate confusion. Sadly most of our media today is not ‘our’ media. It is not media that is created ‘by and for the people’, but rather aimed ‘at the people’. We most often are confronted with ‘their’ media. A media which serves power, which sustains the status quo. The media of empire.

We have no real participation in this mass-media besides the role of consumers. In the eyes of mass-media our role is to be fed, not to create. Listen and obey, but never speak up, unless spoken to. In the eyes of power we are meant to be trained and socialized through media into forms-of-life that are conducive to power. We are definitely not meant to use it to inspire, learn, teach, and liberate one another. But we’re ready for change.

This is not the kind of change that can be asked for, it must be demanded. It is not the kind of change that we can simply cast a vote for, and then sit passively hoping that it is ushered in. No, this is the kind of change that we must build ourselves, that we must build together.

The seeds of this change have already been planted. Never before has humanity had such a profound capability to express ourselves and connect with one another through media of all sorts. Many of us have technology in our homes, and even in our pockets, that would have out-shined even the best equipped radio or television studio of a quarter century ago. But the potential of these tools, and how we actually use them are two very different things. Have these media technologies served to colonize, or liberate us? Perhaps both, but wouldn’t you like to see the latter come to define us. Wouldn’t you like to see the people themselves creating the media that serves their community?

Well, the time is now. The time to decide ‘which side are you on’? For the past 3 years we have worked towards ‘liberating’ a small piece of the corporate media’s holdings. Under the name Forward Radio, and with the solidarity and assistance given by the Fellowship of Reconciliation Louisville Chapter as well as the wider community, we applied to the FCC for a Low Power Community Radio license. In October, we were granted the license!

We are so elated to share this news, but we also know that now, our real work begins.



Jared Zarantonello

We have just 18 months to get the station up and broadcasting, and the realization of this project simply will not happen without participation and support from the entire community. It is not our goal to create another media outlet for a privileged and wealthy few, or even a media outlet solely for our small (but growing) Forward Radio team. Our vision is to create a media outlet for you, for all of us. We envision a Louisville made stronger by the learning and sharing of media creation skills, and the acquisition of the tools and resources to inform one another. We envision the processes of media as a network. Not simply media consumers, but an entire community of engaged media participants.

We all have intense love and pride for our community but are not blind to its many shortcomings or areas of potential growth. Take a moment to envision the issues that motivate and drive you. It might be racial, gender, economic, indigenous, environmental, or LGBTQ justice, disability rights, housing, education, access to arts and culture, food and health security, police brutality, militarization, sustainable agriculture, migrant rights.

The list could go on and on, and every issue matters, because all of our struggles intersect. Now envision a space where this intersection becomes clear, and the ‘social justice factionalism’ which plagues the movement fades. Envision what is possible if the people and groups struggling to advance these causes had the ability to better know one another. Telling stories, listening,



It takes a community!

Clip art adjusted by Susi Hartmann

sharing strategies, discussing, debating, and building their collective power in a way that not only amplified individual voices, but also resonates with the sound of a diverse but unified community.

In the coming months we will be reaching out to you the community to gather input for programming, asking for help in connecting with neighborhood spaces where we can hold radio trainings, community discussions, and media workshops. We need your participation and support, in whatever form you can give it.

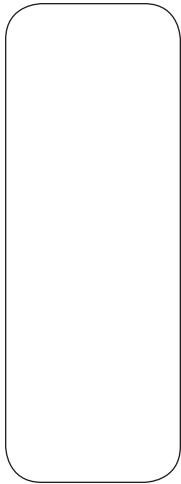
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Open Hillel – a ray of hope amid world and personal conflict

By Ira Grupper

If history is a continuum, then it must also have a worldwide panorama. The Jim Crow system was opposed by the Civil Rights Movement, led by African Americans and supported by others (more about this shortly). The fight for justice in Israel and Palestine -- likewise.

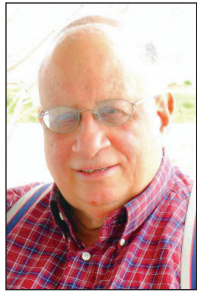
Listen up, y’all. Psalm 89:3: “For I have said: ‘Forever is mercy built; in the very heavens Thou dost establish Thy faithfulness.’” Well, Christians can find it in Matthew 25. And for Muslims: When some non-Muslims mocked Bilal, the black slave -- Quran 49:13: O mankind, we have... appointed you races and tribes, that you may know one another.”

Over the last two-plus decades I have visited Israel six times, once living there six months. I travelled from the north near Lebanon to the south near Egypt, and from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. I spent a good bit of time in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and time as well in the Gaza Strip and Amman, Jordan.

I am of two minds, and am conflicted. On the one hand, I am proud of my Jewish heritage, and our surviving the murderous Crusades, the Inquisition, the Holocaust -- and now, more than an addendum, facing an anti-Semitic wave along with the anti-immigrant wave sweeping Europe.

My people included Hillel, Einstein, Emma Lazarus, Howard Fast. We sang Zog Nit Keyn Mol, the Partisan Song of Jewish resistance against the Nazis: Never say that you are on your final road.

But I said that I was of two minds. Lord, am I of two minds. The second scenario



Ira Grupper

LABOR PAEANS

concerns the occupation and humiliation of my Palestinian cousins. In my name, in the name of the Jewish people, Israel visits upon the Palestinian people a brutal occupation of their land.

Israel bestows upon the Palestinians collective punishment, deprivation of water, and so much more.

Moving right along. Hillels are Jewish university organizations, similar to Newman Clubs for Catholics. Many Jewish students claim that Hillels will not permit views critical of Israel and the Jewish “mainstream” to be expressed in open discussion.

Comes now a beam of light, a way for Jews of conscience to distance ourselves and challenge the oppression being visited in our name.

This ray of hope is called Open Hillel. Hillel was a scholar and teacher of the first century: “What is hateful to yourself do not do unto others. This is the entire Torah; the rest is commentary.”

Three hundred participants, from the U.S., Israel and elsewhere, convened at Harvard University in October. Their message: open Hillel to diverse opinions, as Hillel would want, and not as Netanyahu would want. They have succeeded in opening Hillels on three campuses thus far.

I felt so privileged to have been invited to be part of a plenary session: “From Mississippi to Jerusalem: a Discussion with Jewish Civil Rights (Movement) Veterans.” How honored I was to share the podium with two veterans of that vanguard group of the Movement, SNCC, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee: Dottie Zellner and Larry Rubin.

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At Third Thursday Lunch (TTL), Donohue talks about the malady nobody talks about

By Isaac Marion Thacker IV

There is no good reason to not talk about suicide. The point is to avoid and prevent it. Gage Donohue, a member of the National Leadership Council of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and of its Louisville Metro Chapter's Board of Directors, knows this all too well. Her talk at the Third Thursday Lunch (TTL) on October 16, 2014 was powerful, to the point, fact-filled, and as crucial to public policy as any talk of murder.

For there are some 40,000 suicides in the U.S. each year, well over twice the number of murders. No wonder Donohue said at the TTL that it "makes me crazy" that people hush up when the subject of suicide comes up. "People just don't talk about suicide," she said at the very start of her presentation, much as with breast cancer formerly. It is, as they say, a "no-brainer" that this needs to change.

The facts adduced by Donohue to this end were impressive: Kentucky loses twice as many people yearly to suicide as murder. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for those aged 15-34, and the eighth leading cause of all deaths in the U.S. There were more than 600 suicides last year in Kentucky, and well over 100 in Louisville. There is a suicide every 13 minutes in the U.S., more frequently than deaths from automobile accidents, with Native Americans having the leading rate. Ninety percent of people who commit suicide have a diagnosable mental disorder. Women attempt suicide three times more often than men, but men succeed four times more frequently.

Thankfully, said Donohue, there are risk factors and (often) warning signs. The

risk factors include depression, previous suicide attempts, bipolar depression, and alcohol or drug dependence; the warning signs include, most critically, feelings and expressions of hopelessness.

But, said Donohue, people don't want to die: they are just in so much emotional pain that they see no other way out. She noted that quite a few people have survived jumping off the Golden Gate Bridge; every one said that as soon as their feet left the bridge they knew they'd made a mistake. And many said that if somebody, anybody had just said a friendly, "Hi, how are you?" they wouldn't have felt the need to jump. Talk about an argument, as if one were needed, for being friendly to each other!

Specifically, Donohue said, the strategy for dealing with a potential suicide attempter is "QPR," which means Question, Persuade, and Refer. Ask the person, "Are you thinking of ending your life? Are you suicidal?" Then, especially if they say they are, persuade them to get help and refer them to those who can give it. For this last, one must know the resources to use, of course; and Donohue provided listeners with a very thorough list of those available. Maybe you'll make the person whose life you very possibly save mad, she said, but, in a question that virtually answers itself, she asked her listeners, "Would you rather have a friend mad at you, or needlessly dead?"

One other very important thing that Donohue noted, given the incredibly persistent stigma against mental illness, is that people should absolutely not be embarrassed or ashamed to take medicine to save their lives. The proper psychiatric medicine has saved many lives, and it is no different than taking medicine for high blood pressure.

And there are other protective factors besides just being friendly to folks who appear troubled, said Donohue. Above all, having friends, family, and social interaction helps to avoid the always-needless, always-



Gage Donohue

tragic non-solution of suicide.

