

FORsooth

Fair Trade lifts spirits, producers’ wages

by Ruth Farrell

Have you ever been present for the birth of a child? That moment may be one of the most powerful, universal experiences in which we connect with the miraculous and are filled with awe.

Yet that incredible spiritual moment somehow quickly evaporates with hospital bills, parenting classes, work, and all the things one has to do just to maintain life. Instead of deepening our spirituality, often the arrival of a new child can make our life feel hectic and cluttered because we are pushed back into our individualistic, compartmentalized, consumer-driven culture.

And it’s not just when a baby is born. We live on what might be called “the rat race on steroids.” high-pressure jobs, an increasingly individualistic and isolated lifestyle, and a breakdown in family and community. Yet a growing number of us are reacting by saying *no*. We seek another way to live. It is in the quest of seeking another way that my spirit has found a home in the Fair Trade Movement.

Fair Trade embodies two fundamental beliefs: all life is sacred and all life is interconnected. Fair Trade is not just about paying producers more. It includes 10 standards (www.wfto.org) that embrace the sacredness and interconnectedness of each artisan and farmer, who is often abused or ignored in a system of “free trade” based on the lowest price (a price that often doesn’t recognize the human or environmental cost).



— photo by Christi Boyd
courtesy *Partners for Just Trade*

Learn how Fair Trade helps dried fruit maker Jeanne Noubissi, above, and other producers in Cameroon resist land grabs by multi-national companies at www.partnersforjusttrade.org.

A living example: Aydé lives in the Andes Mountains of Peru. She and her family fled five years of terrorist/govern-

For More Information on Fair Trade, go to: Partners for Just Trade, www.partnersforjusttrade.org; Fair Trade Federation, www.fairtradefederation.org; or visit Just Creations at 2722 Frankfort Ave.

ment fighting and moved from the pristine meadows and valleys of her mountain community down to Huancavelica (elevation 13,000 feet - yes, *down* to 13,000!).

Believe it or not, Aydé was already part of our globalized economy. She knitted for a U.S. company. Often companies design samples, then hire overseas agents who look for knitters who are given the materials to knit the products. However, she was paid a pittance and treated poorly, and she knew that should she complain, the agent would give the work to others who were just as desperate as she.

Enter the Fair Trade movement eight years ago, and Aydé’s life changed. Through learning about Fair Trade, Aydé and five neighbors formed their own knitting cooperative in which they learned where to buy quality materials, how to price, how to export and even how to pay taxes.

They created their own products. The cooperative now includes more than 30 women. The outside “agent” is replaced by a Fair Trade organization that sees its role as a facilitator. In this case, it is Partners for

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Braden’s women associates to be noted

The women who influenced Louisville anti-racist leader Anne Braden will highlight a program commemorating Braden’s life and work March 6, the fourth anniversary of her death.

Those attending must RSVP via The Carl Braden Memorial Center at (502) 778-8130 or e-mail carlbradencenter@gmail.com. The program, held in conjunction with Women’s History Month, is called “We didn’t Mourn, We Organized!”

It will explore the work of Braden’s women mentors, including civil rights icon Ella Baker and Progressive Party activist Mary Agnes Barnett. The event will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Nia Center, a community resources center at 2900 W. Broadway in Louisville.

“Through storytelling, crafts, and a walk followed by a shared potluck meal we will raise up the connections between each of us, the important women in our lives and the movement we’re committed to,” an e-mail said. “These women could include Anne, our mothers, a co-worker, another justice activist or friend.”

Crisis-plagued capitalism emulating post-’21 USSR

by Alex Bradshaw

Many people still assume that the “free” market, or what is called capitalism, does far more good than bad. We are taught at an early age in the U.S. that capitalism just *is*; it’s not going anywhere, it’s natural, and, by the way, it’s great!

The indoctrination process, which starts in our elementary and middle-schools, continues via politicians, economists, college campuses (no, they’re not even half as “leftist” as Rush Limbaugh and Glen Beck would have us believe — I wish they were right!), and certainly mainstream media in general, is hard to jettison. For

The workers were demanding more rations and actually demanded the Russian Revolution’s rhetoric be more than merely rhetoric; they demanded that their workers’ councils, or soviets, actually become the directly democratic entities as that which were described (under the Bolsheviks, the soviets, which were supposed to personify workers’ self-management, were quickly co-opted and became organs of the state).

The Russian sailors were crushed by the Bolsheviks, and after this, left-Marxists and anarchists who actually believed in the lofty principles of true socialism, i.e., self-management in the economic sphere, and

“Since crises are amongst us that are more dire than any before, i.e., climate change, it may be time to listen to some of these subversives...”

example, the field of neo-classical economics assumes itself scientific as it explains the (wrongheaded) way the market functions autonomously, the way the human body designs proteins called anti-bodies to fight foreign bacteria. So it’s certainly understandable that people leave the classroom, office, or TV rooms across America with these rigid ideological, pro-capitalist assumptions.

What we on the left want, first and foremost, is for people to have the means to information that deviates from the status-quo, in any kind of society. In the USSR, if you were publicly to the left of the Bolsheviks, Lenin and Trotsky would throw you in jail. While on the issue of the USSR, we might think about the historic 1921 Kronstadt uprising, in which Russian sailors stood with the workers striking in Petrograd.

self-governance in the political sphere, were persecuted. The only “free” press that was tolerated was that which was ideologically in line with Marxism-Leninism, which many believe to be a deviation from the mainstream of Marxism at the time.

Capitalism, with its statist bureaucrats and intellectual coordinators, functions similarly to that of the USSR post 1921; while capitalist countries do not use openly totalitarian tactics to crush their opposition, they conveniently leave any analysis that is to the left of Paul Krugman out of the public eye.

So this means reputable scholars like Norman Finkelstein vis-à-vis the issue of Israel/Palestine, the late Howard Zinn’s perspective on American history, or Noam Chomsky’s analysis of the Vietnam war,

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Tree giveaway April 3 part of worldwide green effort

Neighborhood groups in Louisville will mark Arbor Day by helping the United Nations promote tree planting around the world, giving away one of 1,500 tree seedlings Saturday, April 3 to anyone signing a U.N.-sponsored pledge to plant and nurse the tree to adulthood.

The “Plant for the Planet,” part of a worldwide U.N. effort to have 10 billion trees planted, will start at 9:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m., rain or shine, and will be held at the Douglass Community Center, 2305 Douglass Blvd. in Louisville, four blocks east of Bardstown Road, area organizer Stephen R. Spanyer said in a news release.

“These are 12- to 24-inch, bare-root seedlings,” the release said. “Understory species include Pawpaw, Eastern Redbud and Flowering Dogwood, which grow to some 30 feet. The canopy species will mature into 70- to 120-foot trees. Choices include Oaks (White, Cherrybark, and Bur), the Kentucky Coffeetree, Yellow/Tulip Poplar and White Pine, among others, depending on availability.”