So, how do we as a community and a society work to reduce the number of suicides? Donohue reported that the AFSP has done several things locally toward this goal. For one thing, it has worked locally and statewide with the AFSP national to ensure that students and teachers in JCPS and Commonwealth middle and high schools must now get training in suicide prevention (kids no longer conveniently wait until they're 14 or 15, though, Donohue noted. She is working on creating currently-lacking local and national AFSP information on help for the 12-and-under age group). For another thing, the Louisville chapter has sponsored an "Out of the Darkness" walk for the past 11 years in November (this year's was November 1) to raise funds for research, to raise awareness, and to offer support to those who have lost someone to suicide. Further, the Louisville Metro chapter has hosted for more than five years an international "Survivors of Suicide Day Program" to gather and comfort people in the Louisville area who have suffered a loss through suicide. The chapter has also staffed for the past seven years a Suicide Prevention/Mental Health booth at the Kentucky State Fair.

Very near the conclusion of her presentation, Donohue emphasized that

the risk factors and warning signs reported above are absolutely key. In the Q & A session that followed it was revealed, tragically, that suicide is the number one cause of death among LGBT youth, often triggered by bullying — a fact which has received much attention especially from the national AFSP. It's not just that a person is gay and/or bullied, but these can be that last drop that makes the cup overflow.

To keep that bitter cup from overflowing, Donohue said we should if necessary try multiple therapists and multiple medicines: if Bob doesn't help, try Joan; if Zoloft doesn't help, try another medicine; and on and on until you find something and/or someone that does help. But perhaps above all else, we must fight the incredible taboo about talking about mental illness (as one perceptive audience member pointed out) and suicide, and learn to visibly care about one another personally as well as politically. Donohue noted that one common thread among suicidal folks is the perception that no one cares. And you just don't see suicides on the news, for example, unless perchance it's a celebrity.

On this final point, perhaps (as the final questioner pointed out) the almost unbearably tragic recent suicide of Robin Williams can at least do some really significant good. Maybe, just maybe, we will finally learn to talk about suicide so we can prevent it.

Isaac Marion Thacker IV (Ike Thacker) is an advocate for political, social, and especially economic democracy (socialism) who focuses on housing issues and has been writing about them for more than twenty years. He believes simply that we are all absolutely equally human, regardless of absolutely everything, and that everyone deserves a place to call home. Ike may be contacted at ike.thacker@gmail.com.

An audio and video recording of Page Donohue's talk on suicide can be found at the FORward Radio Louisville website at FORward-Radio.net.

FOR's Mission Statement

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



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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



We got it!! Let's build it!!

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- Monetary donations to help build our studio
- Fund raising experts and grant writers
- Skilled and knowledgeable radio enthusiasts
- Programming ideas and programs from members of our community – like you! We'll show you how!
- Great-hearted volunteers—also like you!

Visit our website to see what we've been up to so far:
<http://forward-radio.net>

Email us today at: wforwardradio@gmail.com
Or contact the Fellowship of Reconciliation or the staff of **FORsooth** for more information! We need your support!



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Support the farmers of Palestine in the struggle for their livelihood and land.

Palestinian farmers in this project are paid fair trade prices. Also, one dollar of each bottle sold will go to help support Project Hope, an arts and education program for young people in Palestine. An additional amount goes to replant olive trees inside Palestine which have been destroyed by the Israeli occupation.

Contact Polly Johnson,
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Effects of \$10 wage on jobs, pay may not be what they seem

By Tom Lambert

President Harry S. Truman supposedly wanted an economist with only one of two hands remaining. Why? Because, he claimed, economists were always saying, “on the one hand there is this, but on the other hand we have that.” In other words, he was not getting the clear answers to policy questions that he wanted.

Recently I was honored by a request to testify before the Louisville Metro Council on a proposed Louisville minimum wage ordinance. I had a congenial and thoughtful “debate” with a mentor and friend, Dr. Paul A. Coomes, who had a long and distinguished career at the University of Louisville. Paul has one of the finest minds I have ever encountered. However, we have disagreed on some issues over the years. My take on the local minimum wage ordinance being proposed was, and still is, that in general, the overall impact will be neutral—neither positive nor negative. If there is net impact, whether positive or negative, it is slight. This is because it appears that almost every benefit from the ordinance can be offset by some type of cost.



Thomas Lambert

It used to be that students of economics and public policy were taught that the minimum wage would have dire consequences and that the cons would significantly outweigh the pros. Simple supply and demand analysis, holding “all else constant”, and assuming competitive markets showed this. Since the mid to late 1990s, this thinking has begun to change. In polls of economists and public policy researchers, those indicating that the minimum wage is a job destroyer have seen their numbers decline as those with either neutral or favorable views of the minimum wage have gained ground. In doing a quick survey of several major textbooks, among their recent editions of several best sellers used in many classrooms throughout the US, many of them said the overall impact of minimum wage laws were uncertain and inconclusive. One item of agreement, however, was an adverse impact on teenage employment. I will return to this item later.

In my own research on the living wage ordinance for this area about 12 years or so back, I came across literature that cited decreased turnover rates and costs among firms that paid higher wages. For labor, not only did those receiving the minimum wage see a boost in their pay, but also those making above the minimum wage got a pay boost later as well. Employers often feel compelled to do the later in order to retain long time and productive employees. Also, those communities which enacted local

living wage ordinances saw no dramatic negative consequences to mandating a higher wage for local firms and employers, although some of these jurisdictions may have had high wage and cost of living levels before the laws went into effect. In that case a higher local minimum wage would have only slight impact on local labor markets. I estimated in 2002 that any increased spending effects due to a wage boost for local government workers and government contractors (who were basically the only ones targeted by the living wage ordinance back then) would offset any negative consequences. In an e-mail correspondence I have had with Professor John P. Nelson of the Economics Department at the University of Louisville who has done a lot of research on the local economy over the years, he estimated that in the short run, the local demand for labor here in the Louisville is fairly insensitive to wage increases.....that is, hiring would mostly continue as usual with some jobs disappearing. In the long run, this would probably change. He estimates that a boost in the local minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour as proposed in the ordinance would mean 1200 jobs lost within one year after enactment, and around 3600 jobs lost after 3 years. These numbers correspond roughly to other estimates given at the hearings so far. I have no reason to doubt these estimates or the others.

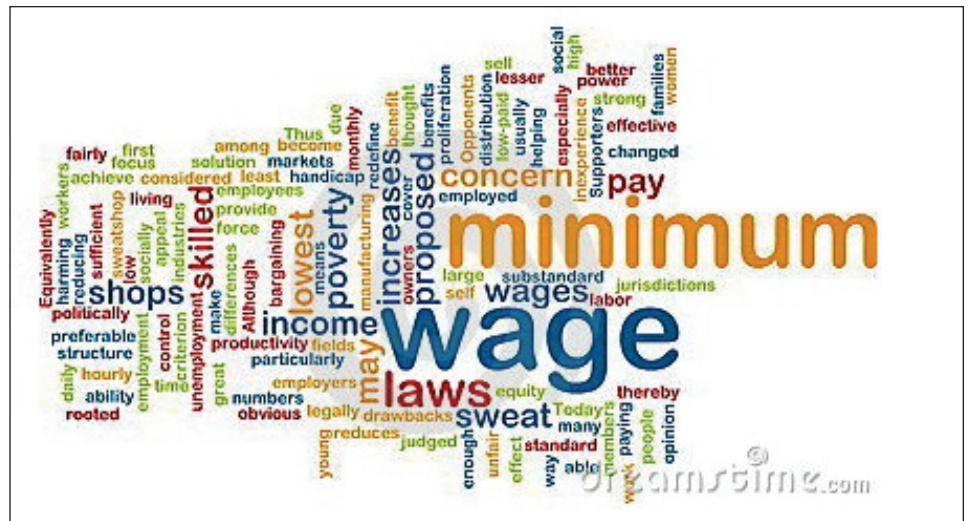
These numbers on job losses need to be put into context. As of 2012, the US Census Bureau reported that private sector employers in Jefferson County reported having around 392,000 jobs. As a portion of 392,000, 1200 jobs is only 0.3 %, or three-tenths of one percent of all jobs. Even if one were to double the number of job losses for the first year of the ordinance's implementation, the impact is still less than 1%, and the same can be said of the cumulative impact of the three years of job losses of 3600 or so.

This is not to take the estimates of job losses lightly, and their negative impacts still need to be taken seriously. These numbers are only offered as some type of perspective. Additionally, how one defines a “job loss” is often an important consideration. Workers being terminated due to employers not being able to afford a higher minimum wage is one possible source of job loss, although many studies do not show this to be a prevalent outcome. What is more likely, if the research is correct, is that employers do one or all of the following: do not hire as frequently as time progresses by leaving vacated positions unfilled; they sometimes cut back on the number of hours they offer their workers; they sometimes ask employees to be more productive in lieu of the higher wages, that is they expect more from their workers; and/or they find ways to automate production or service delivery more — something they may do anyway, although higher wages give them greater motivation to do so sooner rather than later. Since most minimum wage jobs are in retailing, especially in the restaurant

industry, we have seen fast-food restaurants automate more and more over the years through the use of drive through windows and other labor saving or labor enhancing innovations. Additionally, greater customer "self-service" is another method used to save on labor costs. As time goes by, we see fewer and fewer attendants and sales people walking the aisles of the stores where we shop. We pretty much have to wait on ourselves or find a product on our own when we shop now. As wages would go up, this would occur even more so.

Could a higher minimum wage cause higher unemployment rates? The answer is “yes, but.....” Workers who would be dismissed from

could have decided to look for work because jobs paid more than they had previously. If so, then the increase in the unemployment could have been driven more by these factors than by people losing their jobs. Again, the surveys of the unemployed mostly ask them if they are working or not and whether they are currently looking for work. They are usually not asked why they are unemployed or why they are looking for work. The Yellowitz paper, from what I can tell, does not pinpoint whether the boost in the unemployment rate comes from people being fired due to any negative impacts of the local ordinance or whether it comes from more people deciding to go out and look for work due to the



a job because his/her pay became too expensive would be counted as unemployed as long as he/she actively seeks another job. However, surveys usually do not ask the reason why one is looking for work. Instead, in order to determine if one is unemployed or not, surveys only ask someone if he/she is out of work, and if so, is he/she actively seeking work. Those on the con side of a Louisville minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour cite a study of the impacts of a living wage ordinance enacted in 2004 in Santa Fe, New Mexico which showed an uptick in the local unemployment rate after the ordinance went into effect. The author of the study, Dr. Aaron Yellowitz of the Economics Department at the University of Kentucky, also estimated that around 600 jobs were lost due to the ordinance. I have no reason to doubt his estimates whatsoever. However, from what I can tell in reviewing the study, an upswing in the unemployment rate could have been due to more people seeking work due to wages and pay in general going up in Santa Fe. That is, people who had previously been on the sidelines and not working for whatever reason (e.g., staying home to watch children, people choosing to devote all their time to school instead of working, etc.)

higher local wage level. Incidentally, the estimate of around 600 jobs lost in Santa Fe was still less than 1% of all jobs that existed in Santa Fe at that time using total job numbers cited in the study.

Nevertheless, the unemployment rate could go up slightly in Jefferson County as more people, not just those in Jefferson County but in neighboring counties as well, begin to look for work here due to the higher average wage. On the other hand, to get some people to work for them, employers in adjacent counties may have to raise their wages in order to get job applicants. Therefore, the effect of the local wage ordinance could have spillover effects into other parts of the Louisville metro area.

(Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue of FORsooth.)

Tom Lambert is an Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Policy at Northern Kentucky University and was previously a lecturer in Economics at Indiana University Southeast. He can be reached at lambertthomas@hotmail.com.

The label ‘right to work’ distorts the nature of union fees

By Tom Louderback

No matter which party wins control of the Kentucky House of Representative this November, we can expect the ongoing political debate on so-called “right-to-work” laws to continue. The next election is only two years away, after all.

No doubt we'll continue to hear plenty of political spin. This has always been the biggest problem with this issue: the very name, right-to-work, is political spin. Technically, these laws allow workers in unionized companies to refuse to pay anything to the labor union that negotiated their collective bargaining agreement and then administers their worker rights on a daily basis. These laws do nothing more than that.

Labor unions call this the free-rider problem. I call it a denial of just compensation. Labor unions in the so-called right-to-work states are required by law to provide services but not allowed due compensation for their work.

Whatever Kentuckians think of these laws, I hope that we will at least take the time to learn more about how worker rights function and don't function in union and non-union workplaces. In my three years as a union steward, I've learned much more about this subject than I ever expected to know. The following is an outline of what I've learned so far as a union steward.

Freedom of political association

Every worker has the right to choose whether or not to join a union. The US Supreme Court long ago prohibited mandatory union membership in *Wallace Corporation v. Labor Board*, 1944. Workers who disagree with the union for personal



reasons can choose to pay lower agency fees instead of union dues. By law, their fees go only to the cost of negotiating the collective bargaining agreement and the administration of their rights. They are non-members with the same worker rights as members. In their decision on *Railway Employees' Dept. v. Hanson*, 1956, the US Supreme Court explained, "There is no more an infringement or impairment of First Amendment rights than there

would be in the case of a lawyer who, by state law, is required to be a member of an integrated bar.”

Freedom to realize your potential

Union companies value their employees so highly that they are willing to bargain with their representatives for fair pay and benefits and provide certain worker rights. The rights include fair opportunities for advancement. Countless studies show that workers in union companies are paid better than workers in non-union companies on average.

Freedom from the at-will employment doctrine

Non-union workers can be terminated anytime and without reason.

Under most state laws, there is no legal obligation on the employer to be consistent and fair when there is no collective bargaining agreement. This is known as the At-Will Employment Doctrine. By this law, it is entirely legal for non-union employers to replace their longest-serving employees with inexperienced employees to cut costs. That is a widespread practice nowadays. Ask your relatives, friends and neighbors. By contrast, union employees have the right to challenge termination decisions they believe to be retaliation or cronyism with the help of union representation.

Freedom from exploitation

Thankfully, Kentucky is not a so-called right-to-work state. Maybe that's because we

have refused to get involved in the extremism of the Deep South. Whatever the reason, we know the so-called right-to-work laws are among the last of the old Jim Crow laws still in effect. Segregationists developed these laws over seventy years to frustrate black veterans returning home from WWII. Their strategy was to weaken the labor unions by denying them revenues. Other ideological extremists picked up this idea from the segregationists and spread it further.

Freedom is not free

It is well recognized in our country that free citizens need to give something back for the purpose of preserving their freedoms. Their contributions include voting, taxes, military service, jury duty, charitable contributions, public service and volunteer activities. Likewise, free workers organize labor unions and pay union dues or agency fees. The US Supreme Court explained the obligation to give something back in their decision on *Railway Employees' Dept. v. Hanson*, 1956: "We only hold that the requirement for financial support of the collective bargaining agency by all who receive the benefits of its work is within the power of Congress under the Commerce Clause, and does not violate either the First or the Fifth Amendments."

Tom Louderback is an AFSCME steward, a volunteer for civic causes, a member of the Louisville Friends Meeting and the Calendar Editor of FORsooth.

Pseudo-experts trumped local ideas, orchestrated Democrat loses

By K.A. Owens

The defeat of Democratic candidates across the country was in part, orchestrated by a national corps of Democratic campaign consultants. They flew in on their private jets to every significant campaign and advised their clients to shun President Obama and his policies in spite of the fact that the majority of Americans support many of his policies and in spite of the fact that he has won his last two elections. In fact, the only way for Democratic candidates to win was to use the millions of dollars spent on these campaigns to reverse the negative imagery created by Republican propaganda.

These consultants have cleverly figured out a way to have their cake and eat it too. They advise their clients to shun the president and his policies because, they say, the president is toxic. Then, when the candidates follow their advice and lose, the consultants blame the loss on the president's toxicity. These consultants create defeat,

accept no responsibility, and trot off to the bank to cash a big check. What's even worse, they pretend their advice is based on science when it is not.

Oftentimes the local candidate becomes the prisoner of this small group of extremely well compensated pseudo experts. The local candidate is persuaded to accept the advice of these national consultants in exchange for support financial and otherwise from the national Democratic Party establishment. The consultants exclude local activists from all decision making positions within the campaigns. There are talented local people on the ground that have extremely high levels of expertise who have offered



K.A. Owens

to advise these campaigns for free. These offers are rejected. Local advice bounces off the wall erected by high priced out of town consultants. The locals are limited to knocking on doors, making phone calls, and giving money.

These consultants advised against directly challenging the racial subtext of the Republican campaign. The consultants advised accepting the Republican propaganda line that- Obama equals Black and Black equals Obama. That under Obama the Blacks, the Mexicans and the gays are just getting out of hand. The consultants advised against educating the body politic as to how certain Democratic policies benefited everyone, including white people. The consultants advised against having the candidates look the body politic in the eye and say "Stop voting yourselves poor just to keep the Blacks, the Mexicans and the Gays down."

The consultants created the scenario

that resulted in having the Congressional Black Caucus fly in to African American areas in the last ten days of the campaign to whip up the Black vote for candidates who had been advised to ignore the Black vote up to that time.

The candidates need a feedback loop of local advisors to review the advice of the national corps of Democratic consultants. If these candidates had a group of local advisors to review television and radio commercials, direct mail, speeches and talking points, Democratic candidates would be a lot better off and a lot more likely to win. The national corps of Democratic campaign consultants should no longer be allowed to orchestrate defeat.

K.A. Owens is a community activist, writer and public speaker. He is a native of Louisville, KY. He can be reached at ka.owens@louisville.edu

How 4 Louisvillians were freed is subject at Pete Seeger teach-in

By Kathleen Parks

Over four months have passed since the exoneration of the Misidentified 4. After being cleared by the grand jury, these four young men: Shaquazz Allen, Tyrone Booker, Jr., Jerron Bush and Craig Dean have resumed their lives with either returning to their previous jobs or gaining better job opportunities. In addition, two are caring for their newly born children and one is completing his education and on the path to finally pursuing his future. None of this would ever have been possible if they had not obtained an excellent Attorney, Jan Waddell along with the Kentucky Alliance against Racist and Political Repression and members of the National Action Network, Louisville Chapter as well as other social justice allies such as LSURJ, (Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice), Justice Resource Center and the West Louisville Urban Coalition as advocates by their side.

I often say that this work of Civil Rights and Social Justice Activism is not something I take lightly. When I address audiences I begin my statements by saying that the Alliance has always had a reputation of being "unbought and unbossed". We do not belong to the establishment. As a body we can speak "truth to power" and move the agenda and face the status quo with our concerns without threat of reprisal. This was Anne and Carl Braden's vision when the Kentucky Alliance was founded in 1974 to free Angela Davis and all political prisoners. Anne would be proud to know that the Alliance led an effort to help free and exonerate and protect four young African American males from being wrongfully incarcerated for crimes they did not commit.

That was the topic of discussion for the Teach-in at the Pete Seeger event, conceived by the Kentucky Alliance to memorialize the great civil rights activist who died this past year and co-sponsored and presented by Bellarmine University on October 26th. Having only 40 minutes to present to a classroom of all young white college students with the exception of three of the Misidentified 4 and Angela Montgomery, Craig Dean's Mom and myself, it was standing room only. Guiding the discussion with a PowerPoint I had created, we maintained the pace and included before and after photos of how the young men appeared when they were arrested and incarcerated compared to how they look in real life.