The four-year-old annual giveaway started by giving out 300 seedlings in 2007 and takes on more importance because of damage to trees by recent ice storms and hurricane-force winds, the release said.

The giveaway is backed by businesses, individual donors, Metro Council members Tom Owen and Tina Ward-Pugh and neighborhood or homeowners associations in Deer Park, Upper Highlands, Highlands-Douglass and Bonnycastle, the release said, adding that the trees will be supplied by the Kentucky Division of Forestry.

The event will include light refreshments and ample information from forest rangers, arborists, environmental activists, master gardeners with the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension, representatives of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and area naturalists associated with the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, it said.

For more information, contact Spanyer at (502) 459-1405 or srs@iglou.com.



— photo by Jack Francis

Volunteers give out seedlings at last year’s “Plant for the Planet.” This year’s giveaway is April 3.

Support Haitian Artisans

Just Creations offers a unique way to support Haiti and its recovery. By purchasing products made by Haitian artisans, you’ll be helping to provide sustainable employment opportunities during this time of loss and recovery. Fair Trade products from Haiti include cut-metal sculptures made out of recycled oil drums and river stone carvings. Just Creations, 2722 Frankfort Ave, 897-7319.



Workshop March 16-18

Louisville’s Peace Education Program and The National Coalition Building Institute International will train people in youth violence prevention at a workshop March 16 to 18 (Tuesday through Thursday) at Central Presbyterian Church, 318 W. Kentucky St. in Louisville.

It is open to community leaders, youth workers, youth ministers, educators, social workers and family resources and youth

service center directors, workshop organizers said.

The deadline for registering is March 5. The fee is \$350 each or \$650 for a two-person team and pays for all training materials, boxed lunches for the first two days and a continental breakfast all three days, an e-mail said.

For more information contact Peace Ed at (502)589-6583 or peaceeducation@iglou.com.



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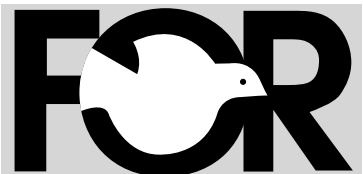
The Louisville FOR’s web site includes Action Alerts about issues of great concern to peace and justice people. It also lets you link to peace groups in many nations and look over every FORsooth going back to April 2002. And the pictures – starting with the July-August 2008 issue – are in color.

If you love blogging, contribute your thoughts and hopes to the US FOR’s blog www.forpeace.net. Keep up with the national organization’s unequaled activism for a world of nonviolence and justice at www.forusa.org.

As much as we know you love reading FORsooth, there’s no reason to wait till next month to be inspired and challenged by the FOR.

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.



Founded 1915

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

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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.

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There are changes coming in *FORsooth* and you need to talk to us

Rising postal and printing costs are making it impractical to keep producing as many copies of *FORsooth* as we do. Our Louisville FOR chapter needs to spend its money, which you so generously give us, on many peace and justice needs and to do so we must find more economical ways to bring you the news and comment you rely on in these pages.

So please take a few minutes to read and respond to this little survey.

First off, **to keep receiving your *FORsooth* in the U.S. Mail** as you do now, *you don't need to respond at all*. If we don't hear from you, we'll keep sending you this paper. You can also read *FORsooth* and much more peace and justice information anytime on our FOR chapter web site at www.louisville-for.org.

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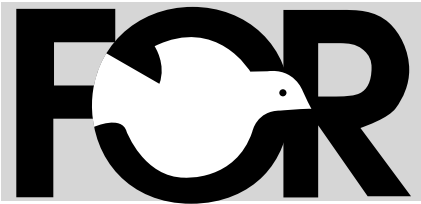
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UAW and the race card - a decades-old fault of labor

Certain current truths about the United States are hard to swallow. Both the “left” (those who think society’s woes are systemic) and “liberal” (those who want little changes to prevent big changes) sectors of the progressive movement are relatively ineffective. The labor movement — wracked by jobs moving to right-to-work states, and then overseas, and for too long unable to organize the unorganized in a significant way, split in two, and oftentimes politically myopic — has only in the last little while begun serious analysis and some good positive action.

The Democratic Party was flying high with President Obama’s election, a new head of the U.S. Department of Justice, and more. Yet the wimpy legislative responses to the Republican Party’s watering down healthcare, and then not knowing what to do about job-creating legislation, effectively pulled the rug from under poor and working class people.

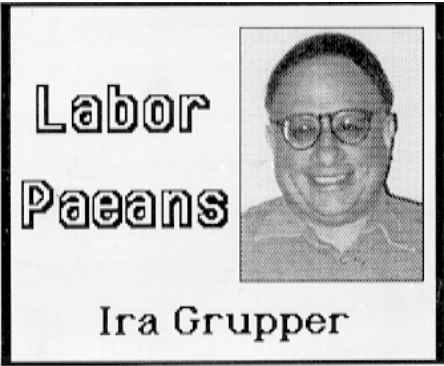
Democratic Party leaders Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi had no specific plans to strongly oppose Republican initiatives. And so we turn to comedian Jay Leno, as good an analyst as any: “It’s hard to believe President Obama has now been in office for a year. And, you know, it’s incredible. He took something that was in terrible, terrible shape, and he brought it back from the brink of disaster — the Republican Party.”

Writes John Nichols in The Nation (February 11): “With an unstable economy, an ill-defined ‘war on terror’ and polls showing Americans who thought the country was steered off course by Republicans now think it’s headed in the wrong direction under Democrats, this is shaping up as a wild race through uncharted territory. For progressive s- -as frustrated by Democratic compromises and missteps as they are frightened by the extremism of a reconstituted right and suddenly swaggering Republicans — it’s an unsettling moment.”

This column has for 10 years been a “paean” to labor, meaning a fervent tribute to the proletariat, the working class, the large majority among us who sell our labor power for a wage. But it should not be interpreted as an uncritical assessment of all policies of those organizations working in our behalf. The labor movement has faced many difficulties, and we must deal with them directly.

Case in point: a January 10 UAW and Teamsters Union joint news release: “(we join with) representatives from labor, environmental and consumer groups outside the Embassy of Japan in Washington today to call on the Japanese government to hold Toyota accountable for waging an attack on thousands of good-paying jobs in the United States.

“In addition to endangering 5,000 middle class jobs in the carhaul industry, Toyota is also planning to close its New United Motors Manufacturing Inc.



(NUMMI) assembly plant in Fremont, CA, which will mean a loss of up to 50,000 jobs at NUMMI and suppliers and other supporting businesses.

“The delegation delivered a letter from UAW Vice President Jimmy Settles and Jimmy Hoffa to Prime Minister of Japan Yukio Hatoyama following the speaking program. In the letter, the leaders of UAW and the Teamsters expressed concern that Toyota’s plan to abandon workers and communities will negatively affect America’s perception of Japan, and calls on the Japanese government to meet with them and with Toyota management.