To this day, the Misidentified 4 feel they were racially profiled from the beginning and that Chief Conrad and Mayor Fisher just wouldn't listen. They are still hoping one day to receive a public apology or a gold sealed letter from the Mayor. You could hear a pin drop in the classroom as Craig

Dean and Tyrone Booker, Jr. spoke about their scary experiences of being wrongfully incarcerated for four months. Moreover, laughter poured out when I stated that these young men given their square and "dorky" appearances and personalities could not possibly fit into the comprised profile of the criminals depicted by the Louisville Metro Police Department. However, my character

description are actually compliments, in that these young guys are some of the greatest young individuals I will probably meet in my lifetime. The experience of conducting this teach-in at the Pete Seeger Event at Bellarmine was a memorable moment in time. Moreover, I predict that their story will go down in history as one of the greatest travesties of the LMPD.

Kathleen is Chair of the Kentucky Alliance against Racist and Political Repression and President of the National Action Network, Louisville, Kentucky Chapter. Kathleen can be reached at ka.owens@louisville.edu



Kathleen Parks

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCHES

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January-March 2015

January 15

The Root Causes of the Child Migrant Crisis: A Look from Below...

Stephen Bartlett, Education/Advocacy Coordinator, Agricultural Missions, Inc. (AMI)

"Why are tens of thousands of children migrating from their homes in Central America?" For decades, AMI has partnered with indigenous and campesino communities in Honduras and has accompanied undocumented farm and food industry workers here in the U.S. Stephen Bartlett will give a **grassroots perspective on the U.S. role in the crisis**, including the impact of exploitative economic and trade policies, U.S. support for oligarchic governments in Central America, and the U.S.'s broken immigration system.

February 19

Doing Something About Gun Violence Two Years After Sandy Hook

Sr. Judy Morris, O.P.

Sr. Judy Morris is Justice Promoter for the Dominican Sisters of Peace and a member of **Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence**. She will talk about the post-Sandy-Hook reality of gun violence in the United States and the need for common sense gun control laws such as mandatory background checks and a ban on assault and high capacity weapons. Judy will discuss state and federal gun laws and effective national organizations working to reduce gun violence.

March 19

The Martyrdom and Canonization of Archbishop Romero

Fr. Jim Flynn

March 24th marks the **35th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Óscar Romero** in San Salvador. Pope Francis has indicated that Romero's canonization will be on a "fast track," raising hopes that it will be announced on March 24th, with the ceremony to take place in San Salvador's Cathedral instead of the Vatican. Jim Flynn, longtime advocate for those who are poor and marginalized in Central America, will share a PowerPoint presentation on the life and death of Archbishop Romero.

The Rudyard Kipling • 422 West Oak Street • Louisville
Buffet Lunch at 11:30 • Presentations at Noon • \$7.00

*For reservations, contact Cathy Ford at 458-1223 or
fordhoff@bellsouth.net, or Cindy Humbert at 214-7322 or
interfaithpaths@gmail.com by Tuesday before the lunch*

A 14-story, toxic wake-up call to the need for renewable energy

By Aaron Tornes

At Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light we are in the business of creating wake-up moments for people on the realities of climate change and the strain that humans place on the environment. Our drive to provide people with the information to make healthy decisions regarding our energy choices in the future comes from our own experiences of powerful wake-ups. Seeing the coal-ash pile at the LG&E Cane Run plant was one of mine.

For those who haven't seen the collection of coal energy by-product near the Ohio River on the West side of Louisville the best view can be found at a nearby cemetery. Just off Cane Run Road (where the houses on the other side of the street are just a short distance back from the road) you will find a road that crosses the train tracks that leads towards the ash pile and which is gated shortly thereafter. Just past the tracks there is a small drive that branches off to the left and dips down. This leads you to River Valley Cemetery.

River Valley is a resting place for mostly homeless and indigent people and it is located directly next to the coal ash landfill. When I first pulled into the cemetery and saw the ash pile it was hard for me to grasp how big it was. The pile was so large that it had makeshift roads built onto it on which giant earth-movers carried large piles of recently created ash into the distance to be dumped. At fourteen stories high and



Aaron Tornes

nearly a mile long, the coal ash sits as a monolithic backdrop to the graves many of which do not have markings or may have just small plastic markers. Between the plastic headstones and the giant ash pile I couldn't help but think this is a place where we, as a city-community, have put things to forget about them.

Still, the houses of residents could easily be reached by a stone sent from a good arm's throw and I imagined it would take much less effort for the toxic ash to find its way onto the lawns, porches and into the windows of the nearby homes when blown by the wind. In that space I found myself asking, "Can't we do better than this?" It was this moment, and others like it, which laid the roots of compassion in me and helped to create a drive to see a better and healthier future.

Not everyone has the time to make it out to Cane Run Road. I think most people in Louisville don't know about the ash pile or they might have some vague idea about it. Still, I wonder if everyone were to take the time to visit that place of environmental injustice and others like it, would it spark a new way of thinking on how we create energy in Kentucky? Would more people find time in their lives to lend their voices to the movement calling for more renewable energy in our state?

While a hands-on experience is best for climate and environmental wake-up moments, effective information can be a good substitute. People need to be provided the facts on the state of our climate and on the state of our coal-dependent energy system before they can change their own hearts.

Right now at Kentucky IPL we have designed a series of workshops



River Valley Cemetery is a resting place for mostly homeless and indigent people and it is located directly next to the fourteen stories high and nearly a mile long, coal ash landfill on the West side of Louisville

and opportunities for direct action that provide the information people need to make decisions about the use of renewable energy here in the Bluegrass State. These workshops are part of KIPL's Healthy Future for Our Kids Campaign and their purpose is to help individuals and communities find their own roots of compassion and drive to see more healthy energy. Our original goal was to reach 1,000 people with this campaign but to date we have presented this workshop to almost 1,300 individuals. We offer these workshops free of charge to all clubs, congregations, associations, and communities in the hope that we will continue to help others have their own wake-up experiences so that in the future there will be enough roots to grow a strong, clean, and healthy energy future for Kentucky.

Aaron Tornes is an advocate for environmental justice in Kentucky and works as Program Director for Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light. In addition to his work at KIPL, where he where he helps facilitates workshops and conducts energy audits for houses of worship, Aaron also serves as Vice President on the board of directors for project warm. He also remains engaged with other grass roots organizations that focus on environmental justice and climate change as well as healthy local food systems. If you or someone you know might be interested in having a Healthy Future for Our Kids workshop in your community please email Aaron Tornes at aaron@kentuckyipl.org or call (502) 210-8920. More information on Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light and their programs can be found at www.kentuckyipl.org.

Women, leadership and healing in this time of climate change

By Trude M. Scharff

"it's 3:23 in the morning
and I'm awake
because my great great grandchildren
won't let me sleep
my great great grandchildren ask me
in dreams
what did you do while the planet
was plundered?
what did you do when the earth
was unraveling?
surely you did something
when the seasons started failing:
as the mammals, and reptiles, birds
were all dying?
when democracy was stolen?
what did you do
when
you
knew?..."

Drew Dillinger
(Hieroglyphic Stairway)

It is said in many indigenous cultures that the women will come forth and lead in this time of climate change and unite us in our efforts to bring healing to our Mother Earth. We are the ones we have been waiting for. As women this is our time to come together as leaders in this effort for climate transformation and healing. We must lead the way for life to continue. It is our calling. It is our sacred trust with Creator God. Our Mother Earth is asking this of each of us in loving-kindness and compassion – to step into leadership as the life-givers, to be the mirror for transformation and to reflect her teachings in our actions. If we listen to the Earth and act for healing on her behalf, she will not fail us. We must carry her message and invite our men to support us.

I believe we must begin, at the very least, a conversation not only with each other, but with all of creation – our sacred environment, with the thunderbeings, the lightening wondrous ones and the underwater beings, the animals, fish, humans, plants. We must listen to the rivers, the wind, the soil, the stars, the rocks and mountains – hear the voices and songs of awakening of all the beings calling for us to be for them – the four and two and multilegged, the winged ones, the trees, forests, plants, flowers. We must begin a conversation together with the seen and the unseen world and develop a spiritual platform of action to hold hands and hearts as One for the future of our planet and for each other and for all the generations to come. We must begin small actions for our Earth Mother acknowledging the

sacredness of our interdependency and blessed relationship to all the wonders of creation. We must return to ceremony and ground ourselves in the wisdom of the earth. She will lead us as we practice servant leadership.

For the last sixteen years I have been profoundly shaped and changed by indigenous thinking and teachings. I have been deeply blessed to be a part of a nationwide Native American Indian grassroots effort, the Wellbriety Movement (www.wellbriety.com); and the experience changed my life in ways I could never have imagined or planned. I have come to see the world in a new way, a way of sacred interconnectedness and balance in partnership with our Earth Mother and with all of Creation. I have come to understand that we live together in One circle as One people, One race, the human one. The teachings of my indigenous sisters and brothers, firmly grounded in the principles of unity, healing, hope and forgiveness – forgiving the unforgivable, have transformed my world view and brought deep ongoing healing and balance to my life mentally, spiritually, emotionally and physically. We are being called to carry these principles and in turn they will develop us as leaders and guide our actions in this time of great upheaval and unraveling of our climate and the earth that we are privileged to live upon.

I believe the burning question for our time is: What kind of children are we going to raise to care for our earth, rather than what kind of earth are we going to leave for our children? The earth will remain. Will we? Or will we be cast off by climate change and our growing disregard for what the earth is calling us to address as life-givers. The question we must ask now is: What did you do when you knew? How do we come together as one voice, as women for healing and for life? How did each of us step into leadership, in small ways and more? This, to me, is the ultimate pro-life movement.

We must transcend to a new way of thinking and acting holistically to internalize alignment emotionally, mentally, spiritually and physically. As a mother nurtures her children, we must do the same for others. We must carry internally the principles of unity, hope, healing and forgiveness and turn towards them each day for light and strength, just as the sun so generously gives that to us. These principles will guide us as leaders.



Trude Scharff

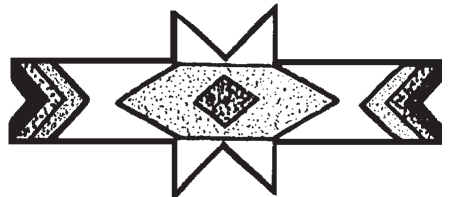


This is a time of compassion and vulnerability and we as women must use those strengths to show that leadership is so much more than a corporate idea. It is our softness, our heart's opening, our tears, our hopes, our tenderness, our loving ways. It is our Earth Mother calling us to integrate and mirror the ancient sacred feminine strengths within us and call upon our ancestors within who will come to help us to move forward for climate change and restoration of our earth and our peoples.

Please consider these words of Wendell Berry:

"You have been given questions to which you cannot be given answers.
You will have to live them out—perhaps a little at a time.
And how long is that going to take?
I don't know. As long as you live, perhaps.
It could be a long time.
I will tell you a further mystery," he said.
"It may take longer." For all our relations.

To become involved consider these Resources and Environmental Organizations: www.350.org and 350/Facebook; www.ran.org and Rain Forest Action Network/Facebook; 350 Louisville on Facebook; interfaithpowerandlight.org and Interfaith Power and Light/Facebook; www.centerforinterfaithrelations.org/festival-of-faiths and Festival of Faiths/Facebook.



For events and other community resources/related events: www.cultivatingconnections.org and Cultivating Connections/Facebook.

Trude M. Scharff, M.Ed. is an Independent Wellbriety Consultant, Practitioner, and Recovery Coach. She is the Coordinator of the KY School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies; a Consultant Project Manager with the Cabinet for Health and Family Service, KY Dept of Behavioral Health. Past JADAC (Jefferson Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center/Seven Counties) Manager Volunteer Program and statewide Training Institute; past Citizen Advocacy Coordinator for the Council on Developmental Disabilities as well as community based services developer for persons with disabilities. She serves on the JADAC Drug and Alcohol Steering Committee and as a volunteer with White Bison, Inc. Awarded National Female Firestarter award of the year in 2006 by the Native American Indian organization, White Bison, Inc., for dedicated volunteerism and conducting longstanding Wellbriety Firestarter Circles of Recovery in our community. Founding member Women of Wellbriety International and People Advocating Recovery (PAR--Faces and Voices of Recovery). Trude can be reached at trumari@aol.com

Airwaves

(continued from page 1)

If freedom of the press is for 'those who own it', then let us really begin to exercise our right to it. We the diverse peoples of this community, own this resource. Forward Radio belongs to all of us. We own it, now we need to build it.

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phone: 502-889-5728

Jared Zarantonello is a community-based educator, musician, writer, and producer of all sorts of liberation media. Jared can be reached at jaredzarantonello@gmail.com

U.S. aid indicted by Israel’s disproportional response in Gaza

By John Morrison

I am a professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Louisville who travels regularly to the West Bank recruiting Palestinian students for our graduate program. Our teaching assistant positions provide the opportunity for students to finance their studies and to obtain a graduate degree at our university.

Thus far, five Palestinian students have become teaching assistants in our department, and three of these students have won the prize for our best graduate students. I am proud of the achievements of our Palestinian students. The chair of our department asked me once why the Palestinian students always do so well. I said the students on the West Bank have few opportunities and know they must work hard to achieve success. Nothing will be given to them. A graduate degree in the United States opens up possibilities for them they would not otherwise have.

Our Palestinian students come from different cities and villages in the Palestinian West Bank. One student came from Beit Sahour, which is a largely Palestinian Christian village that is a part of the larger city of Bethlehem. Another student came from a village in the south near Hebron, and two other students came from villages near Ramallah, which is the center of the Palestinian Authority. This summer I visited the families of these four students.

Over the years, Israel has steadily tightened its control over the Palestinian population of the West Bank — under the illusion that this will provide Israel more security. The Palestinian population feels that it has less and less control over the issues important for their lives. A father of one of our students said there

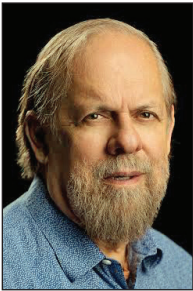
will be no peace until Palestinians are allowed some control over their daily lives. Peace and security should be qualities of life Israel shares with its neighbors, not something achieved by subjugating its neighbors.

I began my trip this summer by visiting Al Quds University. (“Al Quds” is the Arabic name for Jerusalem.) Then I traveled to Beit Sahour to visit the family of the student who came from that village. We have become dear friends over the years.

I then traveled south to Hebron University and stayed in the home of another of our students in the very south of Palestine. I arrived at their home during the month of Ramadan and fasted during Ramadan for the first time. The father of the family would wake me at 3:30 in the morning, and we would have a light breakfast together until we heard the first call for prayer from the mosque at 4:10 am in the morning. This ended our eating, until the sun set in the evening. I drank water during the day, saying only that I needed water for my health. The family accepted my deviance gracefully.

I was completing the manuscript of a book, and I must say that I would recommend fasting for any writer. Eating only provides a distraction from ourselves and from our deepest thoughts. With only a bottle of water and a computer on my table, I wrote twelve hours each day.

From the porch behind their home in the evening, we could hear the Israeli bombs falling



John Morrison

on Gaza and see the light from the bombs. The sound of the exploding bombs swept over us like rolling thunder. Dozens of bombs every few seconds. The bombs appeared to be falling on two different parts of Gaza City, south of Beit Hanoun near the Erez checkpoint. The Israeli military would later claim that Hamas fighters were hiding behind civilians. In the middle of the night? In a densely populated city with no other signs of hostility? My Palestinian friends and I followed the daily reports of civilian deaths in Gaza with a great deal of sadness. It was a continuing tragedy.

The bombing of Gaza continued for all of the time I was in Jerusalem and the West Bank last summer. With my digital subscription to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, I could follow the bombing from an Israeli perspective. The citizens of Israel at the time were very sensitive about the deaths of Israeli soldiers — and about little else. About seventy Israeli soldiers died, and more than two thousand Palestinians.

The United Nations, which has schools in Gaza, estimated that 75 percent of the Palestinian casualties were civilians. Madeleine Albright, our former Secretary of State, said the Israeli attack on Gaza was “disproportionate.” The population of Gaza is very young, with more than 20 percent of the population under three years of age. Not surprisingly, Israel killed more than 500 Palestinian children. Three Israeli civilians died.

Many of the Palestinian civilian casualties were due to Israel’s heavy artillery, which struck the Rafah refugee camp and United Nations schools where thousands of people had taken refuge. I remember that the last U.N. school that was hit had sent its GPS coordinates to the Israeli military 37 times asking for it not to

bomb. The first Israeli shell hit the wall of the school, wounding several people. The family and friends of the people who had been wounded rushed into open courtyard to help. Then the second Israeli shell landed in the middle of the courtyard, killing dozens of people. The Israeli military said they were firing to protect Israeli soldiers in the area, but none of the more than two thousand witnesses saw any Israeli soldiers or Hamas fighters near the school.

The King of Jordan said — and I do not doubt — that the recruitment of ISIS fighters went up enormously during the bombing of Gaza. As American citizens, we should ask ourselves what we could possibly gain by providing military aid to Israel and participating in such barbarity. What do we gain by supporting Israel’s military occupation of the Palestinian people, which has enraged the entire Arab world.

I returned home to Louisville a little more than a month after my trip began, feeling a little bruised, but feeling a great deal of love for the dear people I left behind in Palestine.

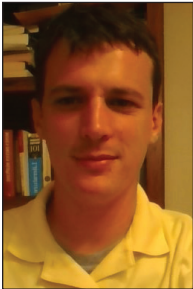
John Morrison is a Swedish-American of Portuguese descent who has worked on human rights issues for many years. Having a PhD degree in physics, he has recruited Palestinian students for the Department of Physics and Astronomy at University of Louisville. During the Fall semester 2009, he taught a course on computational physics at Birzeit University near Ramallah -- a lovely city just North of Jerusalem. Morrison is working now to establish a center in Ramallah where members of our peace community can live inexpensively and study Arabic during the summer. John Morrison can be reached at johnc@erdos.math.louisville.edu.

Discover the Palestinian voice on alternative media

By Matt Bewley

A Gallup poll released in July showed that most older Americans supported the recent Israeli attacks against Palestinians in Gaza. However, a majority of Americans between the ages of 18 and 29 opposed the Israeli assault, which resulted in the deaths of 2,133 Palestinian people.

In a partial attempt to explain this generational shift, we should ask what information people are consuming. We know younger people are using the internet and specifically social networking websites at high rates compared to older people. Perhaps support for Israeli aggression has something to do with being less connected to alternative sources of information and being less informed.



Matt Bewley

On the internet, a more sympathetic image of Palestine has come from entertainers such as Jon Stewart, who reruns his episodes online. Actor Russell Brand has several witty and insightful YouTube videos on Palestine. In one, Brand supports boycott, divestment and sanctions of Israel (BDS), citing Israel’s West Bank settlements and the injustice of its illegal occupation of Palestinian land. I found this video on Facebook from someone interested in justice for Palestine.

However, a narrow image of Palestine is presented to Americans in the mainstream media. This is our country’s loss. The books, the poetry, the movies, the media, and the cuisine of Palestinians are rich sources of information and cultural beauty. I am hoping people will learn more about Palestine.

From social networking sites or search engines like Google, one can find alternative Palestine-related resources.