“‘It’s outrageous that the number one-selling car in Cash for Clunkers was the Corolla, the car that is manufactured in the NUMMI plant. After receiving more money in this bailout program than any other company, Toyota is turning its back on American workers and American taxpayers by closing the plant in the state where they sell the most cars in the U.S., shipping these jobs to Japan, and then importing the cars back to the United States for sale,’ said King....”

“ ‘Toyota’s plant closure plan in California has betrayed American workers and exhibited a disdain for our federal programs like cash for clunkers that directly and handsomely benefited Toyota,’ said Dr. Brent Blackwelder, President Emeritus of Friends of the Earth U.S. “Toyota’s decision to shift production to Japan will dramatically increase shipping miles to California for its new vehicles and is inconsistent with a worldwide effort to reduce carbon footprints.”

Now read the analysis of Frank Hammer, a retired UAW-GM dept. international representative and past president and chairperson, UAW Local 909, in Warren, Michigan: “I am reminded by this news release of the incident in 1982 when Vincent Chin, a 27-year old Chinese-American draftsman, was killed outside a Detroit fast food place by two men toting baseball bats who mistook him for being Japanese. At the time the UAW was distributing anti-Japanese bumper stickers and looking the other way when autoworkers made a spectacle of bashing a Japanese-made car - maybe a Toyota. For the UAW to selectively choose to challenge Toyota for its anti-worker policies amounts to play-

ing the ‘race card,’ pitting U.S. workers and the public more generally against the Japanese and a Japanese corporation.

“The worst part about it is that the article is misleading. UAW Vice-President Bob King is quoted as saying Toyota is moving the work to Japan; the statement is a half-truth, at best. According to the Car Connection and other news sources, which have been reporting on the scheduled NUMMI closure for months, the Tacoma truck production is going, not to Japan, but to San Antonio, Texas. The other product - the Corolla - is only partly going to Japan; Corolla production is also going to Ontario, Canada. What the actual work is that is going to Japan is unknown. A former union officer at the NUMMI location knew nothing about any work going to Japan when asked where the work was going. What the Ontario and San Antonio plants have in common is that they are both non-union.

“To say that Toyota is sending the work to Japan is designed to inflame anti-foreign sentiment, and distract us from the fact that every major auto company is playing the global game of musical chairs. While we scurry around to the sound of the music, we are all seeing our plants close - whether it’s Toyota, Chrysler, GM, Ford, Opel (GM) in Europe, etc.

“The reality is that the UAW last year already tried to negotiate concessions; Toyota’s answer was that the plant was not profitable. Had concessions been forced on the NUMMI workers, they would have had to close the plant anyway for the simple reason that NUMMI workers — being residents of Northern California’s pricey Bay Area - would no longer have been able to afford working there.

“The UAW had to realize that, at the moment in 2009 when GM announced that it was pulling out of the joint venture, Toyota would follow with an announcement of NUMMI’s closure. Where was the UAW’s protest over the GM pullout? Why weren’t petitions circulated then calling out GM for abandoning the lucrative car market in California, especially after U.S. taxpayers prevented the company from slipping into liquidation? Why was there no petition to the Obama administration, which took 60 percent ownership of the company, to stop GM’s withdrawal from NUMMI?

“For that matter, why didn’t the UAW initiate petition campaigns for the dozens of plants being shut down by the likes of GM, Chrysler and Ford, or Dick Dauch’s American Axle plants, especially the one in the heart of Detroit? Why didn’t the UAW petition against Ford when it sought to wring more concessions from Ford workers in a year when the company took in \$2.9 billion in profits?

“Misinforming the U.S. public that the products assembled at NUMMI were being sent to Japan, and then shipped back for sale in the U.S., is bad enough. That

they then protest this on the environmental grounds (shipping the cars across the Pacific contributes to the carbon footprint) is the height of cynicism. All of a sudden the UAW figures out an environmental concern to throw at Toyota. Where has the UAW been in the last few decades when environmentalists were complaining about the effect on the carbon footprint of the gas guzzling, UAW-assembled trucks and SUVs? Hasn’t the UAW sided repeatedly with the Big 3 against the raising of CAFÉ standards, with total disregard for the “carbon footprint?”

“By attacking Toyota, the UAW is obscuring the fact that autoworkers worldwide are confronted with production overcapacity. We have the factories to produce 90 million vehicles, while “only” 60 million actually got produced in 2008. The auto barons are using that excess capacity to force workers to compete with each other in a race to the bottom, pitting the union workers at NUMMI against the non-union workers at San Antonio and Ontario. How do you figure the workers in San Antonio are going to feel when the same UAW that wanted to keep the work in NUMMI comes around trying to organize them? What do you think the workers at San Antonio are going to say?

“What the UAW could be doing is telling Toyota - which wraps itself in environmental green - to convert the NUMMI plant for production of buses and light rail, or components for renewable energy. This would both save jobs for Californian UAW members as well as contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions, which are contributing to global warming. Wouldn’t that be well received in a state with a reputation for environmental consciousness? Has this even been seriously explored?

“It should also be demanding complete access to the San Antonio workforce so as to explain the union contract that was in place at NUMMI which made the NUMMI plant the North American model for high quality and efficiency while providing workers a decent quality of life. Toyota must be exposed for the anti-worker, union buster that it is.”

Thank you, union brother Frank. Those of us who support the house of labor must also look at our rotting floorboards.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
March 15th, 2010

Don’t believe the hype; Massachusetts is but one state

by Gracie Lewis

The GOP win in the Massachusetts U.S. Senate race does nothing to alter the agenda of the Obama Administration. Rather it reveals just how biased the media is when it reports the news! Brown’s win is a slap in the face of Edward M. Kennedy, who went to his death bed fighting for health care reform! I hope President Obama will keep health care reform at the top of his agenda.

What happened to “We the People?” Massachusetts is but one state in our nation. If the American people have any sense at all, they had better “Keep Their Eyes on the Prize!” If the Obama Administration fails, every poor person in America will fail!

It is left up to us to stop blaming the Obama Administration for everything!

Brown is only one senator; he is not God! Before Brown was elected, the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act was *passed!* States and local governments have received stimulus funds to “reinvest, rebuild and renew” in their respective communities. The GOP is not the determining factor; the money is at the state and local levels now!

Senator Kennedy supported Obama because he had a vision for the nation. But due to 400 years of white supremacy, it is hard for the media to accept the leadership of an African American man in the White House. The governments, both state and local, have the responsibility, once stimulus monies are received, to lead the way in creating jobs and lowering the unemployment rate! Entrepreneurs should be busy at work implementing

ideas and creative means of putting America back to work. The banks received a bailout, remember. What happened to our entrepreneurial spirit?

I hear the GOP lying to the American people that money is being wasted! What about the huge bonuses being handed out on Wall Street? Where is the GOP? Yet, there are entrepreneurial opportunities out there in “green jobs.”

The GOP ought to be moving beyond Massachusetts into the universities and colleges, and calling on our youth to help put the nation back to work. Every college and university has an “urban mission.”

We are engaged in two wars; we don’t see the GOP calling for putting our money where it needs to be — back home. On

April 4, 1967 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said in a speech at the Riverside Church in New York City that, “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.” So, what’s wrong with diverting our funds to health care reform?

If we took the trillions of dollars that have been spent on the two wars we have been fighting since 9/11, we could provide health care for every American.

So, don’t believe the GOP hype about Brown’s victory. There will be no victory until we get our priorities straight!

The writer, of Louisville, is an activist for racial justice and a clean environment.

In the ring and on the slopes, a gender double standard

Joe Louis, perhaps the most widely celebrated black American during the segregation era, was attending another photo session at the height of his spectacular boxing career when a group of white photographers presented him with a watermelon they had purchased and asked him to pose with it.

Despite being constantly cautioned that to maintain his stardom, he must always be modest and deferential to whites in and out of the ring, Louis flatly refused, recognizing the gesture as a ploy to demean his people with a stereotype that was part of a ubiquitous racist power structure designed to consign them to a narrow and subservient role.

It was a wonderful moment of integrity.

Oh would that Lindsey Vonn had shown the same thing in February, just before the 2010 Winter Olympics. Vonn, an American skier, didn’t let concern about the harm done her people - her gender, actually - by stereotypic photographic imagery which, like the racist sports media of Louis’ day, censors images of marginalized groups that don’t conform to narrow norms enforced by the powerful.

The 25-year-old Vonn posed for a Sports Illustrated cover, the writing of which was confined to her standout skiing, but which showed her in a position that would be interpreted by most - for the lack of a more tasteful term — as a cheesecake shot.

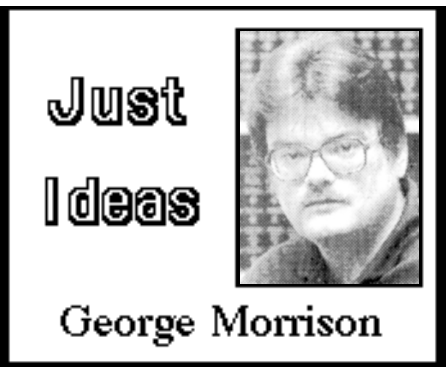
The sports media coverage of these two phenomena was clearly a split decision, to put it in the terminology of Louis’ profession, a split that shows how easily and unconsciously people repeat the misdeeds of the past.

ESPN.com, writing about Louis’ firm refusal of the watermelon shot, said it exemplified the boxer’s “uncommon sense of dignity.”

Fine so far, but contrast that with what Yahoo! Sports blogger Chris Chase wrote after Vonn’s cover came out. Chase said the pose drew “the predictable ire from those who claim that it objectifies her,” adding: “The pose is suggestive, sure, but it’s not objectifying. The headline reads ‘America’s best woman skier ever’ for Jean-Claude’s sake! Why can’t she be both the best skier in the world and really, really attractive too?”

And why couldn’t Joe Louis enjoy a watermelon before millions of onlookers and be a great boxer, too? Because he was singled out for a photo request solely because of his race. No, there is nothing wrong with being pretty, or eating watermelon - taken in isolation without the context of belittling clichés.

Any belief that Chase was right and that the cover wasn’t intended as



objectification should have vanished when a subsequent Sports Illustrated displayed Vonn posing in a bikini, hardly standard skiing apparel. Did Chase retract his defense of the first cover? In fact, he wrote after the bikini shot that criticism of the pictures was a “tired refrain” of a “misguided few.”

What I find to be a tired refrain is the automatic appraising of women athletes’ value based on how many frat houses in which their pictures have the potential to be posted.

A great male skier wouldn’t be considered any less legitimate and — what’s that awful watchword of this era? - “marketable” if he didn’t possess a movie star face and perfect bodily contours.

Larry Bird was no less worshipped or remunerated despite not being a candidate for anybody’s heartthrob poster.

That narrow and very harmful standard is foisted almost entirely on women. I mean harmful, as in eating disorders that stem from an over-identification with minute standards of physical attractiveness.

Or, short of causing anorexia, the objectification of women teaches impressionable youth of both genders that

females should rely more on looks, which, correspondingly, teaches them to rely less on their minds, values and diligence.

Vonn, as a superbly talented athlete — as the cover said, possibly the best woman skier in the nation’s history — has a wonderful opportunity to show quick thinking, persistence and self reliance as the routes to success.

She is also known for tough-mindedness and stoicism - she plans, as of this writing, to compete in the Vancouver Olympics despite a very painful lower leg injury.

But instead of illuminating those aspects of her persona, the patriarchy she cooperates with pigeonholes her into such a stale and trite image - one stemming from the “predictable ire” of the archetypal male for any woman who doesn’t conform.

Contact George Morrison at klm86@att.net.

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February to May 2010

March 18

THE GREENING OF LOUISVILLE. Tim Darst, Executive Director of Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light (KIPL) a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect God’s creation by mobilizing a religious response to climate change through conservation, efficiency and alternative energy. Tim’s efforts were recently highlighted in the Louisville Courier-Journal in an article (4/23/09) by James Bruggers telling about Tim spending Earth Day on the roof of St. William Catholic Church with volunteers to install 15 solar panels. Tim will also discuss the upcoming April "Green Pilgrimage" that will take Louisville citizens through the Olmstead Parks and the parkways that connect them.

April 15

DEATH AND TAXES. A thirty minute DVD produced by the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee in Washington, DC will be viewed and discussed. The film, "Death and Taxes" introduces us to war tax resistance/refusal through the stories of 28 active resisters. Discussion following the film will be moderated by John Wilborn, a retired CPA who maintains a small individual tax preparation practice. He has volunteered for 12 years in a free tax preparation program sponsored by the Louisville Asset Based Coalition. John is a military veteran with an abiding interest in peace and social justice. Local tax resisters will participate in the discussion also.

May 20

SOLDIERS OF CONSCIENCE. Bill Galvin of the Center on Conscience & War has been invited. Through his work over many years, he has counseled untold numbers of soldiers and draft resisters. We well remember when he came to Louisville during the Vietnam War to lead a workshop on draft resistance. His expertise has been noted recently by those who produced a new film "Soldiers of Conscience." Since he had counseled some of the veterans who were selected to tell their stories in the film, Bill was able to provide information and advice. Hopefully he will be able to speak at the lunch and to hold a workshop in Louisville. A screening of the film is being scheduled for later in May.



The Rudyard Kipling • 422 West Oak Street • Louisville
Buffet Lunch at 11:30 • Presentations at Noon • \$6.00
For reservations, call Jean Edwards (458-8056)



Speakers differ on Israel’s label, but unite for Gazans

by Ike M. Thacker IV
and George Morrison

The Israeli blockade of Gaza is designed not to stop mortar attacks against Israeli civilians, as Israel has maintained, but to serve as “collective punishment” for those attacks, Gaza Freedom March member Russ Greenleaf told the Louisville FOR’s Third Thursday Lunch Jan. 21.