The online blogs Mondoweiss (mondoweiss.net) and Electronic Intifada (electronicintifada.net) are two of the best and most up-to-date websites on the struggle for Palestinian freedom. They contain articles from many journalists and activists. Mondoweiss was founded by Jewish American Phillip Weiss, and Electronic Intifada was founded by Palestinian American Ali Abunimeh.

Two other excellent websites are B’Tselem (btselem.org), an Israeli human rights organization, and the Ma’an News Agency (maannews.net/eng/), a Palestinian news service.

During the bombing of Gaza in the summer of 2014, several peaceful protests grew to over 10,000 people in Ramallah, Palestine. Did we ever hear about this in the mainstream news media?

American journalist Alison Weir has a website and Facebook page called “If Americans Knew” (ifamericansknew.org) that calls our

attention directly to the inadequacy of our media in its reporting on Palestine. Weir explains the reasons why mainstream press coverage in the US is so biased in favor of Israel, and she gives clear examples showing the bias.

For nuanced coverage of the entire Middle East by people who actually live there, visit jadaliyya.com. For local Palestine info and events happening in Louisville, search on Facebook for «Louisville Students for Justice in Palestine» and like their page.

Netflix contains a good number of Palestinian films. The Palestinian director Annemarie Jacir has her first film, “Salt of this Sea,” on Netflix. In it, a beautiful Palestinian woman, Soraya, travels to Palestine-Israel. She finds out, quite naively, that her grandfather’s home in the seaside town of Jaffa was confiscated by Israel during its ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948. Dramatically she confronts the Israeli who now lives in her grandfather’s house. Later, she and her lover wander a nearby Palestinian village crumbled in ruins. Throughout her travels, Soraya feels the saline sting of Israeli’s domination of her people.

Jacir directed another film titled, “When I Saw You,” which is also on Netflix. Its subject is the lives of Palestinians in refugee camps in Jordan. The characters subsist, desperate to return to their homeland, restlessly waiting under the vast starry nights of the Jordan Valley.

Netflix has other Palestinian films like “Laila’s Birthday” and “The Time that Remains” and also a “Holy Land” episode of the Anthony Bourdain cooking show, “No Reservations.” It features Palestinian activists who have spoken in Louisville: Laila El Haddad and Abed Abusrou.

Just as American movie theaters rarely show Palestinian films, Palestinian writings are scant in our bookstores. Palestinian Americans like Rashid Khalidi and Edward Said are eloquent intellectuals. But why aren’t their books widely available?

American author Pamela Olson wrote a book called “Fast Times in Palestine,” in which she writes from a youthful American perspective about her several years in Palestine.

As a fast-paced read, the novel “Mornings in Jenin” is the superbly done Palestinian answer to “The Kite Runner.” Which publisher would promote these books?

Reading Palestinian poetry is a great way to understand the Palestinian experience. Google search the Palestinian poet “Mahmoud Darwish.” He exemplifies Palestinian poetry, identity and suffering. In the 1960s, the Israeli government forced him to live under house arrest for reciting his poems while moving “without permit” between Palestinian villages. Israel later destroyed his village. Palestinians revere him for his iconic words of resistance, love and tragedy.

What if his poem “The Prison Cell,” about a Palestinian in an Israeli prison, were read on television in America? How would the sympathies of Americans change if Palestinian voices were truly heard?



Two iconic Palestinian voices, both deceased: political and literary critic, professor and public intellectual Dr. Edward Said (left), “poet of the Palestinian people” Mahmoud Darwish (right). (Photo is from an unknown archive, thanks to jadaliyya.com)

The Prison Cell

It is possible...
It is possible at least sometimes...
To ride a horse
Inside a prison cell
And run away...

It is possible for prison walls
To disappear,
For the cell to become a distant land
Without frontiers:

What did you do with the walls?
I gave them back to the rocks.
And what did you do with the ceiling?
I turned it into a saddle.
And your chain?
I turned it into a pencil.

The prison guard got angry.
He put an end to my dialogue.
He said he didn’t care for poetry,
And bolted the door of my cell.

He came back to see me
In the morning,
He shouted at me:

Where did all this water come from?
I brought it from the Nile.
And the trees?
From the orchards of Damascus.
And the music?
From my heartbeat.

The prison guard got mad.
He put an end to my dialogue.
He said he didn’t like my poetry.
And bolted the door of my cell.

But he returned in the evening:

Where did this moon come from?
From the nights of Baghdad.
And the wine?
From the vineyards of Algiers.
And this freedom?
From the chain you tied me with last night.

The prison guard grew so sad...
He begged me to give him back
His freedom.

Matt Bewley is a recently graduated medical student from the University of Louisville. In his last two months of medical school, he traveled with Palestinian neuroscience researchers to West Bank refugee camps to study depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. He also has a B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He was treasurer for Louisville Students for Justice in Palestine for the past two years. Matt can be contacted at mattbewley23@gmail.com

Thousands show for rising movement to end racist team names

By Thomas Pearce

Media reports stated that the largest rally against mascots in history took place in Minneapolis MN last weekend. The crowd was estimated at 5,000 people NAACP Congressman Keith Ellis, and others joined the American Indian Movement in front of the stadium where protesters gathered to protest the Washington Franchise. Internal counts from the American Indian Movement (AIM) estimated the crowd was more like 7-10,000 people. People of all races and from many organizations including the Sierra Club joined us in standing up to racism. Latino indigenous people helped lead the march as well and brought dozens of dancers with them. Altogether, we were the National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media.

In recent months, Washington Redskins National Football League (NFL) team owner Dan Snyder has come under fire for use of the team name and mascot as being insensitive to Native Americans. A wide range of people from Barrack Obama, to over 50 US senators and many others have expressed their disapproval of the team nickname. The US patent office which revoked his patent and press outlets are refusing to speak the R Word on TV or radio. Dan Snyder has been unrepentant. Running around the country trying to find disadvantaged native youth to take to games and flaunt as lovers of the Washington Franchise. What he just keeps missing is that; the National Congress of American Indians long ago voted to condemn all racist mascots including the Washington franchise.

I want to thank all of my friends for making it possible for me to retrace my steps from 22 years ago when AIM protested the Washington Franchise in the Superbowl then. It was a magical day. Over the years we have protested the Super Bowl, the World Series when both the Atlanta and Cleveland franchise were in the series, and many other college and even high school events. This is not trivial nor is it a non-issue. We want respect and we want it now.

AIM Vice Chair and Chief of the Southern Chiefs Organization of Canada (33 Nations) spoke and said this, “Many people speak of the continuing relevance of the American Indian Movement, I think we have shown today that we are relevant and powerful. AIM Chair Keith Lussier was also on hand to assist with all of the events of the day. Tribal Chairman of the White Earth Nation Irma Vizner and other tribal leaders were on hand to speak against racism as well.

Clyde Bellecourt, the Director of AIM told the media “It would take two of me

to contain the joy I feel today.” Clyde is 78 years old today and was 56 when the last march happened. He proved is still a community organizer in the American Indian community.

We fought alongside African American Educators and former City Councilman (the late George Unseld) to remove all racist mascots in the Jefferson County School system. I am proud I come from a community that has taken the right steps to



Chairman Irma Vizner of the White Earth Tribe, Dr Charlene Teters (Spokane) of the American Indian Institute of Art and our women warriors leading the way with our banner

deal with this issue. Across the country the fight continues and indigenous voices are getting louder.

Still we see white people dress up at Halloween in headdresses and Pocahontas costumes. We see white people dress in mock headdresses at parties and raves. We see so much bastardization of our culture every day that is hard to keep track of it all. It seems America is not done playing Indian. Indigenous people are done tolerating this insane behavior.

My role much as it was 22 years ago, was as a lead security for the march making sure there were no problems along the march between football fans and protesters. There were none. One footnote, the Redskins bus crashed on the way to the stadium that day and players arrived at the game late. They ended up losing that Sunday. Racist mascots are a losing proposition.

It was truly an amazing day. I just wanted to write this to let my friends know how much I appreciated the support that all of my friends gave me to make the trip possible. Thank you!

Thomas Pearce is Chairman of the American Indian Movement of Indiana and Kentucky who has been protesting for over 3 decades against racist mascots and many other indigenous causes such as tar sands, keystone pipeline, police brutality and other issues. He works as an organizer for the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign. Tom can be contacted at Thomas.Pearce@SierraClub.org

Open Hillel (continued from page 1)

The following day I was on another panel: “How Israel-Palestine Affects Left-Wing Coalition Building in America.” Copanelists: Yasmeen Silva, a Palestinian-American student at Vassar College and activist with Students for Justice in Palestine; and Alice Rothschild, a Boston-based physician, author, filmmaker, and activist in the Jewish community.

On a personal note. There was a Friends of SNCC group at Vassar College in the 1960s that “adopted” me, sending me my salary/stipend of \$15 per week. I feel a kinship with Vassar!

The conference was not a monolith. One speaker was from J Street, a liberal group that wants a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian impasse. And yet the head of J Street supported the Israeli invasion of Gaza. But most conferees opposed the slaughter.

There was the wonderful Jewish Voice for Peace. JVP focuses on ending the Israeli occupation.

I am hopeful Open Hillel will make a difference. But I am mindful of the mass murder of Palestinians in Gaza by the Israeli Defense Forces and the devastation to the infrastructure of Gaza, perhaps the most densely populated place on Earth.

Where in the Midrash does it sanction these crimes against humanity? Did the Bible get it wrong when the scribes wrote: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil? Must we also add Mother Jones’ prophetic words: Pray for the dead and fight like hell for the living?