Greenleaf, a Jew living in New Albany, Ind. and one of six Louisville-area people from the march who spoke at the lunch, added that Israel’s withholding needed supplies from Gaza, coupled with its attack on the territory, constitutes a war crime by any standard definition.

Israel’s 23-day bombardment of Gaza , which started in December 2008, killed more than 3,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, said Pat Geier, moderator of the monthly lunch program, organized by the Louisville FOR and Interfaith Paths to Peace.

In response to the crisis, about 1,400 people from 42 nations went to Cairo for the freedom march, hoping to enter Gaza as the “Viva Palestina,” the planned convoy into Gaza, with humanitarian aid.

The Cairo government of Hosni Mubarak drew criticism at the monthly lunch. Ibrahim Imam of Louisville, a Palestinian-American, said the U.S. and Israel are supporting Mubarak’s, government in

Israel. March member Stephen Barbour called it fascist, while marcher Ira Grupper described Israel as a “bourgeois democracy” which brutally suppresses Palestinians.

Unity, however, marked the talk and, speakers said, the march itself. Greenleaf said that during the stay in Cairo, thousands demonstrated in front of the Israeli embassy for open access to Gaza. Many Palestinians participating in and watching the protest hugged Jewish members of the demonstration, he said.

The February 18 Third Thursday Lunch talk on immigrant rights happened after deadline. It will be covered in the April FORsooth. The March 18 lunch on the religious response to climate change will feature Tim Darst, director of Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light, a pro-alternative energy and conservation group. Reservations are required. Call (502) 458-8056.

Fair Trade lifts spirits, producers’ wages

(continued from page 1)

Just Trade — a non-profit organization created by the Presbyterian Church.

Partners for Just Trade orders, imports into the U.S. and sells products to stores like Just Creations in Louisville, which are committed to the Fair Trade alternative.

Aydé’s income has quadrupled and she and her neighbors are working together as opposed to being pitted against each other as competitors, which they were before.

But, even more importantly, these women see themselves differently. On my last visit, the women were not knitting, instead they were organizing their neighbors to demand water and sewerage for their hillside from the government.

They had lived there at least 10 years and so why was this the first time they were organizing? Yodi, another member of the group, replied that before they were afraid the government would send them back to the highlands where they no longer had llamas or a livelihood, so they tried to not cause any trouble. But, now that they paid taxes for their knitting business, they no longer needed to be invisible. As human beings, they had a right

to water and sewerage.

I thought of Aydé and Yodi at a Martin Luther King Day reflection when I re-heard his words, “There must be a recognition of the sacredness of human personality.... Every human being has etched in his (or her) personality the indelible stamp of the Creator.” Indeed, all life is sacred and we can choose to affirm that in ourselves and others.

Climate change, globalization, our food system are evidence of our spiritual interconnectedness. One of the things I love most about Fair Trade is the way it connects members of the global family (consumers, facilitators and producers).

While I was working in Peru in the fall of 2005, a U.S. group which had been host to a Fair Trade sale received donations from those who didn’t need any products but wanted to connect more deeply with the artisans. They emailed saying they had \$237 to send and simply wanted to know how the artisans would use it.

When the artisan groups came together for a meeting, this offer was discussed. After comparing the relative merits of

sewing machines vs. training vs. buying more raw materials in bulk, one of the artisans asked about poverty in the U.S. A little surprised, I realized that Katrina had hit in August and images of New Orleans were on display around the world and what shocked the rest of the world was the poverty of North American citizens.

This group of artisans (all of whom had lived most of their lives in extreme poverty) said that if it would not be offensive, they would deeply appreciate the chance to have these funds donated to the victims of Katrina. Something profoundly spiritual happened in the hearts and souls of the artisans, the donors, and, I believe, those who ultimately benefitted from the \$237.

Several months ago, I needed a wastepaper basket (does it get any more mundane?). It was a treat to take the time for a long walk up to Just Creations, touch the baskets and say a prayer for the artisans who had made them. Spirituality is perceived in both the invisible and the visible. There are so many things that we cannot see, but we can see products and we know that each of them was

made by someone, somewhere. The visible connects us to the invisible.

Fair Trade is not the answer to poverty, nor does it legitimize the excessive materialism that characterizes our society. It is a way we can affirm the sacredness and interconnectedness of life in our everyday choices which impact our own spirituality and our interconnected spirituality.

The Fair Trade Movement is growing as more and more people throughout the world say yes to purchasing that connects us in a chain of justice in which the sacredness of life is affirmed.

The writer is the coordinator for the Presbyterian Hunger Program. She worked with more than 200 artisans in Peru with Fair Trade. Some of their products are available at Just Creations, a Fair Trade store at 2722 Frankfort Ave. in Louisville.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program promotes Fair Trade as a sustainable alternative to sweatshops, in which these same artisans do not receive living wages nor have opportunity to grow and develop.

Capitalism

(continued from page 1)

all very antagonistic to the status quo, are all analyses that have been labeled pejoratively by the mainstream media and bureaucrats for capital as conspiracy theory, immature, subversive, and, the favorite of all savories “un-American.”

Since crises are amongst us that are more dire than any before, i.e., climate change, it may be time to listen to some of these subversives, since many of us believe capitalism to be the cause of the environmental destruction that occurs at an exponential rate. Writer Peter Gelderloos recently waxed on the dire consequences of not doing something dramatic, and wrote that “climate change is not a danger of the future.

“It is already happening. Storms, droughts, floods, and desertification are already becoming more intense, malaria and other tropical diseases are already extending north and south, species and habitats are already dying out at an alarming rate. Even according to such establishment figures as Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the U.N., 300,000 people are dying every year... due to the more easily measured effects of climate change — heat waves, floods, and forest fires.”

If we would all take a step back, and remove our rose-colored spectacles for a moment, we might take heed at any notion of reform using the market on the issue of climate catastrophe. I agree with something else Gelderloos wrote on the subject: “Because of the way capitalism works and the way ecosystems work, there are no supply-based solutions to climate change.”

In other words, we cannot reform capitalism, or create a “green” capitalism that is compatible with a finite ecosystem

when the m.o. of capitalists involves exponential economic growth.

Like Gelderloos’ candid nature on the subject of capitalism, I put myself in the camp of “subversive.” I believe capitalism must be democratically dismantled from below. If the trend continues, the continued climate holocaust will claim the lives of close to 1 million people in the next three years. Exponential economic growth holds responsibility for this, not poor consumer choices.

It may take nothing less than what the strikers in Petrograd and the sailors who supported them in the USSR aimed for in 1921; workers’ self-management, and political self-governance. With the continuous failed attempts by nation-states to solve the problem, most recently personified by the Copenhagen fiasco, it’s clear that there must be a dramatic paradigm shift. Perhaps it is now time for community solutions, at a neighborhood and federal level. We’ve seen what our “leaders” have to offer us, which is mostly obsequious appeasement. If a radical paradigm shift doesn’t come about, it’s not clear how we will avoid massive catastrophe in these interesting times.

The writer, of Louisville, is an anarchist and a member of the Industrial Workers of the World. He is studying at Spalding University for a master’s degree in occupational therapy. He maintains a blog at comradshaw.wordpress.com.



“If they kill me I will rise in the Salvadoran people.”

Special events to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero

Sunday, March 21: Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 508 Breckenridge Lane (St. Matthews). 5:30 rice/beans/pupusas — by the film *Romero*.

Tuesday, March 23: Movie Night, Chapel at the “backside” of Churchill Downs — Mass in Spanish with Fr. Jim Flynn — followed by the film *Romero* (subtitled)

Wednesday, March 24: Cathedral of the Assumption Undercroft, 433 South 5th Street. 7:00 p.m. Special Event: Remembering Romero — Reflecting Solidarity (Interfaith)

Saturday, March 27: Interfaith Paths to Peace — Film Night. St. Matthews Episcopal, 330 North Hubbards Lane. 6:15 social with light food followed by the film *Romero* and discussion.

Other events are being planned and will be detailed in the March issue of FORsooth.

For more information contact Dotti Lockhart (897-9680).

Events sponsored by Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean (KITLAC), Church of the Epiphany Latino Concerns Committee, Interfaith Paths to Peace



STATE OF AFFAIRS

A letter from **Bruce Gagnon** this week drew my attention. Bruce coordinates the work of *Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space*. Before this, in the late seventies and early eighties he did a terrific job of alerting us to the arms race and the danger of nuclear weapons by establishing **Mobilization for Survival**. We had a very active chapter working in Louisville.

In his letter he makes the point that the “new” administration under Obama is sounding more and more like what we have had in Washington under two Bush administrations. “We have just seen a 4% military spending increase passed by the Congress while the Pentagon budget is today larger than that of all other countries in the world combined! Just last month, Congress finally passed the nearly \$700 billion “defense” appropriation bill for 2010, which included another \$138 billion for the wars in Iraq-Afghanistan-Pakistan. And we have learned that Obama will be asking for another \$30 billion this spring for these wars and occupations on top of the \$138 billion already passed!

Bruce explains that NATO is continuing its expansion and encirclement of Russia as Obama sends Patriot “missile defense” systems to Poland (60 miles from the Russian border). Moreover Obama still wants to send a smaller version of the Star Wars radar system to the Czech Republic. **“One has to figure that these moves on the grand chessboard will at some level hamper current nuclear arms control negotiations with Russia,”** Bruce believes.

Also he shares with us a special project underway by Global Network organizing solidarity support for villagers on Jeju Island, South Korea. They are trying to stop the construction of a Navy base in their community that will destroy UNESCO-recognized coral reefs and their farming way of life. This Navy base will be the homeport for Aegis destroyers from their country and from the U.S. Navy that are outfitted with “missile defense” systems and will be used to surround and provoke China.

In answer to the question “What can we do?” Bruce feels strongly that we must reenergize the peace movement. **“We can’t let party loyalty trump our vital concerns for peace, social justice, dealing with climate change and all the other vital issues.** He describes a new effort where he is working in Maine with a coalition of peace groups. Read about it at **www.Bring Our War Dollars Home.org**.

Read more from Global Network at <globalnet@mindspring.com>. Also, go to www.space4peace.org (Tel: 207-443-9502)

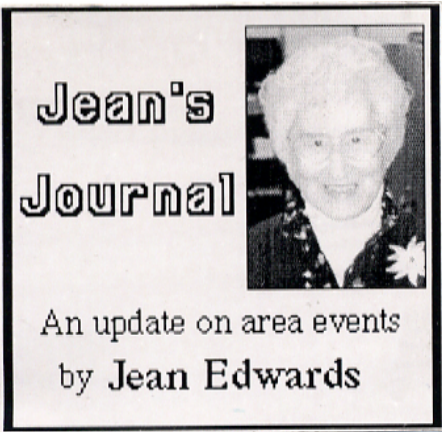
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Of course many voices are being heard from those feeling dismay over not seeing the hoped for changes on the part of the new administration. Numerous publications have expressed disappointment. **Jonathan Schell**, writing in *Nation* magazine, (6-15-09) speaks of the failure to close Guantanamo and to deal with the Bush policies and practices of torture. **“Obama started boldly, ordering an end to the abuses, announcing the closing in one year of the detention camp at Guantanamo and releasing the Bush-era Justice Department memos authorizing torture. Subsequently, he seemed to grow caution.”**

Writing in the same issue, Robert Borosage & Katrina Vanden Heuvel addressed the drive for new energy, a priority of Obama’s reform agenda. The American Clean Energy and Security Act was unveiled in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. It was pathbreaking but disappointing after going through major compromises from its initial draft. Carbon emissions were reduced from 20% by 2020 to 4% Mandates on renewable energy for utilities were slashed. Standards on new coal plants were weakened. Instead of auctioning off pollution permits under a cap-and-trade system the bill gives away 85% of the permits, **with coal utilities, oil refineries and energy-intensive industries like steel getting huge handouts.** The bill’s fate in the Senate is even more uncertain.

While we have mentioned here only a few problems that have prevented Obama from moving forward, we can understand more fully why the going is so tough. Still, this article ends on a positive note. “All the stars are aligned for launching the greatest era of progressive reform since the 1960s. We face stark crises that require fundamental structural reform. We have a powerful popular president with a mandate for change — and a majority of Americans yearning for it. Both houses of Congress enjoy large Democratic majorities with arguably the most liberal caucuses in four decades.”

A letter from the Democratic Party reminds us that President Obama continues the clean up of the mess left behind by the Bush administration. But twelve months cannot cure eight years worth of ills. The next few months are crucial as we face the May primaries. Keep informed and write letters to the newspapers. Talk to voters about the issues. Organize to turn out our voters on election day.



HOWARD ZINN

One obituary said “Howard Zinn, Historian, Dies at 87”. But to peace and justice advocates and according to his friend **Noam Chomsky**, professor emeritus of MIT, **“He made an amazing contribution to American intellectual and moral culture. He’s changed the conscience of America in a highly constructive way.”** Zinn’s famous book *A People’s History of the United States*, used in high schools, colleges and universities, looks at our country and how it developed from the point of view of the people — the native Americans, the workers, the feminists and the war resisters.

Zinn taught at Boston University for most of his life and was loved by his students. Early on he taught at Spelman College in Atlanta, an all black women’s segregated college where Alice Walker and Marion Wright Edelman studied. In 1963 he was fired “for insubordination because he supported them in their “sit-ins” and urged them to request books from the segregated libraries.”