But I am still conflicted. How do I keep my balance when the forces of evil supporting my guywire of hope are swinging wildly and threatening my soul? Is this tensioned cable really adding stability, or is it a perpetuator of the evil of occupation?

I appreciate the contributions Jews have made throughout history: Hillel, Maimonides, Emma Lazarus, Howard Fast. But I equally appreciate Palestinian poets: Mahmoud Darwish, Sami Muhanna, Maya Abu al-Hayyat. Listen to, do not merely read, the words of Zuhair abu Shayeb:

“From what source of light/ does the day occur?/ Does the earth propitiate itself/ and the seas catch fire?/ By what light do we shell roads until daybreak?/ And the sound is bearable/ and the morning, like bullets, is bearable...”

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

- 15 THOUSAND FARMERS – 15th day each month, www.15thousandfarmers.com
- ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – (485-1248)
- AIDS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (AIM) OF KENTUCKIANA, INC. – (635-4510)
- AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB –4th Tuesday. Contact Enid Redman at 459-0616 or John Mine at pappajohn15@gmail.com. Also see www.America2000plus.net.
- AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – Every month at noon (contact Paul Simmons: 608-7517)
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (Sharon: 637-8951) at Heine Bros. on Douglass Loop
- APPAP [American Palestine Public Affairs Forum] – 2nd Thursday (773-1836)
- AUDUBON SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY – Walks every other Saturday morning. Visit <http://audubonsocietyofky.org>
- BECKHAM BIRD CLUB – 2nd Saturday, 7PM , www.beckhambirds.org
- BREAD FOR THE WORLD – Last Monday every other month (239-4317 for details)
- CAPA [Citizens Against Police Abuse] –2nd Thursday (778-8130) Meet at Braden Center, 3208 W. Broadway
- CART [Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation] – 3rd Wednesday, Union Station, TARC Board Room
- 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. www.commoncause.org/ky
- COMMUNITY COALITION ON THE HEALTHY HOMETOWN – Every Monday, 5:30PM (502-574-6209)
- COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (223-3655)
- COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – 1st Sunday, 7pm (899-4119)
- EARTHSERVE POTLUCK – 2nd Saturday, 10AM (502-299-2520) www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org
- FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
- FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB – 1st Thursday, papajohn15@bellsouth.net
- FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (609-7985 or 291-2506)
- FOOD IN NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY COALITION – 2nd Tuesday, 6:30PM (502-819-2957)
- FRIENDS FOR HOPE (Support Group for Adult Cancer Survivors) – 4th Wednesday at 6:30 PM (451-9600).
- FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)
- GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday, 7pm. (502-644-0659)
- GREEN CONVENE – 2nd Tuesday, 6:30PM, www.greenconvene.org
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ADVOCACY BOARD – 1st Monday, 9AM (502-574-3631)
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ENFORCEMENT BOARD – 1st Monday, 9:30AM (502-574-3631)
- HUMANISTS OF METRO LOUISVILLE – 2nd Monday, 7:00pm (896-4853)
- INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 3rd Wednesday, every other month. (214-7322)
- IRFI [ISLAMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.] – Sundays at 6:00 PM (502-423-1988)
- JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE (jvp.org) – 1st Friday and 4th Thursday. Contact 256-525-5290 or sonrevolution@aol.com
- 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)
- KENTUCKIANS FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 5:30 PM. Board Room on the Mezzanine of the Louisville Free Public Library. www.kyhealthcare.org 636-1551
- KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)
- KITOD [KENTUCKIANA INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON DARFUR] – (553-6172)
- KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. (778-8130)
- KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – (541-9998)
- KITLAC [KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN] – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)
- KY WATERSHED WATCH. Volunteer water quality monitoring and training around the state every month. Call 800-928-0045
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (502-895-5218), www.louisville-orglwv
- LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
- LOUISVILLE FORUM – 2nd Wednesday, Noon (502-329-0111)
- LOUISVILLE GREEN DRINKS – 4th Tuesday, 6:30PM www.greendrinks.org
- 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 (502-587-7755), louisvilleyouthgroup.com
- 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 (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)
- NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK, LOUISVILLE METRO CHAPTER – 4th Sunday of each month, 5 p.m. (778-8624 or 470-362-0317)
- PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)
- PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)
- RCRC [RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE] – (866-606-0988)
- RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)
- SICKLE CELL ASSOCIATION – 3rd Saturday (502-569-2070)
- SIERRA CLUB INNER CITY OUTINGS – 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM (558-0073)
- LOUISVILLE SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE. Learning, support and action (558-7556).
- SOCIAL CHANGE BOOK CLUB – 3rd Monday, www.greenlistlouisville.com
- SOWERS OF JUSTICE NETWORK – sowersofjusticenetwork.org, sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com
- URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS – 2nd Monday, 6PM (502-561-6830)
- VETERANS FOR PEACE, Louisville Chapter 168 – (502) 500-6915, CRawerTrainer@twc.com
- 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 emailing calendar.peace@gmail.org

Calendar for peacemakers

Please e-mail us information about your peace and justice events to calendar.peace@gmail.com

Dec 1 to Dec 31 **WOMEN ARTISTS.** The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 10AM to 4PM, Mon thru Fri. Enjoy the art of Louisville's most respected artists in ceramics, textiles, and painting. Visit www.kcaah.org

Dec 1 to Jan 6 **ONCE UPON A HOLIDAY.** Muhammad Ali Center. A festive exhibit of winter holidays around the world. Visit www.alicenter.org

Dec 1 to Feb 1 **GILDED AGE REDUX.** Frazier Museum. Many say we are re-living the Guided Age today. See what it looked like to those at the top. An exhibit of that displays "the spirit and material culture of that era." Iconic artwork and fashionable dresses. Visit www.fraziermuseum.org

Dec 3 (Wed) **NOONTIME INTERFAITH MEDITATIONS.** Every Wednesday from 12:10 to 12:30 at Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown. Weekly rotation includes Zen Buddhist silence, Lecto Divina, Vipassana Buddhist practices, and Creative Visualization. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Dec 3 (Wed) **CITIZENSHIP TUTORs.** Kentucky Refugee Ministries, 6:30 to 8:30PM. Every Wednesday & Thursday, 11AM to 1PM. Help students study for the citizenship exam. Ask about our other volunteer opportunities. Call 479-9180 Ext 57 for more information.

Dec 3 (Wed) **HEALTH INSURANCE – HOW IT WORKS.** Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 9PM. Discuss Affordable Care Act procedures with a representative of the Kentucky Health Cooperative. Visit www.cnpe.org

Dec 3 & Jan 7 (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 4 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Dec 5 (Fri) **FRIDAY NIGHT ON THE STREET.** Wayside Christian Mission. Every Friday. Learn first-hand about homeless. Hear testimonies. Ask questions. Serve a meal. Bring a sleeping bag. Visit www.waysidechristianmission.org

Dec 6 (Sat) **HOME REPAIR VOLUNTEERS.** Fuller Center for Housing of Louisville. Every Saturday. All skill levels. Ask about our other volunteer opportunities. For more information, call 272-1377.

Dec 6 (Sat) **SACK LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS.** Every Saturday, 12pm to 2PM, Bates Community Development Corporation, 1228 S. Jackson Street. Call 636-0573 for more information.

Dec 6 (Sat) **CANVASS NEIGHBORHOODS FOR FRESH FOOD.** Saturdays and Sundays. Join us any time. Fresh Stop Project volunteers take orders door to door for locally grown fruits and vegetables. Visit <http://newrootsproduce.org>

Dec 6 (Sat) **SUPPLIES OVER SEAS RECYCLING.** SOS office in Clifton. Every Saturday, 9AM. Help sort through surplus medical supplies for distribution to overseas agencies. Other volunteer opportunities too. Visit www.suppliesoverseas.org

Dec 6 (Sat) **LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE.** Every Saturday morning. Also, other days and times. 26 farmers' markets from California neighborhood to Norton Commons. Visit www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown

Dec 6 & 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 7 (Sun) **MY PROMISED LAND.** Congregation Adath Jeshurun, 6PM. Jewish author Ari Shavit discusses his book on the entirety of Israel experience. Call 458-5359 for more information.

Dec 7 (Sun) **OUR EARTH NOW YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP.** Kentucky Power & Light at Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, 6PM to 8pm. Every Sunday. Learn more about the issues and what you can do. Call 509-9636 for more information.

Dec 7 (Sun) **CONCERT FOR CONTEMPLATION.** Interfaith Paths to Peace at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 7PM to 8PM. Renowned musician Harry Pickens performs original music for connecting and re-connecting with the Source within us. Embrace compassion ourselves and others. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Dec 8 to 14 **HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES.** Immerse yourself in another community and experience first-hand the hardships associated with extreme poverty. Perform essential volunteer work. Make friends and connections. Trips to Belize and Nicaragua this month. Also, Jan 5, 11, and 18. Visit <http://myhandinhand.org>

Dec 8 (Mon) **BICYCLES FOR HEALTH AND CLEANER AIR.** Louisville Bicycle Club, Every Monday, weather permitting. Fat Forty at 8:45AM. Recovery Ride at 6:45PM. Visit www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville

Dec 9 & 10 **PREJUDICE REDUCTION WORKSHOP.** Peace Education Program, 8:30AM to 4PM. A segment of the award winning international training process designed by the National Coalition Building Institute. Visit www.peaceeducationprogram.org

Dec 9 & Jan 13 (Tues) **AMERICANA COMMUNITY CENTER.** Orientation at 7PM every second Tuesday. Learn how you can help immigrant families learn practical skills, join social networks, and improve language skills. Call 366-7813 to RSVP.

Dec 9 & Jan 13 (Tues) **MOVIMENIENTO DE MUJERES LATINA – LATINA WOMEN’S MOVEMENT,** La Casita Center, Every second Tuesday, 5:30PM. Network, mentor, find friends and share. Call 322-4036 for more information.