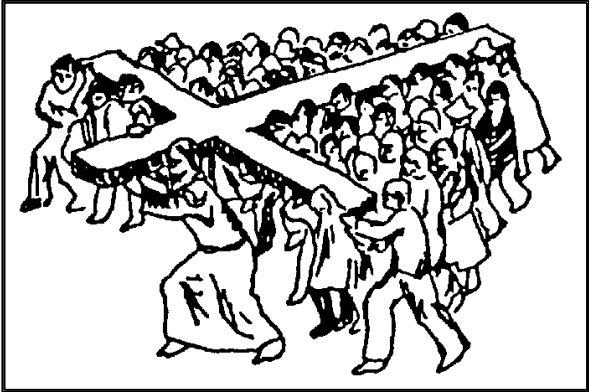
His activism began when he was seventeen and attended a political rally in Times Square where he and others were beaten by police. In 1943 he joined the army and became a bombardier, receiving many medals and decorations. However after what he had seen and been through, he put all of these in an envelope on which he wrote **“Never again.”**

Zinn went to college under the GI Bill of Rights and received his doctorate in history at Columbia University. After Spelman he taught at Boston University where he had conflicts with President Silber until he retired in 1988.

An editorial in the Boston Globe, headed **“Don’t mourn, organize!”** spoke of Zinn as one who “fought injustice wherever it festered — in Washington, in the Deep South, in impoverished countries overseas, or in the halls of a university. He was a radical who confronted power fearlessly and was arrested countless times for disturbing the peace — which was just fine, he would say, if he was also disturbing the war. He gave people a focus for their anger though he was never angry. His books and plays are about the power of ordinary people and how they affect history. He had integrity because he embodied the compassionate world he wanted to create.”

...

We are grateful to Juliet Bernstein for sharing this article. Juliet, at age 95, edits the monthly newsletter of the FOR Cape Cod chapter. Much of the information was taken from the Boston Globe.



The Way of the Cross
A Walk for Justice
Good Friday
April 2, 2010
9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

All are warmly invited to participate in this prayerful, justice-oriented outdoor “Stations of the Cross” focusing on the suffering of Jesus as reflected in situations of oppression and suffering today. We begin this 14th annual event at Martin Luther King Park in front of the Mazzoli Federal Building (on the south side of Chestnut between 6th and 7th Streets), walk through the downtown area (about 1.5 miles) and conclude at Founders Square Park across the street from the Cathedral of the Assumption (on 5th between Muhammad Ali and Liberty).

Street parking is difficult. The most convenient garage parking is available in the lot located next to the Cathedral.

Sponsoring organizations include

St. William Church, Ascension Church, CrossRoads Ministry, Highland Baptist Church’s Mission and Justice Ministry Group, Interfaith Paths to Peace, James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, JustFaith Ministries, Kentuckiana Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean (KITLAC), Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East, Louisville Peace Action Community, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, St. Martin de Porres Church, Casa Latina, La Casita, Church of the Good Shepherd, Church of the Epiphany Social Responsibility, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Fellowship of Reconciliation and many others who lend support in solidarity of mission to help create a more just world.

For more information contact Anne Walter at 583-6419 or David Horvath at 479-9262

Calendar for peacemakers

Feb 27 (Sat) **CIVIL RIGHTS FILM SERIES.** Join us for a screening of *VIVA LA CAUSA*, the story of César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, and the grape boycott and Delano strike. Discussion following. 2 PM. Iroquois Library, 601 W. Woodlawn. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 574-1720.

Mar 1 (Mon) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY.** Every Monday at 6 PM at the Center for Neighborhoods, 610 South Fourth Street, #701. Become a part of this grassroots movement bringing principles of sustainability into local public policy. For details, contact: j@bikecourier.org.

Mar 3 (Wed) **THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM.** Meets the first Wednesday of each month. The forum’s purpose is to hold and promote the intention of sustainability for Louisville; establish and nourish relationships that strengthen community and create change; and create a space for discussion that inspires, motivates and deepens our ability to catalyze social change. Bring your lunch and enjoy the company of like-minded community members. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, The Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

Mar 6 (Sat) **HEALING OUR WORLD: WORKING TO RECONNECT.** Workshop participants will explore perspectives that help align us with our unique place and role in the larger earth community, move from fear and apathy to compassion and creativity, and develop an understanding of what it means to be an active participant in the transition to a life sustaining civilization. 10 AM to 5 PM, Clifton Community Center, 2117 Payne Street. Suggested donation: \$30-\$60. For more information or to register, call 897-2721 or email cultivatingconnections@insightbb.com.

Mar 6 (Sat) **“WE DIDN’T MOURN, WE ORGANIZED!”** An event to commemorate Anne Braden’s life, and to celebrate Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day. Included will be a step team performance, storytelling, crafts and a rally/march followed by a shared potluck meal. Sponsored by the Carl Braden Memorial Center and the UofL Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. 1-4 PM, the Nia Center, 2900 West Broadway. All are welcome. For more information, call 778-8130 or email carlbradencenter@gmail.com.

Mar 7 (Sun) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY.** Every Sunday at 2 PM at the Legal Aid Society, 416 W. Muhammad Ali. Become a part of this grassroots movement bringing principles of sustainability into local public policy. For details, contact: j@bikecourier.org.

Mar 7 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening, remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a candle. 5-6 PM, Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community). For more information, call Harold Trainer at 387-9490.

Mar 8 (Mon) **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY.** See entry for March 6: “We Didn’t Mourn, We Organized.”

Mar 10 (Wed) **KITLAC (KY Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Every second Wednesday at the Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 PM. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Mar 11 (Thurs) **THE FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB.** Meets the second Thursday of the month, for those interested in learning about fair trade and the American system of economics of Hamilton and Clay. 6:30 PM, 1838 Frankfort Ave. For more information, contact John Miller at papajohn15@bellsouth.net.

Mar 11 (Thurs) **APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum).** Every second Thursday. A documentary film exploring the situation in Middle East will be presented. 6:30 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, Room 119. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Mar 11 (Thurs) **“DICTATORSHIP TO DEMOCRACY: IRAQ AND BEYOND.”** Ambassador Feisal Amin Istrabadi presents the third lecture in the Brown-Forman Global Issues Forum: Cooperation, Carbon & Conflict. 7 PM, Galt House East; reception following. Tickets \$15, call 561-5422. For more information, visit www.worldkentucky.org.

Mar 12-13 (Fri-Sat) **2ND ANNUAL LOUISVILLE FOOD SUMMIT: “Everybody Eats: Ingredients for Change.”** Anyone who eats is welcome! Saturday children’s event is free but registration is required. Activities for ages 11-18, and childcare provided for children ages 3-10. Meyzeek Middle School, 828 South Jackson. Sponsored by the Community Farm Alliance. To register or view the summit events, call 775-4041 or visit www.communityfarmalliance.org.

Mar 13 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, Main Library, 4th & York, Mezzanine, Boardroom. 9 AM. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Mar 14 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 7 PM, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the FOR office. This group welcomes invitations to speak about 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.

Mar 15 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor, at 454-2752**, or klm86@att.net.

Note: Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com, or call Nikki at 451-3402.

Mar 16-18 (Tues-Thurs) **YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION TRAINING.** This 2 _ day workshop will train participants to use the National Coalition Building Institute Prejudice Reduction model in their organizations. Co-led by Cherie Brown of NCBI and Janene Shakir of Peace Education Program. Outcomes include: developing youth leaders, addressing prejudice and mistreatment, and strengthening schools and neighborhoods. Fee is \$350.00 each or \$650.00 for a two person team. Central Presbyterian Church, 318 W. Kentucky. Registration required. For more information or to register, call 589-6583 or email peaceeducation@iglou.com.

Mar 18 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH: “THE GREENING OF LOUISVILLE.”** Tim Darst, Executive Director of Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light (KIPL), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect God’s creation by mobilizing a religious response to climate change through conservation, efficiency, and alternative energy. Tim’s efforts were highlighted in the Louisville Courier-Journal in an article (4/23/09) by James Brugger that told how Tim spent Earth Day on the roof of St. William Catholic Church with volunteers to install 15 solar panels. Tim will also discuss the “Green Pilgrimage” coming in April that will take participants through the Olmsted Parks and the parkways that connect them. The Lunch is sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation in cooperation with Interfaith Paths to Peace. Rudyard Kipling, 422 West Oak. Buffet lunch at 11:30; presentation begins at noon. \$6. For reservations, call Jean Edwards at 458-8056 or email edwardsfor@bellsouth.net.

Mar 18 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Every third Thursday, 5:30 PM. Main Library, 4th & York Streets, Mezzanine Board Room. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Mar 21 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** Every third Sunday. First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3 PM. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Mar 21 (Sun) **SCREENING OF THE FILM ROMERO.** In commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. Join us for a beans, rice and pupusas dinner followed by a showing of the film *Romero*. Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 508 Breckenridge Lane in St. Matthews. Dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by the film.

Mar 22 (Mon) **FOURTH MONDAY FORUM** sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. For details, call Katrina Byrnes at 778-8130 or email kyall@insightbb.com.

Mar 22 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE.** Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Every fourth Monday. Visitors encouraged. Call Dennis Bricking, 298-0590, or Phil Schervish, 558-7175.

Mar 23 (Tues) **LA MISA EN ESPANOL & SCREENING OF THE FILM ROMERO.** Mass in Spanish with Father Jim Flynn, followed by the film *Romero*. Chapel at the “backside” of Churchill Downs. Time TBA. For more information contact Dotti Lockhart (897-9680).

Mar 24 (Wed) **REMEMBERING ROMERO, REFLECTING SOLIDARITY.** Cathedral of the Assumption Undercroft, 433 South 5th Street. 7 PM. For more information contact Dotti Lockhart (897-9680).

Mar 25 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING** at Beverley Marmion’s, 6:30 PM. We need you for one hour! Please stop by and socialize while your fingers do the work. Bouquets to those who do this important work every month! Call 451-5658.

Mar 27 (Sat) **SCREENING OF THE FILM ROMERO.** Join us for the Interfaith Paths to Peace Film Night at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 330 North Hubbards Lane. Social with light food at 6:15 PM, followed by the film and discussion. For more information contact Dotti Lockhart (897-9680).

Apr 3 (Sat) **“PLANT FOR THE PLANET!” ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION.** The Kentucky Division of Forestry will give away over 1,500 tree seedlings to those who are willing to plant and care for them. Choices include understory species and canopy species of many varieties, including pawpaws, oaks, rebuds, and tulip poplars. 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM, rain or shine. Douglass Community Center, 2305 Douglass Avenue in the Highlands. For more information, contact Stephen at 459-1405 or srs@iglou.com.

Apr 7-11 (Wed-Sun) **2010 “GREEN” PILGRIMAGE.** Pilgrims will walk approximately 27 miles over 4 days, making a circuit in and around Louisville through our Olmsted Parks and along the parkways that connect them. In the process, they will get a first-hand, ground level view of the extensive beauty in Louisville Metro, explore issues such as air and water quality, sustainability, local foods, and green technologies, and integrate the wisdom and practices of our diverse spiritual traditions. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. For more information, visit www.paths2peace.org, or contact Terry Taylor at 214-7322 or tatduende2@yahoo.com.

Apr 18 (Sun) **DR. MAYA ANGELOU** joins the Canaan Community Development Center for a special prelude event to “Destiny 2010: An Agenda for Change.” Tickets \$35. For more information, call 776-6369.

Apr 24 (Sat) **DESTINY 2010: AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE.** This year’s symposium will focus on the issues of health and the eradication of violence in the African American community. Featured speakers will be Chief Robert C. White of the Louisville Metro Police, and Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of the Louisville Metro Dept. of Public Health and Wellness. 9:30 AM to noon, 2840 Hikes Lane. Sponsored by the Canaan Community Development Corporation. For more information, call 776-6369.

OUT OF TOWN

Mar 4 (Thurs) **VOTING RIGHTS RALLY** and Lobby Day in Frankfort. Sponsored by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth. For more information, email dave@kftc.org.

March 19-22 (Fri-Mon) **ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS: 2010 CONFERENCE.** This year’s theme is “A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Persons. Washington, DC. For more information, visit www.advocacydays.org.

April 16-18 (Fri-Sun) **COMING BACK TO LIFE: SOULFOOD RETREAT.** This weekend retreat will help you explore new sources of energy, awaken to your larger ecological identity, discover your inner wisdom, strength and beauty, and affirm your sense of purpose. Facilitated by Marilyn Stoner and Mark Steiner at Essence House Retreat Center in Palmyra, Indiana. Sponsored by Cultivating Connections. Cost of retreat: sliding scale, \$200-\$300. For more information, call Mark at 897-2721.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (485-1248)

AIDS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (AIM) OF KENTUCKIANA, INC. – 1st Tuesday (574-6085 or 574-6086)

AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)

AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – 3rd Thursday, every other month at noon (608-7517)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)

APPAP [AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM] – 2nd Thursday (895-8155)

BREAD FOR THE WORLD – Last Monday (239-4317)

CAPA [CITIZENS AGAINST POLICE ABUSE] – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)

CART [COALITION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION] – 3rd Wednesday, 1578 Bardstown Road (895-5172)

CLOUT [CITIZENS OF LOUISVILLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING TOGETHER] – (583-1267)

COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)

COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (454-7797)

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – First Sunday at 2:00 PM (384-3875)

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

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (560-0085)

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

EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Saturday (299-9520) www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org

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

FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB – 1st Thursday, papajohn15@bellsouth.net

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (558-7175 or 895-8516)

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

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

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

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

IRFI [ISLAMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.] – Sundays at 6:00 PM (502-423-1988)

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)

JURISDICTIONARY CLUB OF LOUISVILLE – Know the law and how to use it (500-8161)

JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – (345-5386)

KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)

KITOD [KENTUCKIANA INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON DARFUR] – (553-6172)

KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)

KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (541-9998)

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

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (245-2272)

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

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

LPAC [LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY] – (456-6914)

LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation every Sunday (473-8435)

LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (893-0788), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org

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)

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)

911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)

US DEPARTMENT OF PEACE CAMPAIGN OF KY – 3rd Sunday (472-1772)

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