Dec 9 & Jan 13 (Tues) **FREE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR.** Energy Pros Sustainable Home Education Group, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Learn the basics. Visit www.theenergypros.net

Dec 10 (Wed) **REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS.** Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter. 4PM. One hour interactive tour of VOA's work and programs for self-determination. For more information, call 636-4660

Dec 10 & Jan 14 (Wed) **KENTUCKY INTERFAITH TASK-FORCE ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (KITLAC).** Every second Wednesday at the 1741 Building on Frankfort Avenue. 7:30 PM. For more information, call David Horvath at 479-9262 or Pat Geier at 456-6586.

Dec 10 & Jan 14 (Wed) **Y-NOW CHILDREN OF PRISONERS MENTORING.** Luncheon at YMCA Safe Place. 2nd Wednesday each month. Learn how you can help break the cycle through mentoring and encouragement. RSVP to 635-5233.

Dec 11 (Thurs) **COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE.** Noon, meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Louisville's ten-year campaign for compassion. Call 214-7322 or visit <http://compassionatelouisville.org> for more information

Dec 11th (Thurs) **COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE TOWN HALL MEETING** – All are welcome! 12:00 – 1:15 pm. 318 West Kentucky Street Louisville 40203

Dec 11 & Jan 8 (Thurs) **AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM (APPAF).** 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 12 (Fri) **A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY.** 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

Dec 12 & 13 **WATER & HEALTH TRAINING.** Water Step. Obtain skills for providing safe drinking water to tens of thousands of people. Also, Jan 9 & 10. Visit <http://waterstep.org>

Dec 13 & Jan 10 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, St. Matthews Public Library, 10 AM to Noon. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Dec 14 & Jan 11 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Every second Sunday. A remembrance of all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. 4PM to 5PM, Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community) and Veterans for Peace Chapter 168. For more information, call Carol Rawert Trainer at 500-6915.

Dec 16 & Jan 20 (Tues) **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WORKSHOP.** Every third Tuesday, 11AM to 1PM. Expressions Café at The Council on Developmental Disabilities. Learn how an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is prepared for a child with a disability. Address barriers to inclusion. Call 584-1239

Dec 18 & Jan 15 (Thurs) **MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT & ADVOCACY.** NAMI Louisville every third Thursday at 3PM. Also Saturdays and Sundays. Support group for families. Draw on years of experience. Visit www.namilouisville.org

Dec 18 & Jan 15 (Thurs) **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CASA).** Orientation, Noon to 1PM. Learn how you can help defend the rights of abused and neglected children in our community. Call 595-4911 to RSVP

Dec 18 (Thurs) **GIVE-A-JAM.** The Coalition for the Homeless at The Clifton Center, 6:30PM. Help end homelessness. Hear local musicians. Fabulous food. Visit www.cliftoncenter.org

Dec 19 (Fri) **UNITY DINNER MOVEMENT CELEBRATION.** Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, 6pm. Angela Davis to speak. Honorees Dr. J. Blaine Hudson, posthumously, activist Nancy DeMartra, professor and activist Dr. Kaila Story, and civil rights attorney Daniel T. Taylor III. For more information, call 502-778-8130

Dec 21 (Sun) **INTERFAITH HANUKKAH CELEBRATION.** Jewish Community Center with Interfaith Paths to Peace. Join us for stories, music, food and candle lighting. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Jan 1 (Thurs) **INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE FOR WORLD PEACE.** Interfaith Paths to Peace at St. William Catholic Church, 10 AM to 11 AM. Music, prayers, readings, rituals and reflections from local representatives of the world's great religions. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Jan 3 (Sat) **JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST VOLUNTEERS.** Land Stewart Project. Every first Saturday, 9AM to Noon. Also, Wednesdays. Help improve landscape and protect native flora. Visit www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/

Jan 7 (Wed) **NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS.** Blackacre State Nature Preserve. Every Wednesday, 9AM to Noon. Help care for gardens, trails, and farmland. Visit www.blackacreconservancy.org

Jan 7 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF FOR-sooth.** Every first Wednesday. Contact John Hartmann, editor, at 296-1793 or johart.john@gmail.com. *Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com*

Jan 10 (Sat) **APH FOR THE BLIND MUSEUM.** National Braille Literacy Month event, 10:30AM. Experiencing the life of Mary Ingalls, the sister of Laura in the famous "Little House on the Prairie" series of books. Visit www.aph.org

Jan 14 (Wed) **REFUGEE MENTOR TRAINING.** Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services, 4:30PM. Learn more about our family re-settlement services and facilities. Practical things you can do to help. Meet refugee families and current volunteers. Call 636-9786 for more information

Jan 14 (Wed) **SAFE TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY TRAINING.** Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services, 4PM to 5:30PM. Learn how regional plans for transportation measure multimodal performance; sidewalks, bicycling, and motor vehicle traffic. Free. Call 574-6230 for more information.

Jan 15 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 11:30AM. Recognized speakers on compelling social, political and spiritual subjects. For more information, contact Cathy Ford, 458-1223, fordhoff@bellsouth.net or Polk Culpepper 948-2077, cathyculpper@insightbb.com

Jan 15 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING.** Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 10. 6:30 PM. Every 3rd Thursday. We need volunteers! Many hands make light work, and the opposite is also true! So please join us if you can. Call 451-5658 for more information.

Jan 24 (Wed) **PEACOCKS & PAISLEY.** The Crane House, 11AM to 1PM. A presentation of Asian textile art design. Visit www.cranehouse.org

Jan 27 (Tues) **OLMSTEAD PARK VOLUNTEERS.** Olmstead Park Conservancy, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Join our park conservation steward training program. Help others maintain and restore our urban forests. Visit www.olmsteadparks.org

Jan 27 to 29 **THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTE.** Annual hands-on conflict resolution training. Develop the tools you need. Visit www.peaceeducation.org

Jan 31 (Sat) **100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THOMAS MERTON’S BIRTH.** The Merton Center, Bellarmine, 10:30AM to 2:30PM. Symposia, workshops, exhibits, performances, and French food. Visit www.bellarmino.edu/merton-centennial

Feb 1 (Sun) **ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CULTURAL EVENTS CALENDAR.** Be sure to see this annual guide book of local events compiled by activist and local historian Walter Hutchins. Freely distributed at Louisville public libraries and other locations

Feb 7 (Sat) **ACADEMIC WORLD QUEST.** The Kentucky & Southern Indiana World Affairs Council at The Ali Center, 9AM to 2:30PM. See local school teams match their knowledge of international affairs for an opportunity to participate in the national competition in April. Visit www.worldkentucky.org

OUT OF TOWN

Dec 1 (Mon) **KENTUCKY MIGRANT NETWORK COALITION.** Lexington KY at the Cardinal Valley Center, 12PM. Every first Monday. Get better acquainted with Kentucky's immigrant and refugee families. For more information, call 859-258-3824

Dec 3 to Jan 28 **KENTUCKY ACLU / FAIRNESS ORGANIZING MEETINGS.** Help us build Fairness committees in Berea, Bowling Green, Covington, Morehead, Campbellsville, Shelbyville and Owensboro. Visit www.aclu-ky.org

Dec 4 (Thurs) **INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Lexington, KY at West Main and Broadway, 5:30PM to 6:30PM. Every Thursday for eleven years. For more information, Call 859-327-6277

Jan 15 (Thurs) **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP.** KSU Research Farm, Frankfort, KY. Every third Thursday. Participate in efforts to develop local food economies with the Community Farm Alliance and others. Visit www.communityfarmalliance.org

PEACEMAKING EVENTS AT THE LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Visit www.lfpl.org for more information.

Dec 1 to 31 **TEEN HOMELESSNESS FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.** Main Public Library. Artwork from the YMCA Safe Place.

Dec 1 to Jan 31 **COMPUTACION BASICA: EL TECLADO Y RATON.** Bon Air Public Library, All day.

Dec 1 (Mon) **HOW TO EVALUATE CHARITIES.** Crescent Hill Public Library, 7PM. Learn how to identify reputable charities. How to choose those that fulfill your goals. Study online resources.

Dec 2 (Tues) **HOUR OF POWER BOOK DISCUSSIONS.** Newburg Public Library, every first Tuesday, 6:30 PM. Discuss books on personal efforts to overcome the challenges of abuse, oppression, deprivation, discrimination or disabilities.

Dec 3 (Wed) **MEETING OF THE MINDS.** Crescent Hill Public Library, every first Wednesday, 7 PM. Consider and discuss current events.

Dec 3 (Wed) **GRANTSEEKING BASICS.** Main Public Library, 6PM to 8PM. Identify sources and practice writing better grant proposals.

Dec 4 (Thurs) **THE INFLUENCE OF BLACK MYTHOLOGY IN WORLD CULTURE.** Bon Air Public Library, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. A round table discussion with knowledgeable speakers.

Dec 6 (Sat) **ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB.** Every Saturday at the Iroquois & Newburg Public Library Branches, 3PM. Also Main Library & Bon Air Library on Thursdays at 7PM.

Dec 12 (Fri) **AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR.** Western Public Library, 10:30AM. Peruse the great books in our collection. Watch a short documentary.

Dec 15 (Mon) **SPANISH BILINGUAL CAFÉ.** Okolona Public Library, 7PM. Practice Spanish with your neighbors who originated from Spanish speaking countries.

Dec 17 (Wed) **INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB.** Main Public Library, Noon. See our webpage for the current book list.

Dec 20 (Sat) **FRENCH CIRCLE.** Iroquois Public Library, 12:30PM. Immigres francophone a Louisville.